

# The Riverporter

ST IVES AWARD WINNING  
NEWSPAPER

Issue 42: 30 August 2019



**A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION**

## Do we support our businesses?

**The Riverporter** has discovered that some of our town's hard working and successful businesses do not always get the support they deserve. This can prevent their development and in some cases put businesses at risk. Even extremely successful businesses can be affected as we report below.

Originally started in Spring 2015, George's Bakery has had great success trading at Farmer's Markets across Cambridgeshire including our own Farmers' Market.

George uses locally sourced, seasonal produce to create wonderful cakes, brownies and quiches. All their products are made individually, baked fresh to order in small batches, with the batter beaten by hand, using wooden spoons and ceramic bowls. George is always searching for the best flavour combinations and his products are planned and tested before being sold at markets.

George, the son of Simon Hephew of Hephew's Electrical in Crown Street,

told us that he has nearly 25,000 followers on Instagram and reaches around 1 million people on-line. An amazing success for a local company. Customers regularly come from far and wide, including London, and a couple recently, came from Bristol, camping overnight to go to his stall. The success is clear to see as he has expanded to a double stall with three assistants to serve customers. About two months ago George was contacted by the Town Council, who run the Farmers' Market, with concerns about the numbers of his customers blocking the pavement. As a result George's stall was moved to the edge of the market, but this has proved unsatisfactory because it is now in bright sunshine most of the day and has resulted in hundreds of pounds of food being wasted. Discussions with the council have been ongoing but George has been frustrated by no response to his emails, although the council did contact his father's shop! Suggestions from the Council, (including having two separate stalls facing each other) have been

unsatisfactory and a recent visit by the Town Clerk failed to reassure George or offer an acceptable solution.

In a statement the Town Clerk told us *'The market is a business and as such any decisions made are taken in consideration of the viability of the market as a whole and not for the benefit or detriment of any individual. Within the space we have available we try to meet the needs of both traders and customers - sometimes, as in life itself, compromise has to be made by all. I had a meeting on site with George at the last market and at the end of our conversation I thought we had reached an agreement as he did not and has not made any further comments to me or my team.'*

**Ed's comment:** *We are concerned that George's success has not been aided by the council, or better still, used to help invigorate the market, which has been in decline recently. Sadly this is not the only case where a lack of understanding and support from councils has had negative results for businesses. See the article on Whately's Newsagent on page 2.*



## Saint Tropez or Saint Ives?



Not much to choose between the locations really... Blue sky, record temperatures, good food and chilled wine why would anyone want to travel? What a fabulous bank holiday weekend which saw the town packed with visitors, with music and events everywhere, ice cream in abundance and crowds packed along our beautiful river locations. Like Saint T, Saint I saw some amazing boats moored along the Quay, enjoying the bars and local restaurants.

## Speakers Announced

**The Civic Society** have announced their speakers for next seasons' open meeting talks. They have also pledged to assist on financing new information boards for St Ives' Bridge Chapel.

### OPEN MEETINGS

The season commences on Friday 20 September at 7.30pm, our speaker is Dr Pat Doody, his talk is The Natural History of the River Great Ouse Meadows, Non members are very welcome, the charge is £3.00.

The full listing and late changes can be seen at: [www.stivescivic.org.uk/index.php/talks](http://www.stivescivic.org.uk/index.php/talks).

### BRIDGE CHAPEL

The lower floor of the St Ives' Bridge Chapel, a rare surviving example of a mid stream bridge chapel has been closed until safety improvements are completed. The County Council and St Ives Town Council are both keen to ensure the Chapel is fully open again as soon as possible. Meanwhile the Town Council is preparing a set of information boards describing the lower floor. The Civic Society's

committee has pledged to assist in financing the new boards.

Longer term the County Council are planning to improve the safety of the stairs.

### HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

The Civic Society of St Ives co-ordinates the participating groups in the town for Heritage Open Days.

Each property chooses their own opening dates and times, dependent on their volunteers offering to give up their own time.

Ten sites in St Ives are open and our leaflet will be available detailing the sites. All the sites can be visited during their opening times (see page 2) just by walking up to them.

*PLEASE NOTE: since our last issue the Town Council has decided to open the Town Hall on Saturday 21st Sept.*



## Ever wanted to play in a rock band?

**NOW IS YOUR CHANCE** - by attending the excellent Harmonica Workshop with Steve Lockwood at this year's Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival in the Bridge Chapel on Sunday 22nd September at 11 am.

Once again Steve will help you, in just two hours, become proficient enough to join in with some cool blues numbers. Due to limited places please book (on a first-come first-served basis) at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives). There is a booking fee of £15 to cover the cost of the music and a brand new Harmonica - so all you need is your lips and plenty of wind!!! Anyway it's a really fun 2 hours, as the picture above shows, and that's after the session.

## TOMORROW

Saturday 31st August  
St Ives Flower,  
Produce & Craft Show  
at The Corn Exchange



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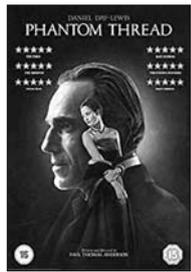
# Screen St Ives

Thursday 5 Sep 2019, Screen 2:  
PHANTOM THREAD Cert 15

Dir: Paul Thomas Anderson, UK / US, 2hr 10min, 2017.

A sumptuous, romantic, unsettling film about a fictional master couturier, Reynolds Woodcock. Notoriously fickle, Reynolds falls head over heels in love with his model Alma, with surprising consequences for everyone involved. Visually spectacular and with an award winning soundtrack.

Doors open at 7.30pm and films start at 8pm.  
Refreshments are available before the screening.  
All tickets cost only £5, and are available online or in person at the Corn Exchange, St Ives.



## Your chance to visit our special buildings

**H**eritage Open Days is England's largest festival of history and culture, bringing together over 2,000 organisations, 5,000 events and 40,000 volunteers.

Every year in September, places across the country throw open their doors to celebrate their heritage, community and history. It's your chance to see hidden places and try out new experiences – and it's all FREE.

Below we list the buildings visitors can see in St Ives over the weekend from Friday 20th to Sunday 22nd September.

### Bridge Chapel, St Ives

Grade I Listed Chapel built in the centre of the old river bridge.

Friday 20 September: 10am - 4pm

Saturday 21 September: 1pm - 4pm

Sunday 22 September: 1pm - 4pm

### Corn Exchange of St Ives

A Grade II Listed building built over 150 years ago, now restored and serving the community.

Friday 20 Sept: 10am - 12:30pm

Saturday 21 September: 10am - 2pm

Sunday 22 September: 10am - 2pm

### Holt Island Nature Reserve

Accessed via the white footbridge at end of Church Street it was once an osier bed, which nature has now made into a reserve with a variety of birds, visiting and nesting. Display of baskets and willow weaving tools.

Saturday 21 September: 10am - 4pm

Sunday 22 September: 10am - 4pm

### Muslim Prayer & Education Cte.

38 Broadway. The Prayer & Education Centre is a Mosque.

Built in 1891 on the site of the Old Unicorn Inn, and previously North Hunts Constitutional Club. now Muslim Prayer & Educational Centre.

Saturday 21 September: 10am - 3pm

Sunday 22 September: 10am - 3pm

### Norris Museum

The Broadway. Built in 1933 to house the antiquarian collections of Herbert Norris.

Saturday 21 September: 10am - 4pm

### Sacred Heart RC Church

Needingworth Road. Designed by renowned architect Augustus Pugin, it was originally built in Cambridge and moved brick by brick on barges to St Ives in 1902.

Friday 20 September: 11am - 3pm

Saturday 21 September: 12pm - 4pm

### St Ives Methodist Church

The Waits. Built in 1905 - During both world wars the church was used as a Red Cross Hospital.

Saturday 21 September: 10am - 4pm

Sunday 22 September: 12pm - 4pm

### St Ives Town Hall

Market Hill. The Town Hall of St Ives. Originally built as a private house in 1850, you can visit the Council Chamber and view the council regalia.

Friday 20 September: 9am - 4:30pm

Saturday 21 September: 10am - 2pm

### The Free Church, St Ives

Market Hill. St. Ives Free Church is one of the oldest non-conformist churches in the country; tracing its history right back to the 1630s when Oliver Cromwell lived in the town for five years.

Friday 20 September: 10am - 4pm

Saturday 21 September: 10am - 4pm

Sunday 22 September: 100pm - 4pm

### Needingworth Road Mosque

22 Needingworth Road.

This building will be open but the times are not available.

According to unconfirmed reports, the losses at One Leisure (£280,000) may include a loss of £80,000 by the Outdoor Centre bar.

An unnamed councillor queried how this appalling situation could happen, stating that he had never come across anyone who drinks there and never sees anybody in it when he goes up there.

Whereupon, Cllr Jason Ablewhite reportedly said that he always does his drinking there!

It's lonely at the top.



# Congratulations Whateley's



Chris Whateley moved to St Ives 50 years ago this Saturday from Birmingham, to open his post office and newsagents, aged just 17 years.

With his parents, Chris remembers lodging with Mrs Dear, while receiving a weeks training from the Post Office. The following week Chris was thrown in at the deep end and was the postmaster, a job that he had to learn quickly.

The early years were successful as 5,000 houses were built further up Ramsey Road, helping the business to flourish. They added a store at Green How and in 1984 they opened the newsagent by the Coop store.

Chris remains a big Aston Villa fan and impending retirement may give him time to support them more.

Chris, who runs the store with his wife Ros (pictured) said that business was good until recently with trade dropping off most

notably since Morrisons opened.

This has forced the closure of their News Centre in Constable Rd. in the next few weeks and with the lease on the Kings Hedges store up next year, Chris says it will also close.

Further commercial pressure has come from running the Post Office side of the business which does not make a profit.

According to Chris they never had a robbery during the first 45 years of business with sealed counter doors until the new open sections were put in, at the insistence of the Post Office, four years ago and since then they have had 3 robberies.

Chris now no longer opens the store at 6am and waits until 8.15am when other staff arrive for better security.

Chris recognises that he has had a good business supported by great customers but as he says he's not used to such difficult trading times.

One thing for sure is that he has earned his retirement and *The Riverporter* congratulates him on a wonderful achievement providing such a great service to the community for 50 years. We wish him and Ros well in the future.

**Eds comment.** *It remains to be seen what will happen to these two important stores. We know that town centre shops have suffered since the 'Out of Town' developments have happened, but I don't think councillors considered that these developments would also affect these vital shops, in the heart of our community.*

*Is it too late to do something? Or will St Ives gradually lose its local stores? Can the new long awaited Town Plan help redress the balance? Or will it take us further down the road of American Style shopping, where we drive to stores that all look the same?*

**We'd like to hear what you think.**

## Some unusual visitors



Among the beautiful boats visiting The Quay last weekend was this 1967 Amphicar (left), which was spotted cruising peacefully up river. It was initially spotted in Ely but did a very well received lap under our bridge. A humourist posted on-line that this was the result of following his Sat Nav!

## Bank Holiday Fun carried on ...

From 2pm in the Nelson's Head which hosted the second music fund raiser for 'The British Heart Foundation'. Organised by local musician Paul Dodson, many local musicians gave up their time for free to support the charity including 'The Sidekicks', 'The Mad Hatters', plus members of 'The Tomb Raiders' and 'The What's That Band'. A fabulous afternoon that ended so crowded they were dancing in the street. At time of printing the funds raised had surpassed £700 and Paul has asked us to say thank you to everyone involved.

*The picture shows just a few of the musicians along with our Erik, who also had a good time.*



having your say ...

# The Riverporter



## Dear Erik PAWS FOR THOUGHT

Get it off your chest, email *Erik* at: [editor@theriverporter.uk](mailto:editor@theriverporter.uk)

### Good morning Erik,

We would love to advertise this event in your newspaper for this good cause. The Leaders, St Ives branch are holding a **Cake and Coffee Morning in support of Macmillan on the 27th of September at 10am**. Everyone is welcome to the event and we will be holding a Cake Off for anyone who would like to get involved.  
**Faye Young**

### Dear Erik,

I just thought I would let you know there is a lot of bad feeling regarding the new charges at Globe Place Car Park. New charges minimum £1.60 for 2 hours then 20p for every subsequent 15 minutes. New charges in Huntingdon minimum £1 for one hour thereafter 20p for each additional 15 minutes. Why the difference and why so much more expensive in St Ives? This makes popping into town for a few minutes very expensive. The high street is suffering. Why are we trying to turn people away? **Michelle Sengonul**

### Dear Erik,

#### Ref: Warner's Park Pavilion Project

I understand the this Town Council project is going ahead and may cost an eye watering £100,000. Whilst I am sure the councillors will want to be remembered for this mega project, how about getting the Town Hall to concentrate on some of the small jobs they regularly neglect? Such as The Waits!! See the attached photos of the poor maintenance. **Gordon Walker**



### Apology

*The Riverporter would like to apologise to Peter Law for printing his quote with an error in our last issue. It should have said:*

*It would kinder of Huntingdonshire District Council to board up the shops in St Ives rather than bleed them slowly to death by doubling car park charges for a one-hour stay.*

### Children are playing in the playground - but should they be?



### Hi Erik,

I noticed that the new play area in Warner's Park hadn't been finished last week, but as the Town Hall team were there I fully expected them to have finished it by now. However, as you can see it is still not finished and looks very dangerous! If a child slips they could really hurt themselves.

**Concerned Resident of St Ives.**

### Dear Erik,

I'm very worried listening to the news these days. It seems that Boris keeps banging on about a No Deal Brexfast. Now I heard the newsreader say that the Boris has failed to agree a deal with the Teashop. Does this mean I won't be getting my afternoon biccies.

### Schnauzer

*Dear Schnauzer I suggest you go to Withoutspoons they do a good deal breakfast. Erik.* (p.s. other good deal breakfasts and teashops are available in St Ives)

### The next COPE Meeting

is on Friday 13th SEPTEMBER 2019 at St Ives Free Church 10.30 for 11am. Speaker - Ros Wright - Denny Abbey and its history. After the 45-minute presentation there will be the usual raffle. COPE Meetings are open to ALL. £2.00 entry.

### Squealie wheelie continued ...

A recent issue we carried an article about squealing car tyres and car meets being held locally. It now seems the police are getting a lot more savvy in sorting this out and the boy racers are now ruining the events for themselves by not following the rules. As a precaution and following tip offs the Cambs Police Chief issued a county wide dispersal notice which empowers officers to break up any event they consider causes disruption. Many that attend these events took to Social media to complain that that really enjoy these gatherings and it does seem a shame that such events are often ruined by a few individuals who selfishly defy the rules and cause the disruption.

## COUNCIL & COMMUNITY NEWS

### Tories at war



*The Riverporter* has been informed that Mr. Josh Twigden a member of the Huntingdonshire Conservative Association has started a petition in an attempt to commence proceedings to de-select our MP Mr Jonathan Djanogly whom he has allegedly described as a "CORBYN SUPPORTING & DUPE OF CANADIAN CANNABIS KINGS MP" apparently Mr Twigden believes that Mr Djanogly will join an attempt to bring down the new Conservative Government of Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

### Hot wheels!

Somersham Road - Police and the Fire Brigade were called to an incident on Somersham Road on Friday evening, 16th August, in which a single car left the road and crashed into a hedge. Heavy black smoke was seen coming from the car, but the Fire Brigade dealt with the situation. One person in the car fortunately escaped unhurt.



### Do we have a misunderstanding?

*The Riverporter* collects news items from many sources and one of those sources is social media, so we were interested to see a Facebook posting from someone who is a Conservative Town Councillor clearly suggesting that *The Riverporter* is a socialist publication sponsored by the Labour party!

He couldn't of course be more wrong! But we suspect he got this impression due to an article we published that evidenced that his party colleagues were not behaving very nicely to a Labour District Councillor. So let's be clear *The Riverporter* carries no political alliance and receives no sponsorship from anyone, other than our regular advertisers and we will report **all stories** with the only bias being that we will support and report issues that affect St Ives. The idea that we would not publish an item because it may reflect bad on any politician is plainly silly and the councillor making such remarks should be ashamed of himself. *Incidentally, following our article about the treatment of District Cllr Nik Johnson, we have been told that a complaint made by that councillor was dismissed by HDC as no case to be heard! Ed.*

### What's happening at the Dolphin?



It really hasn't been a happy year for The Dolphin Hotel, and they are in the news once again this week. Recent music events had many town residents furious over the levels of sound and the messy aftermath in our streets and gardens, so many protests brought them the attention of the police and environmental officers from the council.

On Bank Holiday weekend they had advertised another music event and, perhaps concerned to not bring the same attention, the Dolphin organisers appeared to make every effort to lessen the impact on residents. However these plans seemed to go horribly wrong as our intrepid news hound Erik discovered quite early into the evening.

The event was well attended, and the area became packed with happy visitors, but it soon became clear that a large police presence was gathering and that drugs appeared to be passing quite freely among the young attendees. Ambulances were called and police vans turned up, with officers showing great concern over the organisation of the event.

Erik witnessed first-hand crying teenagers speaking with police, an ambulance removing revellers and police vans moving over the bridge. People were seen in small groups ducking behind parked cars and hiding in the bushes in the grounds of the Bridgefoot apartments. A police officer spoke with a resident and expressed their view that they were very unhappy with the organisation of the event with far too many under-aged visitors, drugs and alcohol. The event was due to run until 3am but hotel management shut down the event over safety concerns around 1am.

*The hotel was asked for a comment, prior to going to press, but no one got back to us. Ed.*

### Are Tasers more likely for local officers?

Earlier in August Northampton's Police Chief announced that all officers in that area would be carrying Tasers as standard issue, following new government guidelines allowing local forces to make their own decision on issuing the weapons. In recent years attacks on police officers have risen by 50% a dramatic increase. In a social media poll, Cambs Police asked their 60,000 Facebook followers if they should equip their officers with the weapon. In only six hours, more than 5,300 residents had responded to the survey which revealed that 93 per cent of people think they should be armed with Tasers.



One poll respondent said... *'There are not as many police around as there should be due to budget cuts and as crime is changing, so should the police adapt to it.'* However, in following up this story *The Riverporter* understands that the Cambridgeshire Police Chief has stated that he will not be issuing the weapon as routine to Cambridgeshire officers at this time. Statistics show the use of Tasers by Cambs Police has risen by 60 per cent over the last year and officers, equipped with the weapon, fired their Tasers eight times in 2017-18. Cambs Police used force against suspects on 4,562 occasions over a 12-month period, this included forcibly handcuffing someone, hitting a suspect with a baton, or using pepper spray.



# Record Breaking Prices



at our last Fine Art & Antiques Sale

19th C Indo Persian Yemeni Arab Jambiya  
Dagger with Silver Mounts  
SOLD £1600



Rare Royal Doulton 'London Cry,  
Strawberries' HN 749 designed by  
Leslie Harradine SOLD £520

The RARE 1981 original Roland  
Garros tennis promotional  
poster SOLD £500



Next Antiques & Interiors  
Sale: Saturday 7th Sept starting at 11.00am

Hyperion Auctions, The Salerooms, Station Road, St Ives PE27 5BH

[www.hyperionauctions.co.uk](http://www.hyperionauctions.co.uk) 01480 464140



## St Ives WW1 Flying Ace and Poet Jeffrey Day honoured at the Shuttleworth Collection



Last Saturday, Sheila Day, the niece of WW1 Hero and Flying ace, Miles Jeffrey Game Day was the honoured visitor to the Shuttleworth Collection. David Bremner, the grandson of another WW1 pilot, Francis Bremner, has rebuilt a Bristol Scout Type-C plane flown by his grandfather and by Jeffrey in the conflict. The Bristol Scout was one of the first single seater planes to be used as a fighter aircraft. Jeffrey Day was famous for flying a Bristol Scout from the top wing of a Porte Baby Seaplane (see right) in a remarkable, not to be repeated experiment. The picture shows Sheila and her carer Marianne being shown the plane by David with a Sopwith Camel in the background, a plane which Jeffrey was flying when he died in combat. Jeffrey's remarkable story and details of his flying exploits plus all his known poems can be found in the book Gamelyn, produced by St Ives Town Team and available from the Norris Museum.



ADVERTORIAL

# MORTGAGES UNRAVELLED

Mike Ellis of Ellis Winters explains how you can get good advice.



From experience, we know that buying your first home is both exciting and daunting in equal measures. Before moving in though, you'll need to deal with solicitors, conveyancers, estate agents and mortgage lenders who all speak a different language.

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