

# The Riverporter

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

## What's it like to drill a regiment?

**O**n Saturday 30 June 2018, the Corps of Royal Engineers was granted the Freedom of St Ives. Sgt Ben Cartmell, Snr Drill Instructor explains the work done to make a whole regiment parade in unison and provide such an impressive spectacle.

Planning for the day started six months in advance, but for me preparation started with basic foot drill lessons the month before. This was an opportunity for soldiers to get used to marching again - necks in the back of the collar and arms shoulder high.

After the basics had been revised, we progressed into rifle drill - at the halt and on the march - with a focus on fixing bayonets, as this was to be such a key part of the parade.

Several dress inspections and many more drill rehearsals took place in preparation for the day. Fortunately the squadrons started with quite a good level of drill so the main issue was to ensure everyone was conducting drill to the correct timings, during rifle and foot drill, which became easier to manage once we all came together as a Regiment.

As you can imagine it looks a whole lot smarter when everyone is moving as one, especially when wearing white gloves and with the sound of the rifles being firmly struck.



135 Geographic Squadron, our reservist squadron, had a very limited time to practice - only arriving at RAF Wyton the night before. By rehearsing that night and again at 6am they came through with an outstanding performance.

On the morning of the parade, weapons were drawn from the armoury. A regimental photograph was taken of this unique moment with the regiment and reservists together and the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Paul Hammett RE, gave an address about the importance of the occasion.

Above: The Parade in The Broadway. Below: The Parade about to take the salute. Inset below left: The Town Clerk and Mayor with one of the specially commissioned swords exchanged between the Regiment and Town Council to represent the bond of trust and friendship.

## Spotted on The Waits



Photo Ian Jackson.

Despite being in black & white this picture shows the glory of two 'colourful' narrowboats moored on The Waits and recalls an age when the Old Riverport was thriving with river trade. These are 'empty' and in those times a cargo of coal or timber might just have been unloaded. Today they are restored for recreation although some companies still use this form of 'slow' transport. In 2007 the IWA Festival came to St Ives and provided a glorious sight as narrowboats lined the banks of the river. This year the IWA Festival is being held in St Neots and all the boats that attend are likely to pass through St Ives. Keep an eye out for them.



The officers thoroughly revised their sword drill as they had the unenviable task of executing it on the march in the form of an 'eyes right' to the receiving officer on the podium which is no mean feat!

This was Paul Duffin's last official duty as Regimental Sergeant Major and to celebrate his achievement the CO presented him with an engraved sword to wear on the parade - what a way to go!

When we got to St Ives it was amazing and humbling to see how much effort the town had put into setting up, there were flags everywhere and a really warm welcome from the people of St Ives.

# The end of June saw an innovation in St Ives Parish Church - it's first ever Beer Fest

**B**ooze in the Pews was a great success with 18 real ales, 8 draught ciders, 4 different bottled German beers, wine and soft drinks all on offer together with a selection of home cooked food, quality pork pies and sausage rolls supplied by a local butcher.

Just under a year ago when Glenn and Verity Johnson were married at the parish church and having a barrel (or two) at the reception it reminded the Vicar of the Beer Festival he started in his last parish back in 2008.

Since coming to St Ives he had felt it inappropriate to host one in the church as there was a pub next door. However by the end of last summer the Dun Horse/Aviator/Merchant House was no more and so the opportunity presented itself. The wonderfully apt title of Booze in the Pews was Glenn's idea.

Although primarily a community event it was hoped that a small profit would be made to enable the church to continue in its aim of improvements and provision of services to the local community, such items as toddler groups and a monthly gathering for those living with Dementia.

In the end a sum in the region of £1.5k was raised which was a real bonus and has given encouragement to look at more events of a similar nature such as a Winter Beer Fest (Feb 2019) a Gin and Jazz Fest possibly in May and of course the return of Booze in the Pews next June or July. All dates are yet to be fixed.

Your comments and/or feedback would be appreciated please email [festivals@stivesparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:festivals@stivesparishchurch.org.uk) with these or indeed any other suggestion for other events in the future.



Above, left to right: James Hand (Chair of Committee), Tim Drye (Mayor), Mark Plews (a former Mayor), the Vicar, Verity, Glenn and Phil of Bangers Bars (who provided all the equipment). The others were more interested in the beer than a photo!!! Photo: Callum Dickerson.

Below: Inside the Church 9:30 on a Friday evening, wish it was as lively at 9:30 on a Sunday morning!!! Photo Fr Mark.

Left: A cooling relaxing drink in the churchyard at 7:30 on Saturday evening. Photo Fr Mark.

## Booze in the Pews

Here's some news to enthuse  
There was 'Booze in the Pews'  
At the Parish Church  
But just as research,  
So that's no smirch,  
Attracting congregation  
By creating a sensation  
At this 'All Saints' location.  
Well! What next, is the rub,  
Is it prayers down the Pub?  
Hands clasped together in the drinking club  
No sport, nor politics over the bar!  
With the Vicar pulling pints in your tankard jar.  
A Holy Grail for me served up with a Hymn.  
Praying for a beer? Is a normal thing.  
The monks brewed their own, in days of old  
So boozing down the church, is a thing to uphold.  
Don't go feeling guilty, you've done nothing wrong,  
The times are a changing, see you at Evensong.

**Booze News a poem by Chris Morgan**



## Memories !

St Ives Methodist Church are preparing an exhibition about 'Children & Young People' for Heritage Weekend (September 14th to 16th) and would love to hear from anyone who has memories of Sunday School at the Church. We are also looking for photographs or memorabilia - perhaps you have inherited pieces from your parents or kept your children's certificates etc.

### Now is your chance to loan them or donate them!

If you have any items/memories do contact us via Mary Gatehouse 01480 466566 or email Mary at: [mary.gatehouse1@gmail.com](mailto:mary.gatehouse1@gmail.com)

Better still come to the SUMMER FEST on 28th July at The Waits when the Church will be running a Summer Fair and activities in partnership with Norris Museum and pass on your information direct to a member of the Church Heritage Group.

## A REMINDER

This Monday 16th July at 2pm  
in the Crossways Christian Centre, Ramsey Road.  
**FREE Creative Craft Sessions for those living with Dementia and their Carers**  
For information call Sandra on 07913 346845

*The judges from Anglia in Bloom visited St Ives on Thursday 5th July. They are pictured here in the 'blooming' Norris Museum garden, after their tour around town. From left to right: Moreen Wells (Vice-Chair, SIIB), Joan Gibson (Anglia in Bloom), Julia Smith (Anglia in Bloom), Tim Drye (Mayor) and Linda Croucher (Chair, SIIB). We hear the results in September and will let you know how we fared.*



## THE Chapel Arts Season 2018

A series of concerts and events in the Chapel on St Ives Bridge

From Debussy to  
Titanic with harpist  
**Ruth Holden**

*Ruth trained at the Royal College of Music and has worked for many orchestras, including the world famous Halle. She spent 10 years with the Royal Shakespeare Company and the English Touring Opera and was harpist for the award winning musical 'The Phantom of the Opera'. She still regularly appears with many top class orchestras including the Philharmonia Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra and in concert halls in the UK and abroad.*



Places are strictly limited - book early to avoid disappointment

**Sunday 12th August 6pm for 6.30pm**

Tickets £10 from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives) or The Corn Exchange  
The evening starts with complimentary refreshments courtesy of Waitrose

For details [www.theoldriverportstives.co.uk](http://www.theoldriverportstives.co.uk)

having your say ...

# The Riverporter



## Dear Erik PAWS FOR THOUGHT

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

Dear Erik,

The St Ives in Bloom judging was this morning and again the town looked great. Especially the Quay, where Ron, Chris and George did such a great job painting the railings. St Ives in Bloom's work on the park and ride and bus station, with its wicker animals outside and mosaics inside the waiting room, are brilliant. Peter T.

### Lute Concert clashes with World Cup ...



Result ... Lutist won - England lost

Taken in 1924, presumably before seals arrived, this picture shows a Royal Sturgeon caught in the river near Hemmingford. It weighed 185 lbs and measured over 8ft in length. An old act required that the monarch, King George V, should be offered it first but apparently some of the fish was sold locally, the funds going to Addenbrookes Hospital.



Pictured are Fred Hudson (centre) with far right Walter West and next to him Bert Smith. Thanks to Sophie Geering and George Hudson for the photo.

## Another opinion about seals!

Dear Editor

I have just read your edition of The Riverporter regarding the state of the river and a reference to the seal in the river in the same edition.

Seals eat 6 kilos of fish a day and are equipped to hunt at sea. Our beloved river, in which we fish, is being decimated by this animal and as it all happens below the waterline it cannot be seen by the general public who get all excited over seeing the Seal which has the same traits as a fox when it comes to killing fish. Otters have been reintroduced where there are no fish stocks to sustain them and we also suffer terribly from Cormorants who are, once again, primarily a sea bird hunting in a relatively small river. All of these animals catch and kill fish all day every day and are far too quick under water for it to even be a contest, let alone a fair one.

So, just to balance the scales, many of us who fish detest the Seal and those that do not understand the series of balances required to make a river's ecosystem function seem to be in charge. The end game of this is that there are no fish left and wildlife such as the Kingfisher or Heron and other native species, who should be on our river, are disappearing.

*Yours faithfully* Christopher Geeson,  
Secretary, St Ives Fish Preservation and Angling Society.

### What does Heidi think?

We asked Heidi, our Environmental Correspondent, for a comment on Mr Geeson's views.

She gushed: 'Mr Geeson is correct. Seals (and Cormorants) eat a lot of fish, are not natural predators of fresh water and risk upsetting the delicate balance in our river ecosystem. (Bet you never thought I knew words like that!) But both species now breed here (Seals for about ten years) and are obviously adapting to our river. Are we perhaps seeing an evolutionary change where smaller fish will become the new norm?'

When I asked that nice Environment Agency man if he had a view and if anything could be done he was non-committal. 'We can only act if a Seal is in distress and sometimes its eyesight is adversely affected by the fresh water', he said. Hmmm.

Personally, I would rather see Kingfishers, Herons, Great Crested Grebes and Common Terns taking their share of the small fry, plus Pike, Perch and Chub their proportion. Otters too have earned their time-honoured place. I think it is time the EA or the Mammal Society commissioned research based on the need for conservation rather than on emotions. See? I can be serious sometimes. Bye x

## MORE FLOWER POWER in ST IVES!

Two local councils and two local firms have worked together to help St Ives in Bloom to buy and plant up troughs this summer.

In the Bus Station, HDC gave permission for planters to be attached to the walls of the gatehouses and the toilets, Leeds Day Solicitors agreed to sponsor one, and the Town Council staff agreed to water them!



On The Waits: The Town Council gave permission for the troughs to be positioned by the Norris Museum wall and agreed to water them, and Copleys Solicitors agreed to sponsor one!

From left to right, Paula Hamilton, Family law specialist and partner at Copleys Solicitors and Louise Piper, Employment law specialist at Copleys, admire the new planter with Julie Pepper (St Ives in Bloom).



Christopher Dodd of Leeds Day Solicitors attaches the sponsorship plaque to the new planter watched by (L-R) Angie Dickinson (HDC), Moreen Wells (St Ives in Bloom) and Sana Gabriel (HDC).

## St Ives road rampage

This report was sent to us by Will Kerlake.

On the 2nd July, reports emerged from across St Ives of a white modified car driving at incredibly dangerous speeds and mounting the pavement to overtake other vehicles.

The first report came when the car overtook a lady in her car by using the pavement at speeds of over 70mph. More reports came when Arseniy, a pedestrian, had to move quickly when the car mounted a cycle path by St Audrey's lane whilst being chased by the Police. 'I looked behind me and saw the car on the path and had to quickly jump out of the way, it was very frightening' said Arseniy.

When asked for comment, the Police stated that they had recovered the vehicle in question yet gave no detail of the driver. Despite it being unclear whether the motorist was taken into custody, what is certain is that such reckless drivers have no place in St Ives.

**FOOTNOTE:** Before Wednesday evening's concert in the Bridge Chapel several cars crossed the bridge which was busy with pedestrians. One female driver in a Range Rover shouted to onlookers that she had a blue badge and could go anywhere she likes!



Dear Erik,

I thought you might like to see our Deputy Mayor, Cllr Dan Rowe at the opening concert of this year's Music on The Waits trying to avoid the blistering heat under 'friendly umbrellas'. Fortunately his immaculate dark suit didn't show the perspiration. It's a tough job but someone has to do it!

The season continues with this Sunday at 2.30 pm with ACOUSTICS ANONYMOUS followed by:

- 22-July MANEA SILVER BAND
- 29-July BEDFORD TOWN BAND
- 05-Aug SO EIGHTIES
- 12-Aug HENSLEY & NEWMAN TRIO
- 19-Aug UPWOOD UKULELE'S
- 26-Aug DEEPING DIXILANDERS



# 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 2nd August DAWSON CITY: FROZEN TIME

(Director: Bill Morrison, USA 2017, 2h 0m)

At the heart of the Klondike Gold Rush, Dawson City is a remote place with an intriguing, entertaining and eye-opening past.



This detective-style documentary gradually reveals Dawson's long-hidden history as a cache of unique archive film is recovered from an underground dump.

## Are you ready to show us your future St Ives?

Your St Ives '68 closes on 6th September so you still have time to show us your thoughts about St Ives in 2068. You can write about it, create a 2 dimensional or 3 dimensional image or make a video. There are maximum sizes, no minimum. It's fun, it's free, it's open to everyone either individually or as part of a group.

We are always pleased to support community groups by including details of their activities. Businesses may advertise for as little as £15 - email: [editor@theriverporter.uk](mailto:editor@theriverporter.uk)

ADVERTORIAL

# The Sun Has Got His Hat On

Mike Ellis of Ellis Winters says this could be the best time to put your property on the market this year



**ellis  
winters  
&CO**

As the temperatures have risen over the last six weeks so has the number of property sales, so we think we can safely say the usual Easter selling market has finally arrived! We started to see the number of viewings go up which is usually the prelude to offers/sales coming in and that's exactly what's happened with more sales in May and June than we were expecting which is great news.

Many of the offers are coming in on our new instructions and a few properties that have been recently reduced in price.

Over the last few months there has been much uncertainty over the housing market, including buy to lets and the wider economy. With Brexit and interest rates taking over much of the mainstream

media, it's small wonder that buyers are often frightened off by headlines, however read a little further and these predictions are always less gloomy than they first appear.

We've seen buyer confidence grow and there are still many great mortgage deals available encouraging tenants in particular, who are paying similar amounts for rent as they would on a mortgage, to take advice from our financial advisor and then going out to view and offer on property.

If you've been thinking about selling, but just not sure if it's the right time, or you would like some

information from our Financial Advisor, please call us - we're happy to help.

There's never really a right or wrong time to sell, but judging by the business we're seeing now, this could be the best time to put your property on the market this year. If you would like some advice, please call 01480 388 888.



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Will we have Hemingford Meadow or will it be a car park? Will we have the old bridge? What will St Ives look like in 2068 when the Civic Society of St Ives will be 100 years old. All entries will be on display at the Free Church on

Friday 7th September after 12 pm and all day Saturday 8th September, winning entries will be on display at the Norris Museum from 10th to 22nd.

For full details go to [www.stivescivic.org.uk](http://www.stivescivic.org.uk) or email [yourstives68@gmail.com](mailto:yourstives68@gmail.com)