



A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

Town's Community Day - a Knockout



Mayor, Phil Pope, was available to lend a hand at last Friday's successful Community Day.

Thanks to our readers, *The Riverporter* received several reports of the day and in most cases they are positive. It was a long day starting at 10am and ending at 8pm, and an ambitious one, for this new Town Council. As usual, the Community Fair preceded the Annual Town Meeting, which cannot begin before 6pm due to Local Government rules.

A touch of Déjà Vu

It was almost like one of those occasions when you settle down to watch a movie and before not very long you think, 'Hang on a minute, I've seen this before.'

Previously the Fair used to immediately precede the Town Meeting so that it would attract the public, who would then stay and ask questions of their council.

The Riverporter is not sure if this actually worked too well this year with the fair ending at 2pm and a youth zone operating between 3 and 5pm. Indeed the evening attendance was slightly less than last year.

Nevertheless, ex-Councillor and past-Mayor Martin Collier opened proceedings bang on time with his usual efficiency. He fronted a panel

comprising, in no particular order: Town and District Cllr and Leader of HDC Michael Burke; District Cllr Catherine Gleadow; St Ives Flood Action Group Chair Matthew Setchell; Mayor Cllr Phil Pope; Clerk Matthew Price; County Cllr Kevin Reynolds; and Neighbourhood Policing Team Leader PC Andy Caruana.

The Town Mayor welcomed us all and reading from his script he delivered his report and urged us all to contribute comments to the Neighbourhood Plan, still at the consultation stage. One day, apparently, it will be finished, accredited and the Council will have more influence over development.

[We look forward to that - Ed.]

He reported on the sad passing of Cllr and three-times past-mayor

Brian Luter and acknowledged the incredible work of the voluntary groups in creating so much of the vibrancy of the town including the incredible 'yarn bombing' effort organised by Star Dancewear & Crafts. He finished by remarking on the sequence of significant events we have witnessed this year - the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, her death and funeral, and a Coronation now looming with many associated celebrations and details to come.

[More details to follow in the next Riverporter]

He concluded by announcing that the precept was going up by 'less than 2 percent.'

[This is much lower than our neighbouring towns - Huntingdon 15% and St Neots 19%]

Announcing the impending retirement of Town Hall staffer Sue Rawlinson after 24 years service to the town - Phil said 'always there, never says much but knows everything'. Sue received a long and rousing round of applause - and said nothing. However, *The Riverporter* recalls her once saying, 'Yes I have been here a while, and I know where the skeletons are buried because I was holding the lamp at the time'.

Then it was the turn of the chairs of the various committees to deliver their reports. Cllr Nic Wells for

Planning was up first, who said SITC had assessed 141 planning applications and 134 were recommended for approval.

[HDC has the final say of course]

Town and District Cllr Julie Kerr acknowledged the huge upheaval of Town Hall staff - seven new members no less. She senses a Town Hall now buzzing with enthusiasm. She publicly thanked Clerk Matthew Price for providing stability during the time it took to rebuild the team.

Town and District Cllr Michael Burke spoke for Amenities and reported that interminable problems with the bus station toilets rumble on.

Cllr Craig Smith delivered a high-speed scripted speech from a laptop, for the Property Committee.

[This is an area which also needs looking at as the audience found this difficult to follow]

The final Cllr up was Margaret Kling for the Norris Museum Trust. She reported that after a difficult period following the pandemic the Museum was planning exciting exhibitions and outreach programmes.

Martin Collier invited questions from the floor and this was when déjà vu really hit home.

Questions raised included

- Parking: it's a 'wild west' town. PC Caruana agreed but could offer no effective policing due to lack of resources. **[HDC will take on responsibility for managing parking but not until 2024.]**
- White lines need repainting: Cllr Reynolds say CCC has no money for such low priority work
- Rubbish in The Broadway: request for shopkeepers to clean their frontage pavement area
- Future of The Dolphin? Sympathy was expressed for the plight of our asylum seekers. PC Caruana says he has had no problems
- Bus shelters require attention: Again CCC regard it as low priority
- Tap Room pavement furniture blocking West End loading bays: Cllr Reynolds will take this up
- Burleigh Hill Centre badly managed and in contravention of Charities Commission regulations. Cllr Burke defended allegations but would assess further
- Does the plight of the bus station toilets indicate a collapsing Victorian sewage and drainage network in the town? Matthew Setchell says yes, but offered no conclusions.

The meeting closed at 8 pm. It was noted that eleven Town Cllrs were present plus all five of our District Cllrs - a full complement for once. Councillor Reynolds represented the County Council but as for our other County Cllr member, the elusive Cllr Fuller, he continues to be absent.

[See Riverporter 128]



The hall was busy all morning.

St Ivo Academy makes headlines

This week the Academy, run by Astrea Academy Trust featured in regional news programmes as parents claimed their children are 'living in fear' over school policies. There has been concern for some time that the school had a poor reputation for bullying and it's last Ofsted rated the school's 'behaviour and attitude' as needing improvement.

Is the cure worse than the problem?

The new Behaviour Policy, introduced since Richard Tutt ('Britain's strictest headmaster' - *Daily Mail*) joined the trust, may well have unintended consequences. The school say behaviour is improving.

2nd Repair Café - a huge success

A massive THANK YOU was sent to all volunteers (over 35 in total, including 14 expert Repairers, our superb catering team, administrators, organisers, welcomers and cake bakers) who helped to make St Ives' second Repair Café on Saturday 17th February a roaring success.

Also thanked were the folk who brought an item to be fixed, and to those who just came to look around. We had 50 items booked in, and 43 items from walk-ins, with an approximate 80% fix rate of those items that were able to be seen by a Repairer. Much delicious homemade cake was consumed and donations from repairs, cakes and book sales covered our costs.

Items fixed included: binoculars, computers, electric radiators, lamps, a vacuum cleaner, a base guitar, an amp, a bicycle wheel, a suitcase, jewellery, a jewellery box, zips and rips on clothing, a tea pot and much more. HDC were there to answer any questions about Waste and Recycling, and there was a felting workshop for those feeling crafty.

The organisers gave special thanks to St Ives Methodist Church for hosting them in a superb venue, to St Ives Town Council and to Waitrose for grants and a donation that has helped us to get this important initiative off the ground, and to Cambridge Carbon Footprint for showing us the ropes and loan of the toolkit.

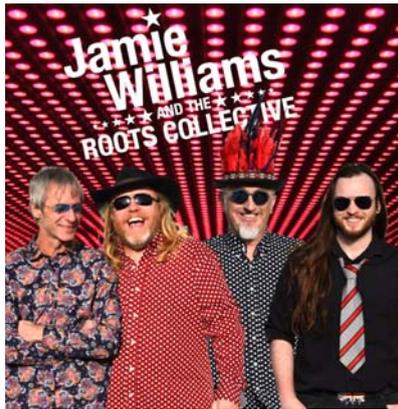
There is clearly a demand for services and we'll just have to have another! Watch this space!

And if you'd like to join our team, as a Repairer, an organiser, cake baker or a helper on the day at our next event, please drop us a line!



HIGHLIGHTING THE BANDS

playing at this year's Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival



Settled into the current super-tight line-up after hundreds of shows this band is on fire. Playing their own style of Americana at festivals & venues including a couple of rapturous nights at London's legendary 100

Club. Their ethos is always to have fun and make sure the crowd does too.

They've shared line-ups with likes of Wilko Johnson, The Blockheads, The Darkness, The Pretty Things, The Quireboys, Dr Feelgood, the Yardbirds, Eddi Reeder & the Animals to name a few.

Jamie is a prolific writer of accessible songs; songs good enough to hold their own in a solo acoustic setting, which really light up when the band add their own brand of energy & musicianship to the arrangements.

They are like the classic touring bands of the 70s: a travelling circus; a dysfunctional family of a band. They're tight without being boringly slick; leaving just enough rough edges to become one of the most exciting and fun 'originals' live bands on the circuit today.

See them on Sunday 17th September at 4pm in the Nelson's Head.



New Blues Club planned

A Friday Night Blues Club is due to start on Good Friday 7th April in the Riverport Café Bar and is expected to take place on the first Friday of each month.

Join us for an evening of live classic and modern Blues and Soul music set in the elegant Riverport bar

The Tomb Raiders Band

Playing modern blues from...

Joe Bonamassa

Eric Clapton

JJ Cale

Santana

Any many more...

Friday evening 7th April



Friday night Blues Club

Doors open 6:30pm

Tickets £5

Book online or ask at the office

www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents

Great Wine

Great Music

Great Venue

How much food do you waste?

Martin Cooper, owner of The Refill Shop of Ikigai is encouraging people to think about how much food they are buying and not eating in Food Waste Action Week.

Starting on Monday 6 March, the week of action aims to show people how they can save time and money.

Martin, pictured, said: 'Research by WRAP shows that 70% of the food that is wasted in the UK is wasted by people in their homes - equating to 4.5 million tonnes of food that could have been eaten, being thrown away every year.

'As well as the money we are wasting on food we are not eating, the environmental impact caused by food going to waste is huge.'

Harmful greenhouse gases are created by producing food that isn't used - not only the food rotting in landfill, but also the resources, such as land, water and energy taken to get that food to the plate.

Martin added: 'At a time when every penny matters, not wasting food is even more imperative.'

'By taking a few simple steps, we can shop more wisely, waste less food and save money in the process.'

Six tips for reducing food waste:

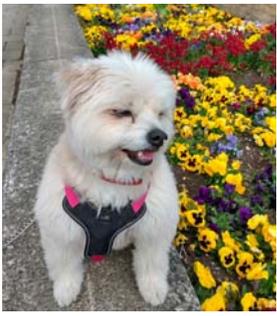
- 1 Buy what you need - use a local markets and refill shops to buy a smaller quantity than the pre-packaged food in the supermarket
- 2 Look and smell foods before throwing them out - most foods are fine after a best



before date - use your judgement

- 3 Batch cook, or freeze leftover meals for a later date
- 4 Plan your meals and shop with a list - don't be tempted to stray from it!
- 5 Use food sharing apps such as Olio - you can give away food you won't eat, or could pick up some free food that you will
- 6 Use your green bin for any food you need to throw out, which is composted by the local council

For more information on Food Waste Action Week go to www.wrap.org.uk



Erik likes The Waits



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

This may be the last time you see them!

According to an article in this week's Hunts Post; A care home worker, bar manager and army vehicle mechanic are among Cambridgeshire's latest 20 police recruits to graduate. What the article doesn't say is will we ever see any of them in St Ives? Despite lots of new recruits over the past few years can anyone say they have noticed a difference? Is St Ives awash with patrolling cops removing those illegally parked cars? I think we all know the answer to that.



Ant and Dec's Saturday Takeaway comes to Cherry Valley

Owner of The Cherry Valley restaurant, Jitlada Freeman (AKA. Boo), was surprised with 'A Place on the Plane' live on Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway. Fleur East joined the ITV crews to surprise Jitlada who was working in the busy Chinese restaurant with a ticket to the series finale, set to take place in April at the Orlando Universal Resort in Florida. Jitlada is now one of 200 people who will receive 'A Place on the Plane' over the course of the next few weeks on the programme.



Thicket mooring - enforcement taken

Mohammed Zishan, HDC's Planning Enforcement Officer reported the following regarding the damage done to the river bank along the Thicket path opposite the How development: Whilst we have tried to regularise the breach of planning control through the planning system unfortunately this has not progressed to the satisfaction of the local planning authority. We will now prepare to take formal action in relation to this matter by way of a Planning Contravention Notice (PCN). I can also confirm that we will be initiating the process for a Tree Replacement Notice in relation to the trees that have been removed.

New line-up for this month

Friday 31st March features The Musical Amigos, three of our finest local musicians - but will there be more? The rumour is that they will be part of a new line-up and this will be their first gig. They don't even have a name yet, but we can guarantee it won't be an evening to miss and with tickets selling quickly you may need to buy yours now as places are strictly limited! Of course tickets are also on sale for April's concert with Daniela Rossi and Cristiano Poli Cappelli.

Concerts start at 7.30pm and tickets £10, can be purchased online at: www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents or in person from the Riverport Café Bar



Free concert organised to help a friend

Kelly Evans from Houghton is running the Cambridge Half Marathon, the London Landmarks Marathon and the London Marathon back to back to raise funds for Alzheimer's research UK in support of her mum who is seriously affected by the disease.

To help Kelly extend her fundraising potential local Opera singer, and friend, Karen England is organising a free concert at St Ives Free Church to coincide with dementia awareness week in May.

Karen signed to Sony records years ago as a crossover artist - part of the Operababes - and her career spanned from singing at the FA cup final to bringing the first classical act to perform at the stardust casino in Las Vegas.

Local pianist Mark Burton will accompany Karen on piano, and the Riverport Singers will join in the finale.

Karen England (Operababes) and Mark Burton (piano) present
A FREE CHARITY CONCERT
 With retiring donation collection and homemade cake sale
In aid of Alzheimer's Research UK

Along with special guests - **The Riverport Singers**
 And guest speakers from Alzheimer's Research UK
Wednesday, May 17th, 2023
St Ives Free Church
4.30pm

Dear Erik,

Subject: The Waits Saga continues

There have been numerous articles written in *The Riverporter* about problems around The Waits including damaged fencing, dangerous walls, unkempt rubbish bins, tatty seating and the appearance of a scrap yard! Well here is another one! A shed covered in grey



waterproof covering has now appeared in the garden of the Manchester House development! Not a very attractive garden feature! When is somebody going to stand up for our lovely town? **A St Ives Lover!**

Dear Erik,

Subject: Community Day

I would like to say how much I enjoyed my journey around the Corn Exchange on Friday, talking to the many volunteers for organisations, who had given their time to engaging in conversations with a larger number of enquiring St Ivesians who had turned out to make the day a success.

I also attended the Town Meeting in the evening, and listened to the presentations of The Mayor and representatives of the Councils and Police. It is noticeable that, in this day of digital communication, the decline in projection of voice and reliance on the microphone, gave rise to issues of delivery. The questioning largely revolved around the continuing parking issues in the town, but despite assurances of changes taking place in 2024, and the constraints on budgets limiting the 'policing' of it, nothing has moved forward in the past year.

I would say perhaps that with the rise of Charity outlets in town (16 listed in St Ives), and the consequent effect on receipts from business tax, the failure to fully fund the services required, is contributing in the observed and commented decline into a 'Secondhand Slepe'.

Conversations were had, networking must have improved, and, I believe, Charitability therefore increased.

Thank you **Philip Noble**

Dear Erik,

Subject: Who cares about St Ives?

Who is in charge of our pavements SITC or HDC? Some work has recently been carried out by the hairdressers at the bridge end of Bridge Street which necessitated them digging up the pavement. Unfortunately they appear to have replaced the old pavement with a selection of paving slabs/bricks they had left over from a garden patio job!



Surely whoever is responsible should get in touch with the culprits and make them reinstate it! **Gordon Walker**

Dear Gordon, Pavements and roads are usually the responsibility of the County Council. Perhaps it was Ed Grundy what done it! **ED**

Dear Erik,

Subject: Bus Lane Car Trap

My wife visited St Ives for the first time yesterday. While trying to find her destination she inadvertently entered a bus lane and crashed into a trench apparently designed to inflict damage on any vehicle entering this lane.

When my wife told me what had happened I thought she must have been mistaken and may have entered some road works. I am still astonished such a crude measure could have been implemented in this country where damage to driver and car is entirely random and presumably very largely affects visitors rather than locals.

Why don't you use cameras and fine offenders like pretty much every one else?

As a logical extension are your traffic wardens issued with hammers so they smash up any yellow line offenders?

Yours sincerely, **Roderick Pearson**

Dear Roderick, Sadly St Ives has no traffic wardens, well not until the end of 2024, and yellow line parking seems not to be the heinous crime it is elsewhere. **ED**

COPE will be hosting a talk by the Royal British Legion on Thursday 16 March, 2pm at the St Ives Corn Exchange

This Spring there are two Zoom events planned:

22 March: join actor/director Patrick Morris as he leads the group in reading three short extracts from three great plays.

22 May: share stories of spies, lies and double agents with Cambridge tour guide, Ruth Meyer. The programme is free: register by ringing 01223 364303 or email: copetalkingtogether@hotmail.com

The Riverporter would like to apologise to any Cope members who might have visited the Norris and Cromwell museums expecting a talk (RP128). We remarked it would be a mad dash to attend both lectures starting just one hour apart, not realising they were meetings over the phone only!



HYPERION

Entries Invited for Our Next Antiques & Interiors Sale on Saturday 18th March



Sold In Our Last Interiors Sale

2002 World Cup winner's gold medal FIFA WORLD
CUP
Sold £9000



19thC Silver Foliate decorated Teapot
London 1830
Sold £450



Signed Photograph by "The King" Elvis Presley that
reads "To Barbara From PVT Elvis Presley", Framed
and Mounted.
Sold £350

Hyperion Auctions, The Salerooms, Station Road, St Ives PE27 5BH
www.hyperionauctions.co.uk 01480 464140



PART-TIME EXPERIENCED COOK/CATERING MANAGER

VACANCY

A hands-on *Cook/Manager* is required to
work in a busy kitchen, preparing
home-cooked lunches and snacks at
Tookey's Café in the Free Church.

Working Mon/Wed/Fri - may include extra hours for
functions. Access to a vehicle would be advantageous.

You would be leading a small staff team of caterers,
along with a team of volunteers.
Good people skills are essential.

Call: **01480 468535** or email us at:

office@stivesfreechurch.org



for an Information Pack and
Application Form.



CUT OUT AND KEEP



Screen St Ives Community
Cinema

Supported by

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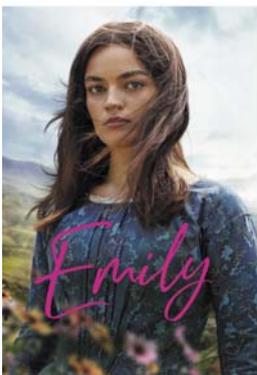
Peterborough PE1 5UA, Tel: 01733 344344



SEE HOW THEY RUN

Thursday 16 March 2023
at 7:30pm, doors open 6:30pm

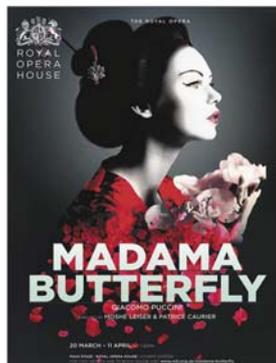
Director: Morgan Matthews
1h 39m, Cert: PG
Tickets: £5



EMILY

Thursday 6 April 2023
at 7:30pm, doors open 6:30pm

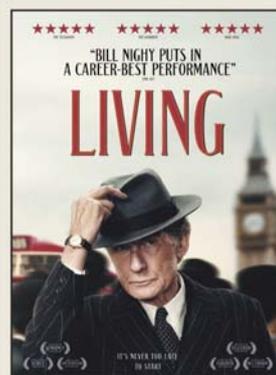
Director: Frances O'Connor
2h 10m Cert: 15
Tickets: £5



MADAME BUTTERFLY

Opera Special Screening
Sunday 16 April 2023
at 2:30pm, doors open 1:30pm

Royal Opera House,
1h 42m, Cert: U
Tickets: £10



LIVING

Thursday 20 April 2023
at 7:30pm, doors open 6:30pm

Director: Oliver Hermanus,
1h 42m, Cert: 12
Tickets: £5

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