

# The Riverporter

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

## In support of our town clean-up heroes!

Here we are now with our town visitor season well under way. We have our superb town groups luring in the visitors that help our shops, pubs and restaurants. The Picnic in the Park, The Chapel Arts Season, St Ives in Bloom, The Norris museum of course, and we can all be rightly proud of our lovely town.

Recent weekends have seen the Quay and the Waits packed with visitors on foot and arriving by boat - as this picture shows. Each morning I watch the cleaners turn up to empty the bins and pick up the debris and the team work really hard, but I'm sorry to say council it's not enough!

Residents complain of overflowing bins, dirty alleyways caked in bird poo and filthy town street furniture, covered in graffiti and the idea that you can simply spray weed killer and not clear up the remnants is ridiculous.

Our town clean-up crew need more help and perhaps a little more input from the management in recognising the issues and directing resources.

### So come on councillors, Town and District, what can you do to help?

As high-street visitor footfall continues to fall nationally, it is vital that we maintain our public areas and give the right impression.

It also highlights a much wider issue, which is how we stop the town from looking unloved and run down. We are lucky to live in such a pretty town, however it shows signs of deterioration everywhere.

We must address these issues soon, as the viability of the town centre rests on it. The issues include cleanliness, sorting out the traffic chaos, parking, anti-social behaviour



and the big one, which is what do we want our town centre to offer.

Do we want it to have a range of viable shops? Or are we content to let them disappear as they are doing on many high streets.

The District Council have been talking about a St Ives Masterplan, but there is no indication when discussions will start. So the Town Team, together with The Old Riverport Retail Group, are arranging a survey of all the businesses and residents, which they hope will give some indication of what people want to happen on some of these issues.

The questionnaire/survey should be out next month so look out for it so you can have your say too. **ED.**



Bird droppings, graffiti and dirty alleyways let us down.

## Summer in St Ives begins with

### PICNIC IN THE PARK 2018

June 17th (Fun on Fathers' Day!)  
1 pm to 7 pm Warners Park St Ives

Music with:

- ♥ The Barefoot Doctors
- ♥ The Lonely
- ♥ The Freddie Hall Band

○ Beer Tent

○ Free supervised sport and play sessions for children



## WARNERS PARK THIS SUNDAY AND IT'S FREE

### Town Council News

#### Should council meetings start with prayers?

Wednesday saw an unusual and, some might say, controversial motion put to the Town Council. As *The Riverporter* has mentioned before, St Ives Town Council carry on traditions set many years ago, such as the wearing of robes and the reading of a prayer before the start of the meeting. The original motion, put forward by Cllr Jonathan Pallant, was to remove the saying of prayers from the Council Meeting Agenda.

Cllr Pallant pointed out in his submission that Christian prayers, although not a legal requirement, they are said after the arrival of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Clerk and Macebearer and are therefore part of the formal meeting. He went on to say that while he had no objection in principle to the saying of prayers, it did not seem fair, inclusive, or representative of the population of this town and an alternative could be a moment of quiet individual reflection before each meeting or a few moments silence, or perhaps a poetry or book reading as a neutral alternative.

Statistics from the last census show that the number of Christians has fallen and that the number of people with no religion has increased across all age groups, particularly for those under 44. Cllr Pallant felt that the current practice may put off some people from putting themselves forward for political office or even some members of the public in considering whether to apply to the Council for financial assistance or even simply attending the meeting.

An amendment to the motion, accepted by Cllr Pallant, was voted on which was - *Each Council meeting shall start with a period of quiet reflection.* As expected the debate was pretty intense which was resolved with a recorded vote by those present. The result was a defeat with 4 votes for the motion and 11 against. Those who voted for the motion were Cllrs Pallant, Dibben, Rowe and Pegoraro. Those who voted against were Cllrs J. Davies, L. Davies, Dickinson, Bellamy, Fuller, Pope, Drye, D'Souza, Hussain, Luter, King.

# What can children do on a Wednesday during half term?

Well, St Ives and Huntingdon Army Cadets had an answer. They were contacted a couple of months earlier by the St Ives in Bloom Team seeing if they would be able to assist in some clearance work on the Parish Cemetery in Westwood Road, St Ives and the Cadets from both detachment jumped at the chance.

So on Wednesday 30th May 25 cadets and adults, with trowels in hand, began the task of clearing the Parish Cemetery in Westwood Road St Ives. The Cadets were given the important task of clearing and placing new flowers and plants on the Graves of WW1 veterans.

Some of the cadets throughout the day stated how important it was that we keep the graves clear and how poignant it was to be doing this on the 100th anniversary of the ending of the First World War.

During the day the cadets were split between two tasks, one group did the grave yard while the others were in the detachment helping the Norris Museum to make a couple of wooden cut-out montages that are currently on display in the flower beds along The Waits. After a well-deserved lunch break they swapped tasks and by 3pm all was complete.

St Ives in Bloom spokeswoman Hatti said 'The cadets did more than we imagined and we were impressed by how they dealt with the tasks they were given. It was a privilege to watch'.

Special thanks go to Tim Harrison from Gibbs

and Dandy (St Ives) for the kind donation of working gloves. This made the work for the Cadets a more pleasant task to complete.

**Are you looking for something new and exciting?**

Being part of a team and making new friends, as well as having the opportunity to visit other counties - then cadets could be for you.

The detachments at St Ives and Huntingdon are fantastic and are currently looking for new

recruits to join them.

**For full information about the detachments please visit <https://armycadets.com/county/cambridgeshire-acf/our-locations>**



## What is Yoga?

Yoga has been around for about 5,000 years and studies show it promotes relaxation, reduces stress and can improve some medical conditions such as premenstrual syndrome. It is a low-impact activity that can provide the same benefits as many well-designed exercise programs, increasing general health and stamina, reducing stress, and improving those conditions brought about by sedentary lifestyles. So if you don't like too much physical stress why not consider yoga?

Some of the physical benefits of yoga include:

- Increased flexibility
- Increased muscle strength and tone

- Improved respiration, energy and vitality
- Maintaining a balanced metabolism
- Weight reduction
- Cardio and circulatory health
- Improved athletic performance
- Protection from injury

Fortunately there are a few local practitioners and there is a three day yoga festival being held in Abbots Ripton Hall from 29 June until 1st July so plenty of opportunity to give it a try.

Picture - courtesy of Body & Sole see back page.



## Celebration concert with the RAF Wyton Area Voluntary Band

Saturday 16th June in the Free Church at 7.30pm  
(Doors open at 7 pm)

Presented by Hilton and Fenstanton Royal British Legion.

**Tickets £10 from the Just Sharing shop in the Free Church.**

## What a great service - but we hope you never need them

Saturday 2nd June saw the Quay visited by the Cambridgeshire Lowland rescue team looking to fund raise to support their voluntary service. Erik met one of the team volunteers recently at the local Raptor centre who explained they were embarking on a fund-raising weekend. Erik invited them to kick off their weekend visiting us on the quayside and it all went swimmingly.

The members of the Lowland rescue are a specialist group that respond to police requests to search for young or vulnerable people that have gone missing, this can include missing children, people with mental health or disability issues and people suffering with Alzheimers or Dementia. This is a much praised and valuable service that works across all local terrain, including on the river, so we were pleased to help support their fund-raising which moved on to Huntingdon and finished in St Neots.

And the good news ...

**Their efforts raised over £10,000, well done team!**



**ST IVES CHORAL SOCIETY** MUSICAL DIRECTOR Alison Daniels

**OPERA GALA**  
Celebrated Opera Choruses and Arias  
with  
Madeleine Pierard, soprano,  
Emma Lewis, Mezzo Soprano,  
Alexander Aldren, tenor,  
Maciek O'Shea, bass

**FREE CHURCH, ST IVES**  
**Saturday 7 July 2018 7.30pm**

Tickets Adults £12 and £10 (concessions) accompanied children under 16 free  
Available from the Fair Trade Shop in the Free Church, St Ives  
Registered Charity No. 291640

# The Riverporter

having your say ...



## Dear Erik PAWS FOR THOUGHT

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

### Dotty Still Potty over Erik

A recent message from Dotty M'Cleod about another visit to St Ives included this comment.

*'Thanks for the link to the Riverporter – I was actually trying to find this online the other day. I met the Riverporter's newshound Erik when I was in St Ives for Sport Relief. Hard-nosed hack, that pooch.'* Dotty

The Riverporter is pleased to announce that newly elected Lynn Davies has now taken her seat on the Town Council. Ed

### Sometimes you have to smile

Each week our intrepid reporter Erik is notified by our local police of crimes and incidences that have occurred in our town, but the wording of this morning's bulletin made us smile. At the end of a depressing list of unpleasant happenings PCSO John Carter reported *'And some good news a small Cannabis cultivation set up was found at an address in Godmanchester yesterday. This was discovered thanks to a local resident reporting suspicious activity to our Police Service Centre and a local Officer discovering a strong smell coming from an address.'*

Well it made Erik smile!

### A sad announcement

Sadly, this edition of the Riverporter must announce the sad departure of Sam the seal sometime recently. Sam has graced our riverside for the past few years much to the delight of our town visitors and boaters.



Sam lived in the area of Hemingford lock and could often be found sunning himself on the riverbank and last year made many appearances just off The Quay around sunset.

We believe Sam was a common grey seal several of which visit our river, moving upstream but most of Sam's family usually remain closer to Earith - Sam wisely preferred St Ives.

As a quayside dweller myself we'll miss seeing his appearances hopefully one of his relatives will visit us again soon, although some fishermen may not agree as the seals have been blamed for eating all the fish!



An apology- the sixth and final part of our Special Series from eco-correspondent Amanda Randall will now appear in our next issue. About The Environment Agency, it will deal with plastic waste in rivers and drains?

### Riverporter heads for the sun ...

Following a picture of *The Riverporter* on Hadrian's Wall in the last issue, another reader has sent us this picture of *The Riverporter* being read in Mijas Pueblo Spain. Anyone recognise the thumb?

Fortunately there are a lot of places you can pick up FREE copies. They are 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 and now on-line at [www.theriverporter.uk](http://www.theriverporter.uk)



### Sidney is media sensation

It seems that Sidney, the cygnet is rapidly becoming a star of the media as videos of him appear, even on the BBC website. Orphan Sidney has been adopted by Rob Adamson, who lives on a narrowboat at Jones Boatyard, and he has been taking him to work, Tesco and the pub, concealed inside his jacket.

Sidney is a lovely little chap but, being a baby, is inclined to nod off suddenly, as shown in the picture below. You can see a video of Sidney in action on the Jones Boatyard Facebook page.



### Whoever said 'Nothing happens in St Ives!'

Well it's just not true, especially last Wednesday when there was lots going on, especially down by the river.



Not only was there a Town Council meeting in the Town Hall there was another great concert in The Chapel, part of the fabulous Chapel Arts Season. This time with local musician, Chris Newman and his colleague, Humfry Finkle (see above), who delighted the audience with their sumptuous guitar playing.

Visitors to The Quay would also have seen the Sutton Mask Morris dancers performing their exciting dances in their wonderful costumes.



With an RAF Wyton Area Voluntary Band concert this Saturday in the Free Church and Picnic in The Park in Warners Park this Sunday we are definitely spoilt for choice.

### REASONS TO BE SHUT PART 7





Yoga is an extremely effective and beneficial form of exercise, helping our bodies become healthier, stronger and more supple.

Body & Sole with Verity offers Yoga, Pregnancy Yoga and Postnatal Yoga classes during the daytime and evening.

# yoga • reflexology

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## On a lighter note....

You may recall our Environmental Correspondent, Heidi N. D'Tries published advice on the correct foods to feed our lovely duck friends down on the Quay and Heidi is quite correct that bread is not good for them.

However recent experience has shown that it's not just the nice people feeding the ducks that need the advice, it seems our watery friends need persuasion too. Just because it's good for you doesn't make it right ...

Anyway I'm off McDonalds!!!



We are always pleased to support community groups by including free details of their activities.

Businesses may advertise for as little as £15 per issue.

Just email:  
 editor@theriverporter.uk  
 or call: 07900112635

# 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, upstairs in the 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 5th July  
 TANGERINES (15)



(Director: Zaza Urushadzel, Estonia/Georgia 2017, 1h 25m)  
 It's 1992, war between Georgians and Abkhazian separatists rages in the post-Soviet Caucasus. Two tangerine farmers are dragged into the conflict when they must care for injured fighters from both sides. A heartening story of hope and cooperation.

ADVERTORIAL

# Be the Best Buyer

Mike Ellis of Ellis Winters says remember you may be in competition with other buyers



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When you're searching for your ideal home, remember, you're in competition with many other buyers who will be viewing the same houses as you! Having your finances in place puts you in a much stronger position and you will be taken far more seriously by the agent and the seller. There is a requirement on the agent to confirm you can proceed at the price agreed and if you have an AIP (agreement in principle) from a bank or building society you are more likely to be chosen over another buyer.

If you are in a position to proceed immediately, tell the agent, they will keep you informed about new properties for sale before they even hit the internet sites like Rightmove and Zoopla. First time buyers, tenants and people sold subject to contract, who have already sourced an AIP from their building society, are like gold dust. Agents will bend over backwards to help them find the right house.

If you have a house to sell and are looking

to move, there are a few things you need to consider; what are you likely to achieve for your own property, what are the costs of moving and what can you afford to pay for your next home. Get your house valued by an estate agent and seek advice from a financial advisor. Once you have the information you can make an informed decision on what to do next. Many sellers even decide to rent their house out

instead of selling, this puts them in a much stronger position to negotiate when they find their ideal home and don't forget, having seen their financial advisor they are already likely to have an AIP in place. More gold dust!

For more advice about how to find your dream home and to get financially qualified, contact our team of property experts today on 01480 388 888.



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