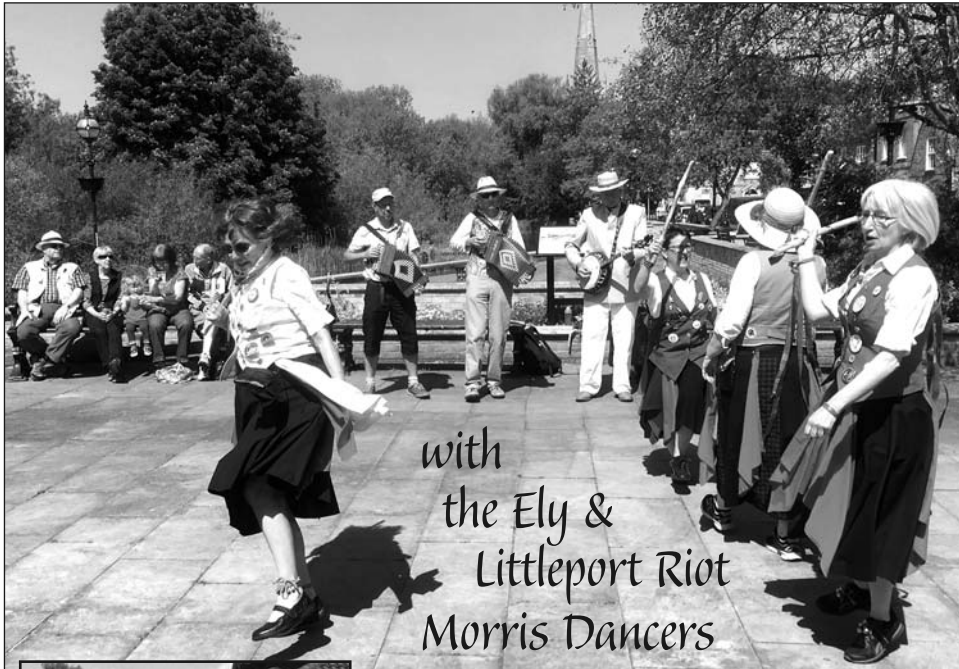


The Riverporter

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

A sunny day in St Ives – what could be nicer?



with
the Ely &
Littleport Riot
Morris Dancers

Sunday 20th May was a brilliant day in every way in St Ives as The Town Team welcomed the Ely & Littleport Riot Morris Dancers.

The weather was glorious, the flower beds weeded and the dancing lively. St Ives shone, so did the colourful costumes and hankies as the dancers moved around the Town. First on The Waits (above) and then outside the Haywain (left), followed by a dance around Oliver Cromwell in Market Hill and finally on the busy Quay.

St Ives is a fine town for dancing in and there will be more Morris Men coming to town with Coton Morris on the evening of 7th June at 8pm and Sutton Masque on 13th June and 1st August - also in the evening at 7.30pm - all down on our lovely Quayside.



What is the Freedom Parade and why the 42 Engineer Regiment?

The practice of granting the honorary 'Freedom of Entry' on Regiments has its roots deep in history; indeed it affords an example of the power and influence of the old boroughs and cities of the past, when troops were not allowed to march through without first seeking permission.

As most boroughs were surrounded by a fortified wall, city fathers could

refuse access if they were suspicious of the Commander's intentions.

accompanied by the new Mayor of St Ives, Councillor Tim Drye.

The Town of St Ives has resolved to admit the Corps of Royal Engineers to the honorary Freedom of the Town and the ceremony on 30 June 2018, on Armed Forces Day, is being held to formally grant that Freedom and to present to the Corps a Scroll embodying that resolution.

42 Engineer Regiment (Geographic) was formed in 1947 during the Egyptian campaign and resided around the world until it settled at RAF Wyton in 2014 as part of Joint Forces Intelligence Group.

The parade will be led by the Commanding Officer of 42 Engineer Regiment (Geographic) Lieutenant Colonel Paul Hammett and the Inspecting Officer will be Lieutenant General Sir Mark Mans KCB CBE DL

Regimental Sergeant Major WO1 (RSM) Paul Duffin MBE said *'The Regiment and it's soldiers have been made to feel most welcome and part of the community from it's arrival. We are all very proud to receive the Freedom in recognition of the strong bonds formed with St Ives Town.'*



Regimental soldier in action

ST IVES TOWN TEAM PRESENTS

GREAT MUSIC IN A GREAT SETTING

Wednesday 13th June 7.30pm for 8pm
An evening of Ragtime music with
Chris Newman & Humfry Finkle
Fantastic guitar duo in the intimate surroundings of the Chapel
Tickets £10 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives or The Corn Exchange
The evening starts with complimentary refreshments courtesy of Waitrose

Tuesday 19th June 7.30pm
Poetry Folk + guest - Rap poet Amber Page
Local poets presenting their work - everyone welcome. £5 on door

IN THE CHAPEL ON THE BRIDGE
PART OF THE **Chapel Arts Season 2018**
For details of each event go to: www.theoldriverportstives.co.uk

Cabinet changes at the District

There have been changes around the Cabinet table at HDC which affect St Ives councillors.

Following the elections, out goes Angela Dickinson, who was Executive Councillor for Partnership and Well-Being, and she is replaced by Ramsey Councillor John Palmer.

When asked why she had lost her £8,000 p.a. job, Angela said that she wanted to spend more time working with the people who elected her, but declined to answer if this had anything to do with her refusal to stand as an 'independent' councillor for the Town Council.

Angela's South Ward colleague, John Davies, who also declined to stand as 'independent', fared better. Although losing his place on the Licensing Panel he is now Vice Chairman of the Council and is likely to become Chairman next year, a role he held from 2008 to 2010.
Congratulations John. Ed.

Did you see this man on The Quay recently?

As you can see he was dressed rather eccentrically - bizarre headgear, outrageous fish design shirt - and was jiggling up and down waving red hankies. Several elderly ladies had to be revived, children calmed down and ducks recovered from neighbouring houses where they had fled in panic. Erik the dog, our beloved reporter, is apparently still under sedation.

We should like to track down this person who caused such a commotion on what would otherwise have been a peaceful Sunday afternoon on The Quay.

Please do not approach him however as his behaviour is obviously unpredictable. Thank you The Town Team.



PLASTIC IN ST IVES - The supermarket angle

British supermarkets produce one million tonnes of plastic waste every year, much of it not recyclable. Various campaigns have led to supermarkets devising new waste-reduction policies, which can be found on their websites, but some need searching out - it's not always obvious.

The canny consumer knows that shops are trying to con us into thinking we are being green by buying this, that or the other item when what we need to do is buy less!

Waitrose will stop using the problematic black plastic on all their own label products by the end of 2019 and by 2025, all packaging in store will be widely recyclable. They will no longer sell plastic straws after September 2018.

By 2025, Tesco will be making all packaging fully recyclable or compostable, will halve packaging weight compared to 2007 levels (whatever that means) and all paper and board will be 100% sustainable. Tesco (along with Iceland, Coop and Coca Cola) supports the DRS (deposit return scheme) for plastic bottles, which

bafflingly, the Government has decided not to make mandatory.

Aldi and Lidl have both committed to change their own brand plastic packaging by 2022. Both will shortly scrap 5p bags - expect this to become the norm in the next few months.

Morrisons will soon replace plastic drinking straws not sold with drinks with paper straws, new plastic reduction measures are currently being formulated.

The Co-op plans to have 80% of plastic waste recyclable by 2020 and to simplify logos and labelling for better consumer understanding of what can be recycled.



Image WRAP

Next issue: The Environment Agency

What about plastic waste in rivers and drains? How much is there?

The hunt is on for the prettiest gardens in St Ives

St Ives in Bloom are hoping you will enter the local garden competition to show off all the hard work you have put in to making your garden look gorgeous!

This also applies to Community areas, local businesses, shops, pubs, restaurants, hotels, schools, youth projects and much more. The criteria vary for each category, but most of all we are looking for that 'Wow' factor.

Application forms are available from the Town Hall, Corn Exchange, Library, Kings Hedges and Constable Road Newsagents or you can email us at siibinfo@gmail.com.

Why not join us to make our town a prettier place to live and visit, and have fun and meet new people at the same time?



Oh dear, oh dear!

More from our Environmental Correspondent ... Heidi N. D'Tries **Me again luvvies! This time I'm upset.**

Someone - let's hope without knowing - has broken the law. Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, it is illegal to destroy a wild bird's nest whilst it's being built or used.

The lovely House Martin (see below left) is one of my favourite summer visitors. Its cheery chirrups certainly cheer me up as it arrives in the town all the way from Africa - clever little bird!

But, as the Springwatch team mentioned last night - I do love that Chris Packham - it is in trouble and needs our help.

We need to encourage House Martins to nest on our buildings. Yes they leave their marks but these take no time to clean off and the nest itself is fairly inconspicuous. Or you can consider an artificial nest (check with the RSPB). But if you really want to deter them, any work like installing wire mesh must be done in the winter. The worst thing you can do is shown above, and could well lead to a fine.



So there we have it. Let's hope we may have helped enlighten someone. **Happy summer birdwatching - bye!! Heidi x**



Screen St Ives

An independent community cinema in the Corn Exchange

Films are screened on the third Friday of each month in the main hall (Screen 1) and on the first Thursday in the month in the upstairs Tony Burgess Room (Screen 2). Doors open at 7.30pm for all Screen St Ives shows 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.

Screen 2: Thursday 7th June (U)

A CANTERBURY TALE

(Directors: Michael Powell & Emeric Pressburger, UK 1944, 2h 5m)

Mysterious, romantic and magical, this classic Powell & Pressburger film explores much of what the Allies were fighting for during World War 2 - friendship and loyalty, openness, optimism, our landscape and our shared history. Starring Sheila Sim and Eric Portman.



Screen 1: Friday 15th June (PG)

DARKEST HOUR

(Director: Joe Wright, UK/USA 2017, 2h 5m)

1940: Britain is on the brink of Nazi invasion. Chamberlain's government is divided and weak. At this grim time an unpopular solution emerges. Enter Winston Churchill as he embarks upon a policy direction that begins to build his reputation as an iconic war leader.



Riverporter reaches places others can't

We know that The Riverporter has been read as far away as Scotland (see letter in issue 8) and we have proof that a copy found its way to Hadrian's wall (see below). We are grateful that many of you make the effort to pick up a copy and say how you like reading it.

Fortunately there are quite a lot of places you can pick up FREE copies. They are in pubs, cafés and many shops. They are also available from the Corn Exchange, the Library and at the following newsagents; Mace, WH Smiths, Premier Store in East Street, Needingworth Road Stores, Kings Hedges Post Office and Whateleys Newsagents at Constable Road and Morrisons.

Just in case you can't get a copy (they sometimes go very quickly) you can now access current and past issues on-line by going to www.theriverporter.uk



having your say ...

The Riverporter



Dear Erik PAWS FOR THOUGHT

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

Nearly missed my lunch ...

Well you can perhaps share the shock of The Riverporter's joint Editor when a news feed announced this morning that The Oliver Cromwell had sunk!

What? ... Surely not, I have a table booked for midday!

I was even more surprised to read that the Ollie sank just off the Welsh coast.

It was certainly ok when I left it last night. Sadly, it seems our favourite local's namesake the MV Oliver Cromwell is a famous paddle steamer on it's way to Northern Ireland when all went wrong. Phew that was a close one! Glad you're OK Jerry. Ed

Even dogs can suffer the effects of too much Botox, as Erik found out!



Once more to the Bridge dear friends

Living where I do, I see daily confrontations between confused drivers and pedestrians crossing our ancient bridge. Often it ends in abusive language. However the latest incident really confirms the danger that lies behind this reckless behaviour.

Last Friday afternoon, at around 4:15pm, a black Audi estate attempted to push its way through the crowded bridge, hitting a man wheeling his bike, running over his foot and striking his arm with a wing mirror. The car was briefly halted outside the chapel, where the driver hurled threats and abuse at someone pointing out what he'd done, but instead of stopping he sped up, narrowly missing a disabled wheelchair user and a group of school children and roared off down London road at breakneck speed.

The incident has been reported to police and we understand is being dealt with. Ironically the injured cyclist was on his way to the doctors to pick up a prescription so he continued on his way there to be checked over. Yet another incident showing that this reckless and dangerous issue must be properly addressed. Erik

Website news New housing development upset

In our last edition we reported that both local and District councillors were taken by surprise at the news of another housing proposal. The developers, Bellway Homes, held a presentation of their plans at the Corn Exchange and judging by the comments on the St Ives Facebook page (St Ives discussion/your views and rants) it was not well received.

A number of irate residents complained that the builder's representatives had no knowledge of local issues and were concerned that our councils will turn a blind eye to objections. Councillor Ryan Fuller however repeated his comments made to the Town Council (also reported in the last issue of The Riverporter) stating ...

'This proposal from Bellway Homes is simply a kite-flying exercise intended to manoeuvre this site into the Council's Local Development Plan which is about to go through its formal examination stage by an independent inspector. Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) has recently completed a Local Plan setting out future development sites across Huntingdonshire between now and 2036. This site was not included in that Plan. At this stage Bellway's proposal is not a planning application and the site was not formally submitted through the recent Local Plan process. There is therefore no application to object to and it is not 'the council' that is proposing this. HDC is confident that it has adequately planned to meet the government's stated housing need for Huntingdonshire and does not accept that additional sites such as this one will be required.'

So let's hope that councillor Fuller is correct! However, some residents who have shown their concern on the Facebook page are considering starting a petition to confirm their view, so any reader who wishes to support them should check out their posting.



Has anyone seen Lynn?

It is now a full month since the elections and the Town Council has elected its new Mayor and Deputy Mayor and has begun the task of allocating which Councillors will be on the various committees that meet to handle the work of the Council.

One of the newly elected 'Independent' Councillors, Lynn Davies, has yet to make an appearance. Despite trying to make contact with her and asking at the Town Hall we have been unable to find out any details.

All councillors, following an election, should sign the Register of Interest form and the Acceptance of Office paperwork within 28 days. If they fail to do this, the post could be considered vacant, subject to discussions with the Town Clerk and the District's Monitoring Officer, and another election may have to be held, which costs a fair bit to do. Ed



Is the old Regal Cinema the next REASONS TO BE SHUT Target?

This listed building has been closed several years now and is frankly an eyesore.



STIVES YOUTH THEATRE Presents:

Bugsy Malone

Directed by Francesca Morgan

Written By Alan Parker
Music by Paul Williams

11-14 July 7.30pm - Burgess Hall, St. Ives
Tickets £15.00 Adult, £12 Concession, £45 Family
Box Office: Hephers Electrical, Crown Street
01480 463789 www.siyt.co.uk



ROBIN HOOD - REASONS TO BE SHUT PART 6



Quackers



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From our Environmental Correspondent ... Heidi N. D'Tries

Immigrant plants tamed!

Hi darlinks! Remember back in January I was getting my knickers in a twist over a plant with a pretty name about to take over all the rivers in the world and clog us all up?

No of course you don't. The ed puts me on the back page, that's why. (Oh he's done it again!!!) Well, take a look at this pic.



Why is the man on the left so proudly displaying his weed (sotospeak)? And why is the man on the right trying to fend him off?

Well, the man on the left is pleased that he has nearly filled a bag with Floating Pennywort, the pernicious weed that I told you about last time. It grows 20 cm a day

in the summer and can cover our lovely waterways, suffocating fish and other creatures and stopping our boats. The man on the right knows this and is keeping him at arm's length (he is from Hemingford Abbots).

Led by the intrepid Ben Jones from the Boatyard, a small working party combed the margins of one of our local streams and gently plucked this year's new sprouting plants (a broken stem can regenerate immediately). They were carted off for disposal away from the water and the hope is this early action will avoid last year's problem.

Listen up Environment Agency – that's the way to do it!

Hats off to Ben Jones, Ian Jackson, Colin Nash and Robert Burton (from Hemingford Abbots). These brave, handsome boys have saved the world – I love them all.

See you in the bar darlinks! Love Heidi x

To advertise here email: editor@theriverporter.uk or call: 07900112635

ADVERTORIAL

BUYER BEWARE!

Mike Ellis of Ellis Winters says viewing a property is exciting but remember, don't get carried away!



It is easy to get caught in a whirlwind as you walk from room to room, without taking it all in properly. It may tick some of your boxes, but does that make it the perfect home for you?

Assess the building condition.

Most buyers take just a few minutes to spend hundreds of thousands of pounds on a new house without seeing it properly. Even if there are enough bedrooms and the layout works, there are other things to consider. Will the kitchens and bathrooms need replacing, what are the windows like, is the boiler old and is the house decorated as you would like?

Spend time looking at the local area.

It's tempting to drive to the house, look around and then leave, but we suggest that you take a wander, both before and after the viewing. This is an important decision you are about to take, go back on different days of the week at different times of the day to get an overall picture. How close is it to amenities, supermarkets,

parks, green areas and local schools, how tidy are the neighbouring gardens, what type of cars are on the driveways? These are all things to consider.

Take someone with you.

It is always good to take an impartial friend to bounce ideas off and to ask for their considered opinion. When you start your property search you usually have a

wish list but invariably something will have to give as budget and wishes collide. A friend is sometimes that voice of reason to be listened to, but remember, the final decision is up to you.

For more expert advice, why not contact our team of property professionals today on 01480 388 888



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