

The Riverporter

ST IVES AWARD WINNING NEWSPAPER

Issue 97: 29 October 2021

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

Djanogly votes for sewage

Local social media was aghast with comments about our local MP Jonathan Djanogly who voted this week to allow sewage to be dumped into our rivers.

It seems an odd decision to make, considering the terrible experience of so many homeowners in Huntingdonshire, and especially in St Ives, after the recent flooding. Drains were unable to cope with heavy rain and in many cases homes were deluged in sewage as a result. Neighbouring Tory MPs also voted with the Government, including Shailesh Vara in North West Cambs, an area of Huntingdonshire equally affected by flooding.

Many of the comments were quite colourful but most were incredulous about their decisions and suggested

that they were more concerned about supporting the Government than representing their constituent's opinions. There was so much anger nationally it resulted in yet another u-turn as the Government were forced to include a duty on water companies to reduce the impact of sewage discharges to the bill as it progressed through Parliament.

Whilst this was going on several areas were flooded again with the recent heavy rainfall just last week. See comment on page 3.

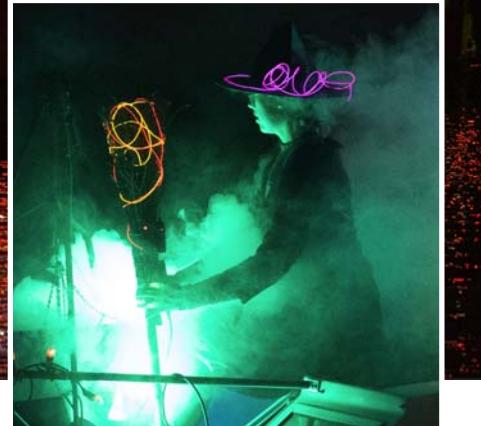
COVERING
THE NEWS FOR
ST IVES AND
AROUND

Halloween comes early

Pictures courtesy of John Robey.



Halloween came early to St Ives in the shape of the Illuminated Boat Parade, which provided a spectacular display of pumpkins, ghouls and witches.



Our wonderful Old Riverport was once again the centre of attention as a flotilla of wonderfully decorated boats glided past, all illuminated with a Hallowe'en theme.

This biannual event was held a little later this year allowing the parade to take place a little earlier in the evening.

Crowds descended on The Quay and lined the bridge in good time and thankfully the weather remained perfect. A gaggle of neon witches in canoes and a boat full of jolly minions kept the crowd entertained and happy, awaiting the first boats to emerge from under the bridge. These were the little boats, canoes, a

rowing boat towing a coracle, charming and glowing with their display of pumpkins and creeping ahead of them a zany, animated tiny spider.

There were skeletons, witches, black cats and cauldrons and many pumpkins, brilliantly lit, and in their wake, an enormous spider with mesmerising eyes.

They were all announced with great verve and spirit as they emerged into view through the bridge and loud cheers rang in the air.

The winning boat was Kiribati, which gave us such a fantastic display of magical Hallowe'en lights.

This free community event was attended by St Ives Town Mayor, Councillor Pasco Hussein, with no small thanks to the non-profit groups, Festival Events St Ives (FEST) and The Town Team.

Such an event takes a lot of organising over a long period and a lot of people helping.

Thanks must also go to members of the Great Ouse Boating Association (GOBA) for their hard work in organising the boats and also to all those who sponsored, entered and supported this wonderful parade. A real community event.

THERE'S EVEN MORE GOING ON

Calendar of events

If you know of other events email: editor@theriverporter.uk

NOVEMBER

Monday 1st - Exhibition at the Norris Museum – Facet of the Fens, showcasing the work of two local artists inspired by the unique Fens landscape. Runs until 9th January 2022.

Friday, Sat 5/6th - St Ives Photographic Club Annual Exhibition, St Ives Free Church 10am-5pm.

Saturday 6th - Saints Crafters Fair - Free Church, 9:30am – 4pm

Fireworks in Hemingford, Gates Open 5pm. Tickets available online at www.fireworksinhemingford.uk.

Sat/ Sunday 6/7th - Craft and Gift Fair, Corn Exchange, 10am – 4pm.

Wednesday 10th - Lecture, A Tour of Big Ben - The Arts Society, Huntingdonshire. Corn Exchange 2.30pm. Guest Fee £5. huntsarts.org

Saturday 13th - Norris Museum - Let's get ready for Christmas!

Family Workshop. Booking essential - also on Saturday 27th.

<https://the-norris-museum.arttickets.org.uk/>

Sunday 14th - Remembrance Sunday Service, Town Centre, 10am.

Monday 15th - The Snowman Festival starts. Snowmen appear in shops and start of the children's Snowman Trail.

Saturday 20th - Christmas Lights Switch On. 5pm in Market Hill.

Sat 20 and Sun 21st - The British Heart Foundation, Candle Lighting, Bridge Chapel, 10am-4pm. also for the next 3 weekends.

Friday 26th - Chapel Arts @ The Corn Exchange 7.30pm Featuring Soloman Smith and Chris Newman. www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives.

Saturday 27th - Saints Crafters Christmas Fair - Corn Exchange.

DECEMBER

Saturday 4th - ARTSFEST, 10am – 4pm, St Ives Corn Exchange.

Also Santa arrives (For 3 weekends) More details of FEST Facebook.

JANUARY

Wednesday 5th - Langley Bread, St Ives Corn Exchange. 10am – 12pm.

Saturday 8th - COSI Winter Concert 7pm. Details on Facebook or

email: gillianatherton@aol.com

Wednesday 12th - Cinderella Pantomime, The Centre Theatre Players (runs until the 16th), Burgess Hall. Tickets: 07555 394697.

Community Car Scheme needs volunteer drivers!

The Huntingdonshire Volunteer Centre is a registered charity based in the Town Hall in St Ives. They offer the Community Car Scheme Service for anyone who needs to make an essential journey, for shopping, medical appointments and meeting friends where no suitable public transport exists and for individuals with mobility difficulties. At the moment, due to limited drivers available, they are having to prioritise essential medical appointments. Drivers use their own car and decide their own availability. But the scheme only works if there are enough drivers! If you have a few hours a week to spare, please contact Debbie on 07990 477552 or e-mail stives@huntsvc.org.uk for a registration form. They would love to hear from you!

SCREEN ST IVES
Presents

Anthony Hopkins
Olivia Coleman

The Father
in
ST IVES
Corn Exchange



8pm Thursday
4 Nov 2021

Tickets Only £5
Available online
at screenstives.org.uk
or from the
Riverport Cafe
in the Corn Exchange

Doors open 7pm
Enjoy a pre-screening drink
in the Riverport Cafe and
licenced bar

12A

Final concert of the year a real treat



Soloman Smith is returning to town to wrap up this season's Chapel Arts @ the Corn Exchange series.

Following a great first appearance at the Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival Soloman will be performing his songs on Friday 26th November in the Riverport Cafe bar from 7.30pm.

He will be accompanied by the ever excellent Chris Newman of 'Barefoot Doctors' fame.

Soloman is a singer songwriter based in Cambridgeshire. His songs (on guitar and mandocello) are of the moment and cover a range of subjects and genres.

Influenced by folk, soul, blues, jazz, funk, country and more, his style isn't easy to pin down. That said, running through his songs is a coolness and groove that is hard to resist. Solo or in combination with others, he has spent a lifetime playing shows in the UK and has appeared on national and local media.

The series of concerts is set to continue next year and will take place on the last Friday of each month, beginning in January.

Tickets are limited so please book early to avoid disappointment. They cost just £10, and can be obtained at: www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives.



Following the Planning Committee go Conkers article in RP96 Erik thought he had a solution!

The residents of 19 Wilson Way made a planning application to remove a Horse Chestnut tree, due to large amounts of sharp conkers landing in the garden posing a health and safety risk to children living in the property. Erik can be seen modelling a simple solution.

The application has yet to be determined by HDC's planning committee.



Do you want to save on your energy costs? - and reduce your carbon footprint?

If you do then visit the Warm Homes Initiative stand at St Ives Corn Exchange during the Friday Craft and Vintage Market on 5th November.

Cambridgeshire Home Energy Support Services



Discover how we can help you save on energy costs, reduce your household's carbon footprint and prepare for the winter

- Switching supplier
- Fuel debt relief
- Problem solving with your energy supplier
- Energy saving tips and advice
- Solutions to damp and condensation

Come and meet Nikki Dekker, Warm Homes Project Officer on 5th November 9am-1pm at St Ives Corn Exchange.



Funded by the Energy
Industry
Voluntary Redress
Scheme, see
www.energyredress.org.uk

St Ives Folk Sessions restarting

This November, after a 21 months recess the St Ives Folk Sessions are starting again with The Frank Burkitt Band. Frank Burkitt and Kara Filbey have been performing together for the past 15 years throughout the UK, New Zealand, Australia and North America. Now based in Manchester they can't wait to get back performing to UK audiences again. Two voices that have had 15 years to blend, will both captivate and enchant. Expect a broad set of original and traditional Scottish folk songs, country ballads and Americana.



7.30pm Friday 19th November, The Cromwell Room, Golden Lion Hotel. Tickets £9.50 in advance from www.bit.do/novembersessions or £12 on the door.

Volunteers Needed

Andrea Finbow of Groundworks wanted The Riverporter to announce that a new Green Recovery Project will take place in Hill Rise in the new year.

They wish to recruit a team of volunteers to join them in their next project which will have a tree planting focus alongside other green space improvement tasks.

If you are interested in getting involved you can contact them through their webpage link, which is: <https://info.groundwork.org.uk/green-recovery-3>



More trees for St Ives! Engage with nature, improve health and well-being, learn about biodiversity, gain skills, build confidence, gain a qualification and make a difference to your local green spaces.

Join our Green Recovery Project and work as part of a team of volunteers to plant more trees for St Ives, create animal habitats, improve pathways and undertake general conservation work to improve our local parks. Optional opportunity to gain a City and Guilds Level 1 qualification in Practical Horticulture.

► Starting 10th Jan 2022 ► Running Mon - Weds for 12 weeks

► St Ives, Cambs

► 10am - 3pm

► Age 16+

APPLY NOW: www.groundwork.org.uk/greenrecovery-cambs/

Contact: name: Andrea Finbow / Matt Langley
T: 07736 132497 / 07718 042744
E: Andrea.Finbow@Groundwork.org.uk / Matt.Langley@Groundwork.org.uk



thanks to funding from:

Groundwork

The Riverporter

Cambridgeshire

Huntingdonshire
District Council

having your say ...



Get it off your chest,
email Erik at:
editor@theriverporter.uk

Dear Erik,

Success ultimately rests on small things, lots of small things.

Leaders have to have a feel for small things - a feel for what is going on in the depths of an organization where small things reside. The more senior you become, the more you are isolated by pomp and staff, and the harder and more necessary it becomes to know what is going on six floors down. One way is to leave the top floor and its grand accoutrements and get down into the bowels for real. Don't tell anyone you are coming. 'Colin Powell'

VRW

Dear Erik

Could you advise your readers that the meetings of the St Ives COPE Group are on the Third Thursday of every month at the Corn Exchange and our next meeting is on Thursday November 18th. Brian Reynolds



Dear Erik,

They're coming, they're coming! Snowmen are on the move! Where will they end up? I wonder? Luka That



Dear Erik,

We are delighted to let your readers know that as a result of their recent Charity Cabaret Show 'A MOMENT IN TIME' the Centre Theatre Players have handed over a cheque to the value of £2100 to their nominated charity, Bowell Cancer UK. On behalf of the charity and the Centre Players we would like to thank everyone who supported the show and helped us raise such a fabulous amount of money. Dick

Will our MP be in the SXXX now? I doubt it.

In the last few issues of *The Riverporter* there has been reference to trust and accountability of elected representatives and officials. Companies and institutions, such as councils and police forces who ignore genuine concerns, no matter how trivial, foster an attitude that 'it's just not worth it'. This has led to consequences as serious as rape often not being reported.

This distrust of almost everything and everyone, was voiced on local social media recently about our MP's support for the dumping of sewage in our rivers.

Even the most impartial observer must find it is difficult to understand why Mr Djanogly could vote this way, if he cared about his constituents, bearing in mind the number affected by flooding and sewage. Many of the social media comments reflected the opinion that their votes would be worthless in this 'Blue stronghold'.

People feel freer to say exactly what they want to on Facebook and Twitter etc. and one could argue that our current world is actually more egalitarian because of this. But none-the-less it can be scary to know what your fellow man really believes.

It is difficult to see this situation changing, partly because it is hard to turn the clock back. The best that we can hope for is that enough people will continue to politely voice their concerns and that those concerns will be heard and dealt with openly and properly by our 'leaders' so that gradually trust in our democratic system is restored. Ultimately the power is in the hands of the people, as it is with almost every aspect of our lives, but unless most of us realise that and get involved in the democratic process nothing will change.

The Riverporter

Voted Best local newspaper of the year 2019/20 in the Cambridge Building Society's Community Magazine Awards

OTHER NEWS

A busy weekend for our local police

Cambridgeshire Police had to deal with a total of five separate incidents in St Ives last weekend. In a Facebook post on Policing Huntingdonshire, they said: 'Here's a look at some of the calls Huntingdon team dealt with over the weekend just in St Ives!'

Incident 1

The first was an axe that was seized, after Police found it in the passenger footwell of a van on Ramsey Road. The driver is currently under investigation for drug offences.

Incident 2

A drink driver was charged for smashing into a house in Wren Close in St Ives. Cambridgeshire police found the car and charged the driver at roughly 3.15am, with a drink driving offence. The driver will now appear in court next month.

Incident 3

Another drink driver was spotted on London Road. The 20-year-old driver was located in Fenstanton and was also charged with drink driving and will appear in court next month.

Incident 4

Police stopped a 20-year-old driver in Audrey Lane who failed a roadside drugs wipe and drugs were found in the car, he has been released under investigation.

Incident 5

Finally on the B1090 at Wyton, a 36-year-old woman left the scene after crashing into a ditch. She has been reported for failing to provide a drink/drug sample.



Fewer new homes

The number of new homes planned for part of the Alconbury Weald development are to be cut from 82 to 61. It was originally planned that the houses would be occupied by people working on the Weald, however a statement said 'Future occupants of the homes would benefit from the location of the development, even if they did not end up working on the Alconbury Weald site.'

Rotary Club Quiz raises over £2,600 for good causes

A county-wide charity quiz event organised by the Rotary Club of St Ives saw 44 pubs and clubs from across the Cambridgeshire area take part in the contest, which was held simultaneously at venues across the county. Wellington Wise provided the trophy won by The Three Horseshoes at Houghton. The Prince of Wales, Hilton came second and The Three Horseshoes at Wistow won the award for the largest team with 47 members and if anyone is interested in getting involved in the next quiz, which will take place in March they should contact Sandra King via email at: sking@stivesrotarycambs.org.uk.



The White Swan team at Conington Picture: ROTARY

British Heart Foundation want your help

The St Ives & District fundraising branch of the British Heart Foundation has been fundraising for forty years. Raising thousands of pounds for research into heart disease, but due to Covid this has been very limited recently.



They are asking for your help.

Perhaps you could organise a coffee morning or maybe a raffle at one of your events or perhaps you have other ideas that could be helpful? Their fund raising team can offer help and would give an official receipt for any monies raised.

In the past they have collected donations from funeral directors in memory of loved ones, again due to Covid this has become much less. Any donations would be gratefully received, cash or cheques (made out to the British Heart Foundation) so that the important research into heart disease can continue.

Donations can be dropped into the British Heart Foundation shop in the Town centre.

For more information please contact them on **01480 469557**.



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Winter Craft Fair

The Rotary Club of St Ives are bringing you a Winter Craft Fair taking place in the Corn Exchange on Sunday 31st October from 10am to 4pm. There will be 30 stallholders showcasing local crafts, unique jewellery, artwork, books and much much more. They will also be serving tea and coffee with homemade cake and their usual tombola will be accompanied with a Lucky Dip for children.

Come along and start your Christmas shopping ...

Remembrance Services

Thursday 11th November and Sunday 14th - at 10am in the Town Centre.



The COURTYARD St Ives

Open-air boutique market. run by independents

Dolci
Crêpes & Waffles

Next door to
@lorenzoscoffee and now
adding to our drinks
offerings we've got Rosaria
@dolci.crepes.waffles serving
the most yummy crepes and
waffles



GM Leather Works

We've got our very own Bespoke Leather Worker @gmleatherworks. You will find Graeme cutting, hand-sewing, and creating beautiful leather goods throughout the week visit the GM Leatherworks pod for a selection of belts (some can be made while you wait), wallets, bags, and other home decor items I think you will agree the craftsmanship on offer down at The Courtyard is something very special

Now with a large range of Plants, Garden Pots and Outdoor Items

Every Thursday is Late Night Shopping 6-8pm with a Live Band & BBQ to accompany your shopping experience!

The Courtyard, The Salerooms, Station Road, St Ives PE27 5BH [www.hyperionauctions.co.uk/the-courtyard-shopping](#) Tel: 01480 464140



Summer may be drawing to an end, but the autumn housing market is still as fast paced as it has been all year.

Buyers are facing hot competition right now. The number of people chasing after every available property for sale is at its highest ever, and is double the level seen in 2019, before the pandemic began. So if you've been looking to move, you've no doubt noticed how competitive it is.

To be in pole-position in the race for your ideal home, you need to have greater buying power than everyone else on the starting grid. We're seeing the most competitive market ever and sellers are turning to 'power buyers': those who are in a position to proceed, are chain-free, or have no need to sell at all.

So, how can you become a 'power buyer'?

There are three ways you can put yourself in pole position to secure your dream property.

1. Get a sale agreed on your current home before you buy!

If you're going to be selling your home in order to move, the best advice is to put your home on the market now and get it sold subject to contract. Some sellers are even going in to rented

NATURE RESERVE CALENDAR 2022



The Friends of Holt Island Nature Reserve committee is delighted to announce the publication of their desk calendar for next year. It displays 12 stunning wildlife photographs taken on the island and makes a perfect gift for Christmas and throughout the following 12 months! It is available for a suggested donation of £7 to include free delivery within St Ives (postage and packing costs are available on request). All proceeds will help efforts to raise funds for the continued maintenance of the island reserve.

Please contact Julian Limentani to place your order at: limentani@aol.com or call 01480 381342



January 2022

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

Green Woodpecker
(N Sprawell)

ADVERTORIAL

How to become a 'power buyer'

accommodation to be in an even better position to move fast when the right home comes up. Although some sellers are reluctant to list their homes before they've found somewhere to buy, realistically, securing there "forever home" is almost impossible unless you already have a buyer lined up.

2. Get a mortgage in principle

If you're looking to buy, but haven't yet secured a mortgage agreed in principle, you'll save valuable time by starting this process now. The first two things a sellers' estate agent will ask for is a mortgage agreement in principle from a lender and proof of funds for the balance of the purchase price. With so much competition, sellers can easily discount those who aren't in the most powerful position to proceed on a purchase. It is imperative that buyers have their finances lined up before making an offer.

3. Let your estate agent know if you're a cash buyer

Cash buyers who don't need to sell a property in order to buy will be attractive to vendors, so make sure your estate agent is aware you are ready to act fast.

Early signs of more sellers coming to market

The good news is that the number of new instructions in the first three weeks of October has been encouraging with the number of valuation appointment in our diary looking very healthy. We expect this busy market to continue well into the new year.

For help achieving the best possible price for your home please call 01480 388 888 and book a valuation.

**ellis&co
winters**