

When the kissing cannot stop

It was hard coming to terms with some of the conventions on my first stay in France. But I was here for eleven years so hopefully I got it right eventually.

There's the business of kissing for instance. Kissing as a daily greeting I found a charming innovation. I loved watching my daughter leave the house for school and oh so naturally kiss each friend, girl or boy, as they met in the street. It seemed so much nicer than the blushing, stuttering, giggling uncertainty of teenagers meeting in an English street. (This was in the eighties.)

But here again, all is not as simple as it seems. For instance - how many kisses?

It's terribly embarrassing if you are expecting two and three are offered. The last one either seems to have been rudely rejected or falls on your nose as you withdraw your face and straighten up. I've learned now that it's rare to see just the two kisses - left, right - as depicted in film and stage portrayals of stock Frenchmen. Three is much more common - and in Paris it's always four.

There was the little old man with whom I struck up an acquaintance. He often passed the plot I was struggling to bring into submission. at the side of the house. I was losing the battle. It was refusing to look anything like an Essex country cottage garden. He appeared at the door one evening with a huge bunch of paeonies, having noticed my failure to raise anything but a few pale pansies and some droopy gladioli. Impulsively I embraced him and was condemned to do so from then on every time we met in the road, at the market,



the baker's or the bus-stop. Because, once begun, the kissing must continue.

It was the same with my hairdresser.

I gave her a present the first Christmas. This came as a great shock to her as it's not the habit over there.

'Il faut que je vous embrasse pour vous remercier!' [I have to kiss you to thank you!] she cried.

From then on I had to remember to single these two people out even if they were amongst a crowd at the Village Fête or in the middle of the supermarket. Left, right, left right - the cheek must be proffered. For to offer a hand to be shaken having once saluted more warmly is equivalent to the coldest of British snubs.

By Shirley Mitchell



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Riverport Vets: Care, Competence, Compassion



This editorial was written on Thursday before the results of the election were known.

Beware the so-called 'Independents'

Is the message sent to voters at the last minute by Ryan Fuller in the hotly contested St Ives West Ward. The letter, sporting Mr Fuller's Distict Council email address, seemed to be a desperate attempt to smear his oponent.

Whatever the results, these election has seen quite a high level of acrimony, particularly from the current Leader of HDC, Ryan Fuller who has tried to undermine one of his opponents, the Independent Julie Kerr.

In an email sent to Mrs Kerr on 28 April, using his District Council address, Mr Fuller described her leaflet as 'full of dishonesty, lies and smears'. He demanded that she provide evidence about her statements and stop distribution of the leaflet before asserting that he was disappointed that she had 'resorted to such personal smear tactics and dishonesty'.

Of course the email was an attempt to upset the opposition, particularly someone new to the heat of a political campaign, as none of his assertions were correct. Indeed Mrs Kerr's leaflet couldn't have defamed Mr Fuller as he wasn't mentioned on it.

Mrs Kerr told *The Riverporter* that she specifically did not want to run a negative campaign degrading the opposition. Indeed she wanted people to vote for her so that she could be 'the catalyst for the change that we desperately need. I am passionate about promoting St Ives and enabling community empowerment through consultation.'

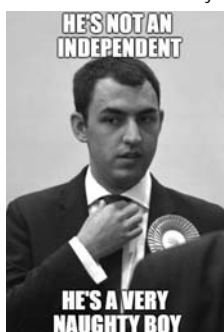
This is what she wrote in the last issue of *The Riverporter*, whilst Mr Fuller declined the offer to make a statement.

Mrs Kerr did complain about Mr Fuller's leaflet, which she claimed attributed other people's views as hers, but unlike Mr Fuller she made an official complaint through the proper channels.

A new level of hypocrisy

It seems that Mr Fuller's attempt to intimidate Mrs Kerr failed. In fact it spurred her on to canvas every house in the Ward and this may have resulted in his desperate last minute letter to voters as his support seemed to be ebbing away.

It is quite a remarkable letter, seemingly written by a candidate that feels he may lose. It's a last minute attempt to undermine the opposition and scare residents who might vote for 'a coalition of chaos' as he describes them. Once again Mr Fuller accuses Mrs Kerr of lying and he lists his achievements as reasons to vote for him. In fact many of his achievements



are not his alone and would probably have happened anyway. His claim that he helped secure development funding to rebuild Thorndown School will certainly rankle with some Governors.

His wildest claim is that the Independents in St Ives are 'operating in league with other political parties to install a coalition of chaos'. A surprising comment from someone who stood as an 'Independent For St Ives' and caused chaos at the last Town Council elections.

Another Drugs hoard in St Ives

Local police issued a news report last week to announce that they had discovered and seized a large hoard of cannabis. The cannabis, and they say much more, was seized using a warrant at a property in Great Farthing Close. The report suggests that the seized quantity has a street value of about £200,000. The police go on to say that while cannabis remains a class B drug, they will continue to seize it and seek to prosecute those growing and selling it.

A police spokesman said 'We know that drugs like cannabis are bringing misery to our communities with the associated crime that regularly comes with using and selling drugs, violence, theft, drug driving to name a few.' Signs of a cannabis factory include strong, sickly smells, windows covered, lots of visitors at unsociable hours. . . . More here including how to report: <https://orlo.uk/SAK9u>



Come to The Norris Museum on May 13 between 10.30am and 12.30pm for some tea and cake to support the charity.

Tom's Cakes and Mud Food are donating cakes so they will be pretty good.

If you need to find out about activities in the St Ives area for those with Dementia please contact Roger Kuch on rjnkuch@gmail.com.



NEWS OTHER NEWS

New shop for cyclists opens

The Commute, a new café that caters especially for cyclists has opened in The Broadway. There will be cycle racks on the road outside the shop which also sells cycling accessories.



Police to deal with parked taxis?

The Riverporter has been told informally that the local police are aware of the taxi problem [in Crown Street] and are looking at ways to deal with it. If true then this is an improvement because *The Riverporter* was told that illegal parking was not a priority. See issue RP95, Is it a matter of priorities? page 2.

Erik is looking forward to Strumming like a Viking!



1 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

JUBILEE NEWS

Jubilee Celebrations should be fun

Planning is continuing for 4 days of celebration in St Ives from 2nd to 5th June with a military parade and a Big Jubilee Concert the main feature on Saturday 4th in Market Hill.

The programme includes the following:

THURSDAY 2 JUNE - Coronation film and Beacon lighting.

Coronation Film A film of the Coronation in 1953 will be shown at 6pm in the Corn Exchange, prior to the normal screening of 'The Duke' by Screen St Ives.

Beacon Lighting and evening picnic. After sunset a Beacon will be lit on the roof of All Saints Parish Church. The evening will start at 7.30pm with an opportunity to socialise. There will be a licensed bar and you are encouraged to bring your own food and enjoy an evening picnic with friends. At 9pm there will be a service followed by lighting of Beacons at 9.45pm.

FRIDAY 3 JUNE - Multi Faith Service & Singing in the Reign.

The Vicar of St Ives will lead a multi-faith service for the town's religious and community groups in Market Hill from around 11am. **Singing in the Reign** - see page 1.

SATURDAY 4 JUNE - Exercising the Freedom and Big Jubilee Concert.

There will be parade by the Corps of the Royal Engineers, 2331 St Ives Squadron ATC and the Army Cadets Force in Market Hill from 10am. The usual Farmers' Market will also take place and later, it's the **Big Jubilee Concert** featuring The Candy Girls and The Amazing 80's. Entertainment is expected to start around 3pm with the main concert starting around 7pm.

SUNDAY 5 JUNE - The Big Broadway Lunch

St Ives Town Council have applied for a road closure so that The Broadway will be free of vehicles and can be used by residents to hold a giant picnic lunch. Bring your own food and seating and join in a massive picnic, that hopefully will include buskers and entertainers. With The Broadway free of traffic, it is hoped that a one-way traffic system (via St George's Road) will allow vehicles to unload at The Waits, so you can bring your food, chairs and people close to area set aside for the lunch.

WANTED Elaine of Star Dancewear & Crafts is looking for help from people with knitting and crocheting skills to make items to decorate the town over the Jubilee weekend. Either call in the shop or see the group's Facebook page called Star Crafters.

Election Results

St Ives East Ward

Michael Burke - Independent 853 votes
 Shariqa Mokbul - Independent 751 votes
 Adam Roberts - Conservative 722 votes
 Craig Smith - Conservative 687 votes

St Ives South Ward

Rianna D'Souza - Conservative 765 votes
 Martin Gill - Conservative 727 votes
 Cath Gleadow - Labour 976 votes
 Nic Wells - Lib Dem 1157 votes

St Ives West Ward

Ryan Fuller - Conservative 397 votes
 Julie Kerr - Independent 423 votes
 Daniel Laycock - Greens 80 votes

This is a letter sent by Betty Crisp, a 99 year old resident of St Ives, to our MP, Jonathan Djanogly, about the relocation of asylum seekers to Rwanda. It was also sent to Erik, who thought our readers should see it.

Dear Mr Djanogly

I am a 99 year-old constituent of Huntingdonshire living in St Ives for over 30 years. During my life I worked as a nurse during WW2 and I have been an active member of Amnesty International, including the St Ives group, and Oxfam for 50 years.

I am extremely shocked and concerned about your government's proposals to relocate asylum seekers to Rwanda. The plans are not only infeasible and expensive, but are simply morally wrong. These plans will place asylum seekers and their families at great danger and trauma

The idea that this is justified by the numbers of 'economic migrants taking advantage of the asylum system' simply does not hold as 82% of applicants were granted refugee status, with almost half [of the others] being granted status on appeal. Further, in accordance with the 1951 Refugee Convention, there is no illegal way to claim asylum.

Boris Johnson claimed that 'Rwanda is one of the safest countries in the world', yet only months earlier he condemned Rwanda for human rights abuses. These abuses are corroborated by other refugees relocated to Rwanda by Israel on a similar scheme, and include threatening and degrading behaviour and the confiscation of their key identity documents.

Please oppose the plans of this government to relocate asylum seekers to Rwanda for asylum processing and show your support for the UK's international commitment to safe asylum and refugee-hood.

Yours sincerely,
Annie Elizabeth (Betty) Crisp

Dear Erik,

Would it be possible to publicise our summer concert in The Riverporter?

COSI SUMMER CONCERT

Thursday 14th July
 7.30pm Free Church, St Ives
 Tickets £10 from Just Sharing or on the door (under 16s - free)

Programme:

Zampa overture (Herold),
 Funeral march of a marionette (Gounod),
 Arrangement of music from La Boheme, Les Biches (Poulenc).

Following the letter about the Easter Bank Holiday Market we received this letter.

Hello Erik,

I run the fabric stall at St Ives Market every Monday, and it is with very a heavy heart I am leaving very soon due to how poorly HDC are running the market. The management do not have a clue how to run a bath let alone a market. It is in the rules we are not allowed to talk to anyone in a bad way about the market, but as I am leaving, I would like to let my valued customers why I am not there.

Dave White Fabrics, Leicester

The St Ives neighbourhood police team have been listening to your concerns and this week issued 21 tickets for illegally parked vehicles in London Road and the town centre.



St Ives Eco Action have asked us to remind our readers of their AGM, see the poster below. They have also informed us that Brian Evesham, CEO of the BCN Wildlife Trust, who is an inspiring and great communicator, has agreed to be the keynote speaker.

Something to look forward to ...

It seems that life after Covid is gradually seeing much more happening with many of the events, that have been delayed over the past two years, beginning again. Of course the Jubilee celebrations are the main focus over the next month, but plans are being made for more to come.

June 19th should see the **Picnic in the Park** from noon until 6pm in Warner's Park with live music, food stalls and a beer tent.

July 8th, 9th and 10th is the date for this year's **Carnival and Music Festival**.

Sunday afternoon **Music on The Waits** concerts are also set to return in **July and August**.

The **Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival** will go ahead from **15th to 18th September** with 10 new acts featuring in over 20 free concerts. For the full programme www.stivescambridgeshire.co.uk.

October 15th will see the second **Old Riverport Ukulele Festival** and each month there are Chapel Arts Concerts in the Riverport Cafe Bar and a range of events in the Corn Exchange.

Details at: www.stivescambridgeshire.co.uk.

It's nice when your efforts are acknowledged! MP Djanogly praises Ryan for being a good recycler.

Huntingdon MP Jonathan Djanogly has paid tribute to former Tory District Council leader Ryan Fuller. He said: 'I want to pay tribute to Ryan who has been a remarkable leader who has steered the council through Covid, maintained very low council tax and good recycling rates.' Mr Djanogly said he was extremely surprised that Mr Fuller had lost his seat. He added: 'It could have been a better election.' - Credit: Terry Harris



Annual General Meeting



Have your say in shaping our Local Climate Action Plan

Thursday 12 May, 7:15pm start
 St Ives Methodist Church, The Waits, St Ives

Everyone is welcome...

Hear about what we have been up to in the last two years, and our future plans and projects.

We want and value your input in relation to the following:

- Energy and transport
- Nature and conservation
- Water quality and supply, and flood management
- Circular economy, including waste and recycling
- Cycling, walking and active travel
- Food, farming and localism

stivesecoaction@gmail.com or go to facebook.com/stivesecoaction

PLUS the latest reports from:



**Entries Invited for Our Next
Antiques & Later Sale on
Saturday 14th May**



Sold In Our Last Antiques & Interiors Sale

Omega Speedmaster Professional 'Moon Watch'
stainless steel chronograph bracelet watch
Sold £2300



Set of 5 Silver Goblets of Simple form
Birmingham 1973 Bicentennial year
Sold £400

Troika Sue Lowe Wheel Vase with Tin
Mine decoration by 12cm in Height
Sold £180



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ADVERTORIAL

Third consecutive price record set with homes selling faster than ever in a spring market bounce.



The price of property coming to market during April hit a new record high for the third consecutive month, up by 1.6% or £5,537.

Looking back just 3 months, average asking prices for property have risen by £19,000, the highest ever recorded over a 3 month period.

Despite such a fast rise in asking prices, 53% of properties are selling at or over the asking price as buyers continue to compete for property.

Whilst this is inevitably causing frustration for those who need to find their next home as well as sell, Ellis Winters has the perfect solution, our discreet marketing service.

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Clients tempted to try the top end of their properties valuations have also used our Discreet service to great effect by allowing us to approach buyers without the use of marketing to obtain feedback on the price.

With our unique approach to digital advertising, such as our Facebook Property Premiere Group, and our highly experienced team, we're able to build a long list of prospective buyers to give our clients the edge in securing their next home.

If you're thinking of selling but are hesitant because of the lower number of properties to buy, call the Ellis Winters team on 01480 388888 where we can advise and guide you so your move can become a reality.

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