

# The Riverporter

ST IVES AWARD WINNING NEWSPAPER

Issue 91: 6 August 2021

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

## St Ives . . . life looks a little more normal

COVERING THE NEWS OTHER PAPERS DON'T

**D**espite Freedom Day being nearly two weeks ago it has taken a little while for people to start leaving their homes to shop and engage in the more sociable activities that they enjoyed before the pandemic struck.

That is not surprising, especially for the older generation who are more vulnerable to Covid and may still be concerned about the Delta variant, which has proved more contagious and has caused a spike in cases.

This week the return of the market to the town centre added to the atmosphere of the old St Ives and there are signs of organisations feeling confident enough to put on events. As a result we list those events we know that will be taking place over the next couple of months (right) so you can plan what to do without travelling too far.

*Below:* Monday market day, with many towns' folk returning. Smiling faces greeted the stall holders, several of them described the day as having gone well and expressed their pleasure at being back. It certainly brought the town back to life. Not all the stall holders have returned yet, so the market was predominantly on the north side of the road and towards the Sheepmarket but it was wonderful to see it back in place.

It will be interesting to see how many people come out to events, such as tonight's FREE concert in the Corn Exchange.



## Helping our Mayor out of a hole

£10 CHARITY ENTRY, PLUS GREEN FEES. NON LAKESIDE MEMBERS £22 ARRIVAL 10AM FIRST TEE 10:44

An Invite from St Ives Mayor, Pasco Hussain

### CHARITY GOLF EVENT

30TH AUGUST 2021

RAISING MONEY FOR:

- The Acorn Cancer Support Group
- RFL
- AIR AMBULANCE

LONGEST DRIVE NEAREST THE PIN COMPETITION, RAFFLE AND AUCTION ON THE DAY.

OPTIONAL BARBECUE £6

To book your place, please contact Linda at St Ives Town Hall 01480 388 931 Monday to Friday 9.00 am - 4.30 pm

Lakeside Lodge  
Lakeside Lodge, Fen Rd, Pidley, Huntingdon, PE28 3DF

Well he's not really in a hole. Far from it. In fact most would say he's doing a great job and as part of his fund raising in his mayoral year, he's organising a golf day to support local charities. The event is planned for the 30th August starting at 10am at Lakeside Lodge Golf and Country Club in Pidley.

The day will include all the usual golfing challenges and an optional barbecue. Speaking with Mayor Pasco he asked that if any person or local business would be prepared to help and sponsor the event perhaps with prizes or donations, he would be most grateful.

If readers would like to go along or help out in any way, please contact Linda in the town hall and she will book you in. When Pasco is involved, everything is great fun. We wish him every success and a great day. Linda can be reached on 01480 388931

## Beside the Riverside on Holt Island

A joint event with the Norris Museum

### Friday 13<sup>th</sup> August

### 11.00 - 3.00

Come and discover some of the wildlife that lives beside the river on Holt Island



This is a **FREE** event but donations very welcome

## Calendar of events 2021

### AUGUST

**Friday 13th - Beside The Riverside** Discover the wildlife on Holt Island - a FREE event

**Thursday 19th - Screen St Ives - Sorry We Missed You** 8pm The Corn Exchange. Tickets £5. From October films shown on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month see [screenstives.org.uk](http://screenstives.org.uk).

**Friday 27th - Chapel Arts @ The Corn Exchange** Featuring Fran McGillivray and Mike Burke, playing popular folk and blues numbers. Tickets cost £10 and sold on a first come first served basis. They can be obtained at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives).

**Monday 30th - Mayors Charity Golf Day** 10am at Lakeside Lodge Golf and Country Club - Pidley. To take part contact Linda Scales on 01480 388931.

### SEPTEMBER

**Saturday 4th - The St Ives Show** A traditional town competition in St Ives Corn Exchange, involving flowers, baking, crafts and produce sections. To enter go to [www.stivesshow.org.uk](http://www.stivesshow.org.uk)

**Friday 10th and Saturday 11th - The Centre Players presents A Moment In Time** A charity cabaret in The Burgess Hall. Tickets £10 from [ticketsource.co.uk/starliteroadshow](http://ticketsource.co.uk/starliteroadshow)

**Thursday 16th to Sunday 19th - The Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival** 23 FREE concerts throughout the town. Go to [www.stivescambridgeshire.co.uk](http://www.stivescambridgeshire.co.uk) for details.

**Saturday 18th - St Ives Eco Action and St Ives Methodist Church** A mini eco-fair and a range of events, primarily aimed at children and families as part of the Heritage Open Day.

**Friday 24th - Chapel Arts @ The Corn Exchange** Featuring Robin Walker on Harpsichord. Tickets cost £10 and can be obtained at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives).

### OCTOBER

**Saturday 2nd - The Old Riverport Ukulele Festival** Tickets which include the evening concert are just £12 at: [ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives](http://ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives). Details on the *StivesUkeFest* Facebook page.

**16th - The Illuminated Boat Parade** Another FREE to watch event. For details go to [www.stivescambridgeshire.co.uk](http://www.stivescambridgeshire.co.uk).

Read on-line at [www.theriverporter.uk](http://www.theriverporter.uk) or see our Facebook page. Email: [editor@theriverporter.uk](mailto:editor@theriverporter.uk)

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## SCREEN ST IVES

Thursday  
19 Aug 2021  
at 8pm

Doors open at @7pm

Come and enjoy a  
pre-screening drink  
in the new  
Riverport Cafe with  
licenced bar



"KEN LOACH DELIVERS ONE OF HIS BEST FILMS"

★★★★★ ★★★★★ ★★★★★

"POWERFUL" "UTTERLY ABSORBING" "BRILLIANT"

★★★★★ ★★★★★ ★★★★★

"RIVETING... A DRAMA OF SEARING HUMAN EMPATHY"

★★★★★ ★★★★★

"TOTALLY UNMISSABLE CINEMA"

## Sorry We Missed You

Directed by Ken Loach and Written by Paul Laverty

Tickets Only  
£5

Available online  
at [screenstives.org.uk](http://screenstives.org.uk)

Or from the  
Riverport Cafe  
in the Corn Exchange  
(no booking fee)

Book early as seating  
is limited due to COVID  
restrictions

## Volunteer Groups Message Forum

If you are a member of a community group that wishes to let others know what you do, or needs specific help, or or just want to promote your organisation, you can email us at [theriverporter.uk](mailto:theriverporter.uk) and we will include it on the Message Forum.

### Are you any good with a screwdriver?

The Corn Exchange is back following the dreadful Covid year. Music is returning with marvellous evenings in the new Riverport Bar and events are getting under way. The Corn Exchange supports our community to bring entertainment into the heart of the town. The new décor and planned facilities are a real asset

to St Ives but we depend on our volunteer helpers to help us keep everything going and in really great condition. We now require one or two competent individuals to help with ongoing maintenance. It usually needs only an hour or two a week to keep on top of things and the reward is the immaculate building you see... So is there anybody out there?

If so please email [BOOKINGS@THECORNEXCHANGE.ORG.UK](mailto:BOOKINGS@THECORNEXCHANGE.ORG.UK)



## Bad experience at Hinchingsbrooke A&E matches national trend

The Riverporter received this account of a visit to Hinchingsbrooke A&E, which seems to reflect some of the concerns nationally about the NHS' ability to cope with an increasing number of patients. Over 100,000 more people attended in June compared to 2019, making it the busiest month ever.

Responding to the publication of NHS England's monthly performance statistics, Tim Gardner, Senior Policy Fellow at the Health Foundation, said: 'While NHS staff are working hard and with dedication, this has not been enough to prevent the waiting list growing by nearly 200,000 in the last month, reaching a record high of 5.3 million. Of those, over a third of a million have been waiting more than a year.'

### A local experience

Roberto Zanconato sent us his experience this week ...

On Sunday I experienced a medical issue. I initially visited the NHS 111 website for advice which eventually told me to call an ambulance. I told them I was able to drive so they said if I could drive myself they would arrange an appointment for 4:45pm. I duly arrived on time at Hinchingsbrooke A&E and was told to wait around 4.5 hours, but that would be reassessed after triage.

After waiting 20 minutes I was called to the triage room and I told my story. I was then sent back to my seat and waited. After another half hour I was called back to provide blood samples. To say this process was quick would be a total understatement. Within about 30 seconds I had my skin cleaned with one swipe of an alcohol wipe, a needle injected and about six blood samples taken and I was sent back to the waiting room. It was obvious that the clinician was seriously overworked and rushed.

After a further 2 hours, we were told that waiting times had gone up to 5 hours. In the end, it was 8 hours before I was seen. I spent 3 hours being given a physical examination, an x-ray, a further examination before being provided with the worrying results. I then had to remind them to take out the needle from my arm. A quick gauze and plaster to the entry port and the doctor immediately left. I walked down the corridor and blood squirted out everywhere. A nurse then repeated the process and told me to wait 30 seconds and she left immediately. Finally, I set off for home at 3:45 the following morning. What I saw when I went outside for fresh air was a stream of ambulances with patients needing urgent care. I cannot complain about the medical staff who were very kind, professional and obviously overworked. However, the management of the A&E unit has much to answer for.

The waiting room contained a non-functioning coffee machine and a vending machine for snacks and drinks, but there was no simple water dispenser for the waiting patients, some elderly with mobility issues. Ventilation within the waiting room did not appear to be COVID safe all windows and doors were closed. During my visit there were no staff checking to see if patients had any special needs. It was left to other kind patients to support those less able, who needed food, drink or toilet relief. Throughout there was only one

announcement by staff, and that was about the 5 hour waiting time.

The very long waiting times has serious follow-on consequences. There was a woman brought in by two police officers shortly after I arrived. The poor throughput in A&E must have wasted around 2 working days of police time.

Of course the underlying problem is not the overworked staff, who were doing their very best, but the total lack of NHS funding by this government through 10 years of austerity, resulting in inadequate resources and too few overworked staff trying to achieve the near impossible.

At least I was asked to submit feedback, by SMS of my experience at the North West Anglia NHS Trust Hinchingsbrooke Hospital. Unfortunately, on trying to respond to the first question my mobile said, and continues to say, 'Not delivered'.

### Notes

- There were 1,436,613 attendances at major A&E departments in June 2021, 102,476 (7.7%) more than the 1,334,137 visits in June 2019.
- The waiting list for consultant-led elective care reached 5.3 million by the end of May 2021, an increase of 182,832 from the 5.12 million patients waiting at the end of April 2021. 336,733 of those waiting had waited over 52 weeks at the end of May, compared to 385,490 at the end of April 2021.
- 1,728,981 (32.6%) of patients on the waiting list had waited longer than the 18 week standard by the end of May 2021, compared to 1,811,899 (35.4%) by the end of April 2021.

Data from the Health Foundation.

## Could you spot the symptoms of sepsis?

This life-threatening condition is caused by the body's response to an infection. It kills 5 people every hour in the UK.

Sepsis Research FEAT is the only UK sepsis charity dedicated to funding research to help find improved treatments for sepsis while also working to raise awareness. Our aim is for everyone to be able to spot these five key symptoms and know when to seek urgent medical attention:

SEPSIS IS AN EMERGENCY • SEPSIS CAN KILL YOU • HELP US STOP SEPSIS



VERY HIGH OR LOW TEMPERATURE



UNCONTROLLED SHIVERING



CONFUSION



NOT PASSING AS MUCH URINE AS NORMAL



COLD OR BLOTCHY HANDS & FEET

KNOW THE SYMPTOMS. SEEK URGENT MEDICAL ATTENTION.

We're asking you to help support vital research into sepsis by donating or taking part in a fundraising activity. If you have experience of sepsis then you could share your story on social media using the hashtag #stopsepsisnow

The charity receives no government funding and relies on legacies and donations to support this vital work. To make a donation text SEPSIS to 70085 to donate £10. Text costs £10 plus a standard message rate.

You can find out more at: <https://sepsisresearch.org.uk>

### Another Scam?

The Editor received an email the other day, supposedly from the National Lottery, advising him he had won £500 in a lottery gift card competition!

This was a bit of a surprise as it had come to a business email address he rarely used and he had never entered a lottery gift card competition! He binned it.

THE CENTRE THEATRE PLAYERS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE VICKY GRANT SCHOOL OF DANCE

## A CHARITY CABARET

supporting **BOWEL CANCER UK**  
IN MEMORY OF OUR LOVELY NORMA

# A MOMENT IN TIME

**THE BURGESS HALL**  
ONE LEISURE | ST. IVES  
10 & 11 SEPTEMBER 2021  
7.30PM. (DOORS OPEN 6.45PM)

TICKETS £10 | BOOK ONLINE  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/starliteroadshow](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/starliteroadshow)  
OR TELEPHONE\* 07555 394697  
\*between 6pm and 9pm weekdays

TABLE SETTING | LICENSED FACILITIES | GRAND RAFFLE



having your say ...



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

# The Riverporter

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

## NEWS UPDATE

### St Ives getting tough on parking

The St Ives NPT (Neighbourhood Policing Team) have been in town making their presence known dealing with parking issues. The head of the team said that many local businesses were pleased with their actions as delivery drivers are unable to gain access to the loading bays, due to illegally parked vehicles. A number of tickets were issued in the loading bays in Market Hill, Crown Street and on the Broadway roundabout.



Several residents were seen to applaud the ticket issuers, especially those on the Victoria Memorial roundabout in Broadway. On the first occasion drivers were seen to rush to remove their cars only to park them back there the next day. But the ticket team were soon back again. Drivers perhaps assumed that the scheme wouldn't continue, but the NPT say that this time, if drivers persist in parking illegally it's going to get expensive. In discussing the issue with local residents there was again a call for a pedestrian zone with only residents and delivery vehicles allowed access.

### Road works could cause delays

Cambridge Water will be installing a new water main to serve the Houghton Grange site between 16-20 August. There could be some delays at the Houghton Road/Garner Drive junction at the edge of St Ives. Town Councillor Nick Dibben, Chairman of the Planning Committee said that there are no traffic lights associated with the works, the road will be reduced to one lane in each direction.

### Tackling Modern Slavery

Police officers, accompanied by Immigration and the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA) officers, visited more than 50 sites across the county.

Five arrests were made as a result of the visits, but these were not related to modern slavery. Nationally, there have been multiple modern slavery cases linked to nail bars and hand car washes, making them of particular interest to police, Immigration and the GLAA. Although the vast majority of hand car washes and nail bars are legitimate businesses, some exploit workers to maximise profits. Please report any concerns if you visit one and something doesn't feel right. We'd rather go and discover everything is legitimate, than have someone trapped in a desperate situation. Visit our website to see what to look out for: <https://bit.ly/2VfXmMB>.

### Named police officer for every neighbourhood

The newly announced 'Beating Crime Plan' includes ensuring that every neighbourhood in England and Wales has a named and contactable police officer dedicated to that neighbourhood. The named police officer will know their area, the people and local communities who live there and are best placed to ensure that persistent crime and anti-social behaviour is tackled. [Sounds like an old fashioned Bobby. ED]

Neighbourhood Watch Network said 'This looks like a definite step towards local neighbourhood policing which members have regularly stated that they feel has been lost. We will be working with the Police and Neighbourhood Watch leaders and coordinators to ensure this promise becomes a reality and that the potential benefits of this are realised in all communities.'

### Town Council news

On Wednesday this week the Mayor issued the following statement on the St Ives Town Council Facebook site.

'The Town Council are aware of ongoing anti social behaviour in Warner's Park. (See right - rubbish left with a bin only feet away.)' Concerns have been raised with the appropriate agencies, individuals and parents. The police are also aware. Both the Town Council and local residents are doing their best to keep the park clean and tidy for all to enjoy.'



**The Council has also discussed:** Cleaning key parts of the town centre in advance of the jubilee next year, reviewing the cemetery regulations in context of the solar lights debate and seeking ideas for a fitting memorial for John Davies.

**The Town Council adopted two new councillors last month.** They are:



Shariqa Mokbul who runs the Montaz restaurant with her father. Shariqa was born and raised in St Ives attending both Wheatfields and St Ivo. She is hoping to bridge the gap between the Town Council and the Bengali Community and become a voice for the unheard.



Julie Kerr who has lived in St Ives for over 50 years. Julie is a founding member of Facebook St Ives Action Support Team, set up to help the Christmas 2020 flood victims. Currently a counsellor for the Bridge Counselling Centre. Her hope is to educate and raise awareness of mental health from schools to the workplace.

The Riverporter understands that the Town Clerk remains poorly and is not due back at work until October.

Dear Erik,

I was sorry that your correspondent in Issue 89 was 'underwhelmed' by the 'Treasures of Ramsey Abbey' exhibition in the Norris Museum. Perhaps he/she didn't appreciate that it is part of a combined display at Ramsey Rural Museum, Chatteris Museum and Ramsey Library - well worth a visit!

I thought the Community Archaeology Project was fascinating, and the Norris triumphed in securing the loans from the V&A of the fabulous, and priceless, incense burner and censer. Ramsey Abbey governed St Ives for almost 500 years and these treasures are extremely rare evidence of it as the fourth richest abbey in the country.

St Ives bridge, river and market tolls, fair profits and the biggest landholding in the county all added up!

So thank you to the Ramsey Community Project and the Norris for bringing us a wealth of new understanding.

**Bridget Flanagan,**  
Chair, Friends of the Norris Museum

### Is this going to cook up a stink?

An article we found on local social media states that the Envarwaste Management Company have a planning application to massively change the work carried out at their Somersham Road site. There are a number of changes requested. One is to build a Clinical Waste Incinerator at the site (its waste is said to come from hospitals etc) with two chimneys of 26 metres to power a new dry anaerobic digester which would change how they recycle green/food waste at the site.

The consultation is now open and so we thought we'd publish the link to the CCC website for those affected by their plans. <https://planning.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=QV5TVBDYLC000>

Dear Erik,

Please could you include the article below in the next issue of the Riverporter.

### Organisation for this year's St Ives Show is in full swing

The team behind the St Ives show are planning its return with all the fun of a traditional town competition involving flowers, baking, crafts and produce sections, following its cancellation in 2020 due to coronavirus.

Over the next few weeks the team will be keeping an eye on what happens with the pandemic and will put safety of those visiting the show first. The show will take place on Saturday 4 September in the St Ives Corn Exchange.

The show team will need the support of the local community to make it as big and vibrant as ever. With only a month to go, they are asking local people to plan their exhibits now.

There is a wide range of categories that people can submit their entries into, including, fruit, vegetables, flowers, jam making, baking, home brewing, arts & crafts and photography.

As ever, big prizes on offer include the coveted Holmes Trophy, for the most points overall in the show, the RHS Banksian medal for best in the veg, fruit, flowers and plants section, and the prestigious Billman Rose Bowl for the best flower arrangement. There will also be a raffle.

To enter go to [www.stivesshow.org.uk](http://www.stivesshow.org.uk)  
**Matthew Hall**

The Riverporter understands that the issue is on August's Bluntisham Parish Council agenda.



## Here Today

St Ives Corn Exchange

# Weekly Craft Market

9 till 1pm every Friday



## COPE

Cambridgeshire Older People's Enterprise

From now onwards the St Ives Branch will be holding its meetings on the 3rd Thursday of each month from 2 to 4 pm in St Ives Corn Exchange.

It managed under strict conditions to hold its first meeting this year on the 15th July, and will be holding its next meeting on the 19th August, at which there will be a talk on 'The Riverport down the Centuries'.



Lock down is over and we are open to full capacity, so come and browse our full range of antiques and curios, from militaria to fine art, mid-century modern to Tudor we have something for everyone. Open 9am - 5pm Monday through Saturday and 10am - 4pm on Sundays.



Hyperion Homes & Antiques Centre, The Salerooms, Station Road, St Ives PE27 5BH

<https://www.hyperionauctions.co.uk/hyperion-antiques-centre>

Tel: 01480 469101

@hyperionantiquescentre

## The curious incident of the bin that moved

Last year St Ives Town Team were asked their opinion about the location of HDC's new recycling litter bins. The suggestions made were originally ignored, resulting in a bin obstructing the popular display about the town on the windows of the Bridge Street Royal Mail Sorting Office. Correspondence with HDC's Litter Minimisation Officer, over the following months failed to rectify the situation and eventually the Town Team were unable to get a response, to any of its emails.



Left: The new bin obscures the display.



Centre: The bin suddenly appears 50 metres up the road outside Mountain Warehouse.



Right: The display is now easily read and enjoyed by many visitors.

A couple of weeks ago the bin was moved and curiously it seems no one was informed, either that it was going to happen, or that it had happened.

The Town Team discovered this had happened when one of 'The Team' noticed the bin was no longer in front of their window display.

Needless to say they are delighted by its move.

Erik has informed the Editor that he and his pals were suddenly forced to alter their daily watering routine!



ADVERTORIAL

## GET VIEWER READY!



The hottest week of the year so far also heralds the start of the school summer holidays and as millions of families embark on their 'staycations' indications are that the housing market will remain busy.

If you're on the market already, it's the perfect time to spruce up the garden or decorate a room or two as there are still many serious buyers around who need to move and are looking for their ideal home. Remember, first impressions count and buyers are forming their opinions as soon as they get out of their car so make your house as welcoming as possible, mow the lawn and put out a few hanging baskets.

If you are not yet on the market, now is also a great time to sell, with fewer properties around, your house will stand out - new instructions always get more views on Rightmove, Zoopla and On The Market - more views, more viewings, more sales - one always follows the other.

Whether you're looking to get the best possible price or sell quickly because you've seen another property you're interested in, we'll tailor your marketing accordingly, experience tells us that using different strategies brings the best results.

And finally, remember, if you are looking to move before Christmas, the average length of time for a sale to go through once solicitors are instructed is three months, which means time is running out if you'd like to be eating Christmas dinner in your new home!

ellis&co  
winters

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**The Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival 2021**