

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

Have you heard the one about The MP and his (M)aid?

Tory MP's housekeeper says she was treated like a slave - said the Daily Mirror's headline last Saturday. The paper's lead article was about two 'maids' who won judgements against Miss Rebecca Silk (Mrs Djanogly) at employment tribunals.

In detailed reports one judge said 'The whole picture which emerged from the evidence is of the respondent [Miss Silk] retaining a very substantial degree of control over the claimant.' He added: 'A requirement that the claimant stay within walking distance of the house is in keeping with this overall picture of tight control.'

The Headline in John Elworthy's CambsNews was: **MP Jonathan Djanogly and the housekeeper obliged to rotate avocados** which referred to other instructions the maids had received while working for the Djanogly's. The Mirror quoted Hazel Settas, who said of her treatment while employed by the ex-justice minister and his wife that she 'worked like a dog' and was told she was 'worthless'.

This was quite damning stuff for the MP who was only re-selected by local conservatives with a narrow majority of two in November 2019 (see Riverporter 47).

Mr Djanogly is no stranger to controversy. He was involved in the MP's expenses scandal, and reportedly hired private detectives to find out who leaked details of his expenses.

He failed to disclose conflicts of interest when responsible for regulating Claims Management firms and on more than one occasion refused to attend hustings - stating *fake news* and denying that he had ignored correspondence from a woman, about support for children with disabilities, accusing her of being a Labour party supporter.

Mr Djanogly, a solicitor by trade, is not slow to defend his reputation with the threat of court action. [This editor received such a threat during the 2015 General election - it came to nought!] and once again Mr Djanogly has responded to the 'Maids' scandal with a threat, this time on-line (see opposite).



So what about his aid?

In issue RP126 we reported the disappearance of Mr Djanogly's ex-Political Aid and ex-District Council Leader, Ryan Fuller. John Elworthy, he of the CambsNews website, had noted that Ryan had removed all his details from his register of interests declaration. Suggestions that Ryan had moved to Thailand were quickly rebuked by Mr Fuller, and like his ex-boss was vehement in blaming his opponents for the smears.

Well John wrote again on the subject - under the heading **Finding Councillor Ryan - still on his holidays?**

The County Councillor who receives £11,133.53, for attending just six meetings, will have missed the last two. Ryan's response to John's article suggested he had published... yes you have guessed it... *fake news*.



BANDSTAND UPDATE

Following the exciting news about the bandstand in our last issue the Town Team has been collecting the donations, which has grown, bringing the total to over £48,000 currently.

The good news doesn't stop there as there is a good chance that a further donation may be approved in March which, if successful, will guarantee sufficient funds for the project. If you have made a pledge but haven't sent in your donation you can do so by posting or dropping in a cheque, made out to St Ives Town Team, to the Town Hall.

Please try to do this over the next two weeks as the Team will need to complete the payment for the bandstand soon. If you have a query please email: townteam@stivescambridgeshire.co.uk. It is hoped to have the bandstand installed in May with a formal opening ceremony for everyone who contributed shortly after.

The Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival programme announced

The Festival, now in its 9th year, is attracting acts from far and wide and includes performers from Italy, New Zealand and the USA, who bring a truly international reputation with them.

The programme (see back page) details the twenty five concerts that are all free to attend in the unique atmosphere of The Old Riverport of St Ives, where artists and the audience are intimately entwined.

The Festival has a reputation for not only being the friendliest of festivals but also for showcasing the very best musicians around. There is nothing quite as good as watching Johnny 'Magic Boy' Wright close-up in the Nelly playing as good as 'Eric' (Clapton that is), but with passion!

Again there are several new acts including: **Brooks Williams** (below) who was born in Statesboro, Georgia, US and is an acoustic guitarist and singer-songwriter now living in Cambridge. His style combines roots, jazz, blues, classical, and folk and he has released albums of contemporary folk music, blues music, and of instrumental guitar music. He has toured with many musicians over the years, including Boo Hewerdine.

musician. Besides playing acoustic and electric guitar, and singing, he is also a great keyboard player, and a dab hand with the harmonica, and is a leading and long-term member of the 'Buster James' band.



Toby Walker (above) is a fingerstyle guitar virtuoso, especially adept at blues, rags and hot country picking and is an international star. Among his awards is being placed 1st in the International Blues Challenge. This will be the first gig of his 2023 UK Tour.

Claudio Citarella is an Italian bass player. Born in Benevento, Italy in 1968, he has collaborated with several international artists, musicians and producers. You can hear Claudio and friends playing a mix of jazz, funk and fusion in the Golden Lion on the Sunday.

Jamie Williams & the Roots Collective play their own style of Americana at festivals & venues including London's legendary 100 Club They've shared line-ups with likes of Wilko Johnson, The Blockheads, The Darkness, The Pretty Things, Dr Feelgood and the Yardbirds.

Festival Favourites
The Festival also includes the return of Festival favourites, including the Barefoot Doctors, Gravy Train Trio, Spiral G's, Dickie de Vere & the Dorchester Mavericks (below), The Reavey Brothers, Dr Ika's Pharmacy and Lexie Green with Johnny 'Magic Boy' Wright... naturally.



Shufflepack are five guys who play proper R&B. What you get is a taste of 1950s Chicago, with a bit of 1940s here and there. Which means Howlin' Wolf, Sonny Boy Williamson and Muddy Waters Not forgetting the three Kings: Freddie, Albert and B.B.

The Scoundrels hail from Buckinghamshire and are a six-piece band steeped in blues, tempered in rock and roll.

Ian Goodson has been recognised as a major force in the world of acoustic roots music having played in New Zealand, Australia, Portugal, Turkey, Greece, UK and the US. Ian has been likened to Davey Graham and Seasick Steve, not bad comparisons.

Rich Young describes himself as a professional miserabilist, kingmaker and a Tortoise smuggler - but in reality, he is a very accomplished



YMCA store part of a network



Deputy Mayor of St Ives, Cllr Nic Wells was on hand to open the YMCA store in the old Poundstretcher building. With him is the store manager Monica Mallol Wright, who is also a Town Councillor.

The YMCA told *The Riverporter* that they are delighted to be opening this brand new YMCA store, which is part of a network of more than 100 charity shops based in communities all across England and Wales.

Funds raised by sales of donated goods from the new shop will go towards supporting young people both locally and nationally, with local YMCAs benefitting directly.

YMCA is proud to become part of the local community and to help transform the lives of young people.

The YMCA has been a vital part of community spirit for more than 178 years, and with your help we fully intend to be here for another 178.

About the YMCA

- YMCA England & Wales is made up of 83 member YMCAs working to ensure young people have opportunities to thrive and contribute positively to their communities.
- YMCAs operate in 688 different communities across England and Wales, impacting upon the lives of more than 375,000 people every year.

- YMCA is the largest voluntary sector provider of supported housing for young people, providing a bed for 9,400 people each night and collectively helping more than 20,000 people experiencing homelessness each year.
- YMCA works with 166,000 children, young people, parents and carers to provide the best possible start in life.
- YMCA England & Wales enables more than 20,000 people every year to engage in education and training.
- We welcome 63,205 people through our doors to partake in healthy living activities, helping people of all abilities and experiences.
- YMCAs connect more than 36,000 young people with someone to talk to or a helping hand, offering specialist guidance and practical skills to best equip them to overcome whatever challenges they may face.

For further information please visit www.ymca.org.uk.

Sunday Times names Cambs guided bus route among most scenic in the UK

Well, it's certainly a nice trip... but really???

Our guided bus route was judged against The Yorkshire Dales, The Peak District, The Lake District and Cornwall and it was judged the most scenic. The Sunday Times web site says:

'This guided busway (a dedicated route, and the world's longest, running mostly along concrete tracks) kicks off with a sightseeing trawl through Cambridge, heading past the 12th-century Round Church and over the river Cam.

'Beyond the city look out on the remains of a medieval priory at Swavesey, the lakes and golden reedbeds teeming with birdlife at RSPB Fen Drayton Lakes and the ancient riverside town of St Ives - on a journey that takes just under 40 minutes. On winter evenings Fen Drayton is famed for huge murmuration of starlings swirling through the sunset sky. The Duke House B&B, near the bus stop in Cambridge, has five individually furnished bedrooms, some with balconies.'

We'd love to hear our reader's comments!





ST. IVES COMMUNITY DAY

Friday 3rd March 2023 at The Corn Exchange

Here to help you – come and find out more!

10am-2pm COMMUNITY COLLECTIVE

Come and chat with your local organisations to see how they can help you, and many more.....

























3-5pm YOUTH ZONE

Parents and carers bring your children to find out what St Ives has to offer our young people from arts and crafts to film, fitness activities and more...






6-8pm ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Discuss St Ives with your local police and Councils – District, County and Town

For any further information about the day or questions to be submitted for the panel at the Annual Town Meeting please email: clerk@stivestowncouncil.gov.uk or call 01480 388929

Well if it can happen there... why not here??



The world famous, and Grade 1 listed Kings College Chapel has got permission to put nearly 500 solar panels on the roof. Cambridge City Council approved the application and Councillors said the plans would serve as a 'symbol' for climate change.

Meanwhile the lowly grade 2 listed, St Ives Corn Exchange, was refused this opportunity, despite the roof being worn out and it containing asbestos.

Panels on the Corn Exchange roof could only be seen by a person standing at the bottom of Robbs Walk, (would someone would want to do that?) whereas the panels of the top of Kings College Chapel will be easily viewed from the famous tourist viewpoint at the top of Great St Mary's Church tower (see the picture). Historic England was among those against it, saying the panels would 'harm people's appreciation of the chapel's extraordinary architectural character'.

At a planning meeting on Tuesday, councillors were told by a college representative that the panels would meet the chapel's entire energy demand and contribute a 1.4% reduction in

carbon consumption across the estate.

The chapel's 150-year-old lead roof would be stripped, melted down and reused over the next few months, the university said.

The plans had been recommended for refusal by City Council planning officers. Their report stated the panels would 'detract' from the architectural character and 'important views' while the benefits of the carbon reduction were considered to be 'not sufficient' to outweigh the harm.

These were similar to the objections HDC planners said about our Corn Exchange, even though the benefits would be far greater for the Corn Exchange than Kings College. Sadly our councillors, at the time, did not disagree with the planners, while Cambridge City councillors unanimously voted to approve the application.

Provost of King's, Prof Michael Proctor, said: 'As the planning committee noted, the panels will have only a very minimal impact but will make a considerable difference in the process of decarbonisation... reducing the college's carbon emissions by more than 27 tonnes each year.'



Erik - gone fishing ...



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

OTHER NEWS

Coronation Big Lunch planned

The Town Council are working with the Town Team and F&ST for a big party in the Town Centre on Sunday 7th May as part of the weekend of celebrations for the coronation of King Charles III. Although the planning is in its early stages the general theme will be one of a day of fun, something similar to an old fashioned feast or fair day, with strolling minstrels, silly games and a giant picnic for the whole family. **IF YOU OR YOUR ORGANISATION WOULD LIKE TO BE INVOLVED PLEASE EMAIL Gilly James at the Town Hall on civic@stivestowncouncil.gov.uk**



Saturday 6th May is the coronation, when most of us will be glued to our TV screens to watch the pageantry and Sunday 7th is party day, followed by Bank Holiday Monday (8th May), which the Palace has designated *The Big Help Out* day when people are encouraged to volunteer to support their local area.

HSBC confirm their closure.

On visiting the St Ives branch of HSBC we find they have published copies of their Impact Analysis report on what the closure will mean to customers here in St Ives.

It does not read well, the report states that St Ives accounts will be transferred to the Cambridge branch which the report then helpfully points out is over 16 miles away or 48 minutes on the bus.

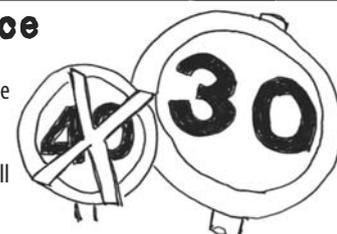
The report states that 95% of customers are registered for telephone banking but only 38% actively use it, and that 32% of customers only use the branch and no other methods. This 32% group are most likely to be businesses needing access to coin change paying in cash and commercial services and indeed vulnerable customers too loose out in a major way with only 8% of those using internet banking.

The Riverporter has warned before of the many internet and telephone scams aimed at vulnerable people and this closure now opens the way for perhaps even more criminals to target those people who now will only have the telephone option open to them.

One local resident described the closure as *'disgraceful'*, and the report as *'laughable'*, which suggests that some services can be accessed via the post office, which anyone who queues there on a busy day will know. The branch closure date is confirmed as 18th April.

Forced to a slower pace

An announcement has been spotted in the legal and public notices that Cambridge County Council propose under the Road traffic regulation act to reduce the speed limit on the A1123 Houghton Rd. St Ives from the current 40MPH down to 30MPH the new limit will extend between 153 metres west of Garner drive eastwards to 66 metres west of Hill rise.



Residents wishing to make a comment can do so by calling 0345 045 5212 anybody making a comment prior to the 17th February will have their comments added anonymously to the consultation process.

Regarding Thicket path landing stage

As we reported in our last issue ... An application (for the erection of a fence) has indeed been submitted to HDC. The validation team have determined the application as invalid as the application is not complete. Missing documents/information have been requested to be submitted within 21 days. Hence it is not available to view on the Planning Portal. Reference the protected trees, HDC are continuing with enquiries and will provide a further update in due course.'

A SLICE OF SATURDAY NIGHT

For their Spring production The Centre Theatre Players pay homage to the music of the swinging sixties as they present the musical comedy **'A SLICE OF SATURDAY NIGHT'**

The story is a tale of teenage dreams and young love, set in the Club-a-Go-Go Nightclub.

Written by the Heather Brothers, the show was first produced in Brighton before enjoying a long and successful run in London's West End. The show will be staged in The Burgess Hall of One Leisure, St Ives on May 17th - 20th evening performances at 7.30pm. Tickets go on sale 1st March and can be purchased on line from: www.ticketsource.co.uk/burgess-hall or from the One Leisure main reception.

COPE's programme includes 2 Museums

COPE, Cambridgeshire Older People' Enterprise is for older people aged 50 and over and their current programme includes two 6 week courses starting on 20th February. One is about *Oliver Cromwell's life time* at the Cromwell Museum in Huntingdon at 3.15pm and the other is *Learning about local history* at the Norris museum at 2.15pm. A Mad dash to do both then!



Dear Erik,
Subject: Platinum Jubilee Bandstand
Hi, Lovely to see image of bandstand on latest edition of *Riverporter*. Not sure about the inscription though. '...HRH Queen Elizabeth II'. Shouldn't it be HM Queen Elizabeth II?
Angela Bush

Dear Erik, Subject:
The Most Important Question in St Ives
When are the toilets at the Bus Station supposed to be usable? Every time I am down town I see people wanting to use them but they are all locked, not just the one which appears to be permanently out of order.
Penny Saver

Dear Erik,
Subject: Kindle - tales of woe...
I read your Editor's article 'Amazon and eBay - a cautionary tale' and fully appreciated his woe with immense sympathy.

However, having been involved with eBooks for quite a while, I feel duty-bound to draw your attention to an excellent and totally free program for managing such called 'Calibre'. One can attach a Kindle to a computer running Windows 10 or above and transfer/manage all eBooks, even converting to other often more friendly formats. This immediately removes the need for connecting with the Amazon mothership and if your wife's Kindle still has the books stored locally, their retrieval might be possible. The program is also useful for creating reference works for storing on the Kindle - I keep all my boat manuals in a handy form.
<https://calibre-ebook.com/>
Hope that is useful. Kind regards, **Nigel**



Friday 24th February - Mark Burton

Be prepared to be amazed by the mixture of classical, rock and jazz from this multi-talented keyboard player.

Friday 31st March - The Musical Amigos

Three of our finest local musicians, Stella Hensley, Myke Clifford and Chris Newman. These concerts - 7.30pm in the Riverport Café Bar. Tickets are just £10 from the Bar or from www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents.

Not to be missed

Friday 28th April 7.30pm in the Free Church
The brilliant classical guitarists Daniela Rossi & Cristiano Poli Cappelli

Tickets are just £10 from the Bar or from www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents.

Dear Erik,
Subject: The bulging wall
Further to Gordon Walkers letter in RP126 about the possible danger of the bulging, cracked wall next to the WW2 pillbox in The Waits, I asked HDC to look at this as a possible dangerous structure under the Building Act, in October last year.

HDC promptly replied within a few days and an Area Building Control Surveyor visited; the outcome was that although it is bulging it's not considered dangerous. However, the wall is to be checked every 3 - 4 months for necessary action by HDC. Another visit is due this month. HDC, not the Town Council, has the legal powers to deal with hazards like this but we will also monitor the situation and keep in contact with HDC.

Please could you publish our response in the next *Riverporter* to let readers know of the action taken.
Many thanks
Cllr Michael Gleadow

Dear Erik,
Subject: Farmers Market
SITC promoting the Farmers Market on Facebook with a glorious pic of luscious ripe strawberries in the depths of winter? Shouldn't that be turnips? **Luka That**

Dear Erik,
Subject: Loss of Kindle books
I was sorry to read about Ed's wife's loss of her Kindle collection!
Please let her (and your readers) know that the Cambridgeshire Public Library has an impressive selection of e-books, e-audiobooks, e-magazines and e-newspapers through apps like Libby, BorrowBox and PressReader. I haven't bought a book via Amazon in years!
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisure-culture/libraries/borrow/newspapers>
Best wishes, **Kirsten McLaughlin**

Dear Erik,



This came on my phone the other day. I noticed our MP signed up to this. I'd like to him swim in our River. **Barry**



In the heart of St Ives at Hyperion Salerooms is

The COURTYARD St Ives

Open-air boutique market, run by independents



with a vast range of gifts and crafts ranging from handmade dog treats, candles and wax melts, art, vintage clothing, watches, books, furniture, handbags, vapes, make up, antiques & collectables. There is something for everyone!

We have a range of Olive Trees ranging from small stock to large Gnarled aged trees, perfect for your patios as they are ideally suited to the English climate!

Mothers Day is on its way, pop down to get her that perfect gift.

The Courtyard, The Salerooms, Station Road, St Ives PE27 5BH
www.hyperionauctions.co.uk/the-courtyard-shopping

Tel: 01480 464140

25 FREE CONCERTS OVER 4 DAYS FROM 14TH TO 17TH SEPTEMBER 2023



THURSDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER

7pm	The Oliver Cromwell	Brooks Williams	American singer songwriter
7.30pm	Amore Restaurant	Peter Shepherd Duo	Cool Jazz
8pm	Golden Lion Hotel	Freddie Hall Soul Band	Soul R&B
9.30pm	Nelson's Head	Barefoot Doctors	Electric Blues

FRIDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER

6pm	The Haywain	Dark Horse	Swing, Rock and Soul
6pm	Foods Tavern	Gravy Train Trio	Funk, Soul and Jazz
7pm	The Corn Exchange	The Umbrella Big Band	Big-band dance music
7.30pm	All Saints Parish Church	Kim & Lee	'Gin & Jazz' Pop
8pm	Golden Lion Hotel	Spiral G's	Jazz, Funk, Fusion
9pm	Ivy leaf Club	Shufflepack	Shuffling Blues
10pm	The Corn Exchange	Soul & Mowtown night with Marco	Dance night

SATURDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER

11am	The Quayside	The Scoundrels	Rocking Boogie & Blues
Noon	Bandstand	Stamford Stompers and Helen	Trad Jazz
12.30pm	The Chapel	Ian Goodsman	Acoustic Roots, Blues & Ragtime
2pm	The Quayside	Rhythm & Blues Band	Rhythm and Blues with Soul
3pm	All Saints Parish Church	Ian Goodsman	'Gin & Jazz' Ragtime
4pm	The Oliver Cromwell	Rich Young	Americana Blues 'n roots
5.30pm	Floods Tavern	Toby Walker	American Blues guitarist
7.30pm	Golden Lion Hotel	Dickie de Vere & The Dorchester Mavericks	Tunes of the 20s and 30s
9.30pm	Ivy leaf Club	The Reavey Brothers	Soul, Rock, Blues, Funk & Ska

SUNDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER

Noon	Golden Lion Hotel	Claudio Citarella and Friends	Jazz, Funk, Fusion
2pm	The Quayside	Dr Ika's Pharmacy	Rock Jazz and Blues
3pm	Bandstand	Lexie Green	Americana Blues, R'n'R
4pm	Nelson's Head	Jamie Williams & the Roots Collective	Rocking roots
6pm	The Lounge	The 29th Funktion	Blues, Funk, R&B

Programme may be subject to change www.stivescambridgeshire.co.uk

CUT OUT AND KEEP 



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GOOD LUCK TO YOU, LEO GRANDE

Thursday 16 February 2023
at 7:30pm, doors open 6:30pm
Tickets: £5

Director: Sophie Hyde
1h 37m, Cert: 15



MOONAGE DAYDREAM

Thursday 2 March 2023
at 7:30pm, doors open 6:30pm
Tickets: £5

Director: Brett Morgen
2h 15m, Cert: 15

Special ROH Screening of Madam Butterfly



Sunday April 16 2023
at 2:30pm, doors open 1:30pm.
Tickets £10

Tickets from screenstives.org.uk or in the Corn Exchange