

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

Wadsworth closes as Broadway plans criticised

In an ironic twist, one of the oldest and most unique shops in St Ives, J Wadsworth (see page 2), announced its closure as plans to improve The Broadway came under fire. The two are not linked but *The Riverporter* believes something needs to be done to improve the town centre before it's too late.

As we reported in our last issue shopkeepers are unhappy with the plans that see the loss of 10 parking spaces, or 14 if you include the 4 designated for blue badge holders. The County Council, through Vanessa Kelly, said they would improve consultation with businesses but so far this has not happened.

A difficult issue

It is good that improvements are being considered, and that money has been found to do the work, but as is often the case in St Ives, the consultation with ALL parties was not done properly. Currently, parking in The Broadway is restricted to one hour, with no return within two hours. As this has not been policed properly for many years the true effect of a period of free parking cannot be measured. Cars park all day, so shops haven't had the benefit of free parking as designed. The loss of the parking slots may make no difference until parking is enforced.

Will history repeat itself?

Many years ago a grand scheme for the town centre was abandoned

when residents objected to the plans the District imposed and HDC took the money away. Hence only the Bridge Street section was done. Will this be the case again? Will the money be taken away if this scheme doesn't get the go ahead?

The recent debacle of the St Ives Masterplan (now called Vision) wasted over £50,000 creating a 'vision' hardly anyone wanted.

St Ives County Councillor, Kevin Reynolds, agrees the plans need adjusting and Vanessa Kelly has said she will be ... 'undertaking further engagement' and 'design amendments may be made as a result of feedback'. However a meeting on Monday with councillors and a resident in The Broadway did not include any business representatives.

Local groups, such as the Town Team and Civic Society have discussed the plans, as have local councillors and the hope is that discussions will take place with all interested parties to achieve a suitable outcome.

The Riverporter believes that any alterations in The Broadway need to be part of a plan for the whole town

centre. Plans that will improve the centre for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists. Plans that will improve the market, raise footfall and encourage business to come here.

Breaking News

The Town Council were due to discuss the Broadway Plans on Wednesday but were unable to because of the poor quality of the printed plans!

Erik was delighted to see his favourite telephone box, newly painted with a working phone!

Thanks go to Town Councillor Mike Gladow for getting it back.

However Erik then got this letter ...

Dear Erik, Tried to call you from the new telephone box in The Broadway to let you know about a new lamppost. But it's locked! **Luka**



St Ives & Music - **TONIGHT**
Brooks Williams



It is no surprise that Brooks is listed in the Top 100 Acoustic Guitarists. **NEXT MONTH**



Friday 23rd February
Stella Hensley's Musical Amigos

Featuring Stella Hensley, vocals, Myke Clifford on sax, flute and vocals and Chris Newman on guitar. Three of our finest local musicians who will entertain you with an evening of blues and jazz numbers, some well known and some original compositions.

All concerts 7.30pm in the Riverport Café Bar.

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

DIARY OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY

Saturday 17th - Hunts Philatelic Society Stamp and Postcard Fair at St Ives Corn Exchange 10am-3pm. Free admission. 01480 468037 for info.

Saturday 24th - St Ives Repair Café at St Ives methodist Church 1pm - 4pm. To book a slot email stivesrepaircafe@gmail.com or call 07377 014401.

MARCH

Saturday 2nd - Soul & Motown Night with live band **Madison Avenue**. Tickets: £18.50 from Corn Exchange or www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents

Saturday 9th - Rotary club of St Ives Spring Concert in aid of Young Carers. Burgess Hall. The Concert will be performed by The Chamber Orchestra of St Ives String Quartet, Rotary Voices Choir and Karen England accompanied by Mark Burton.

Get your dancing shoes on for a weekend of Dance & Folk music



This Easter will see a weekend dedicated to good old British folk song and dance and it is all FREE to enjoy. On Good Friday, March 29th, at 7.30pm in St Ives Corn Exchange we have a special concert with the five-piece Clare Hayes Band (below). With a smooth country-blues sound, three-part harmonies and rip-roaring solos the band move from the hills of Scotland and Ireland, through the Appalachia's to Laurel Canyon - from sensitive and heart wrenching to downright groovy and always fun! Throughout the day on Saturday 30th March, St Ives will echo with the sound of Morris Dancing, featuring Fenstanton Bagging, Sutton Masque, Ely Riot and Coton Morris (left).

On Easter Monday, following the Bank Holiday Market, there will be an evening of dancing to The Elusive Black Dog Ceilidh Band, also in St Ives Corn Exchange from 7.30pm.



This experienced band, with caller will help you through a selection of well-known Ceilidh dances, and perhaps a strip the willow or two.

Read on-line at www.theriverporter.uk or see our Facebook page. Email: editor@theriverporter.uk

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J. Wadsworth

A unique family business

Wadsworth, the wine merchants in The Broadway is closing after 154 years of trading in St Ives.

John Wadsworth was Mayor in 1879 -1880. He was a member of the first council of the Borough of St Ives from 1876 to 1885.

In 1869 he started a company at number 1 Bridge Street 'John Wadsworth Mineral Water Manufacturer'. Wadsworth's delivery cart can be seen on the left of the picture below of Bridge Street.

By the turn of the century there were depots in Mildenhall, Ely, Chatteris and St Ives and another of his sons, Horatio managed the bottling works in St Ives. The sparkling drinks produced were supplied in special glass bottles. These used a 'marble' in the neck to keep the fizz in.

Today these are collectors items!

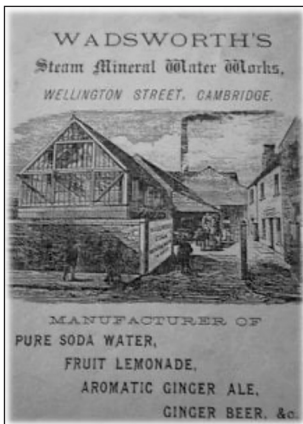


In 1879 the business expanded into the bigger market place of Cambridge. The new bottling works, which was located in Wellington Street, was run by one of his sons Ernest Arthur Wadsworth.

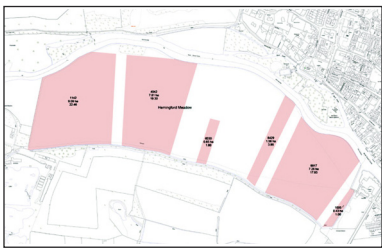
The Cambridge business went into partnership with another local manufacturer, Barkers, becoming 'Barker and Wadsworth'. Sadly, after the Second World War, this closed.

The bottling factory in St Ives, under the guidance of the late owner Mr Rex Wadsworth (the great, great grandson of John Wadsworth) moved into the wine & spirits market and in the early 1970's it relocated from Bridge Street to its present location on The Broadway.

ED's note. It is sad that this unique shop, with such a great range of wines and spirits, most probably the best and largest in the region, is closing. Did they fail to market themselves for the 21st century? Perhaps calling themselves 'St Ives best kept secret' wasn't an appropriate message anymore.



Part of Hemingford Meadow is up for sale (see right) as is farmland south of Hemingford Rd. Geaves Farm will be reduced to the fields between Hemingford Road and the Meadow ditch, which includes the fields used for the annual Hemingford Firework Display.



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ST IVES

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Constable Road, PE27 3ER

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Thursdays 5.30 pm *
Fridays 9.30 am
Saturdays 8.00 am & 9.30 am

* Calmer sessions

For information about our special offers, call/message Kathie on 07772 868472

'What a joy to see the café back open today'

Said Town Mayor, Phil Pope, when he met Director Rob Jackson last Monday (below) as the Riverport Café in St Ives Corn Exchange opened its doors after a 15 week delay due to the roof repairs.



Phil cut the ribbon to formally reopen the Café and stayed to speak with the many visitors who were pleased the Corn Exchange doors were finally open again.

Also there was Judith Barrass, presenter from HCR104FM, and organiser of the

monthly Jubado's comedy sessions at the Corn Exchange. Judith interviewed customers and staff as well as Cambs Police Sgt Andy Carrojana who was present for the inaugural 'Coffee with a Cop' drop in opportunity - an initiative that they hope will be a monthly event.

In a Facebook post, a spokesperson for Policing Huntingdonshire said: 'A recurring concern raised was nuisance parking in St Ives. What was our response? We took to the streets, patrolling areas like Bridge Street, Crown Street and the Broadway, addressing illegal parking with words of advice and issuing necessary tickets.'

St Ives neighbourhood officers are encouraging members of the community who have concerns to come forward and speak to the police about them.



With new food offers and the usual warm welcome from Sam and his team it is a welcome return for the Corn Exchange.

Once the scaffolding has been removed and the rear car park cleared, the Monday and Craft Markets can restart.

Pictured (top) Rachel with Hospitality Manager Sam, behind the bar and Mr and Mrs Crowson, from Brampton (right), the first customers through the door.



Please Note: The Burns Night Supper is sold out but there are a few tickets still available for the Queen tribute concert on Saturday.

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having your say ...

The Riverporter

Voted Best local newspaper of the year 2019/20 in the Cambridge Building Society's Community Magazine Awards

**Get it off your chest,
email Erik at:
editor@theriverporter.uk**

OTHER NEWS

The Riverporter apologises

Like many news gatherers *The Riverporter* receives information from many sources and tries to verify that what we print is correct. In our last issue we reported that the Town Council had discussed the Precept behind closed doors, which we now know did not happen. Just before going to press a respected individual assured us that the discussion took place, information that was not entirely accurate.

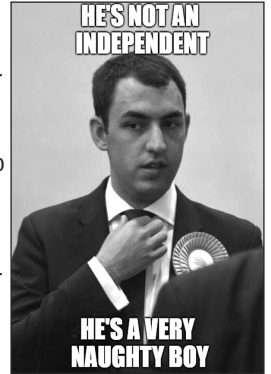
We received this statement from the Deputy Mayor, who chaired the meeting.

'There were no illegal discussions about the Precept during the closed to public session in the full council meeting dated 10th January 2024'. Therefore *The Riverporter* apologises unreservedly.

Independent at last?

St Ives County Councillor Ryan Fuller has resigned from the Conservatives and now serves as an Independent councillor for St Ives North and Wyton. Back in April 2018 (RP7) Fuller and eleven Tory colleagues tried to stand as *Independent for St Ives* in an attempt to confuse the electorate by making it difficult to tell who was a real independent and who was really a Tory.

Not only did this wheeze offer a great opportunity for *The Riverporter* to print the picture (right) the article appeared in *Private Eye*. Of course Cllr Fuller has not resigned as a councillor and will still collect his £11,133.48p allowance (see RP149p3). A Conservative colleague of his told *The Riverporter* that they were not disappointed by the news as he didn't do any work.



What is happening with the N'hood Plan?

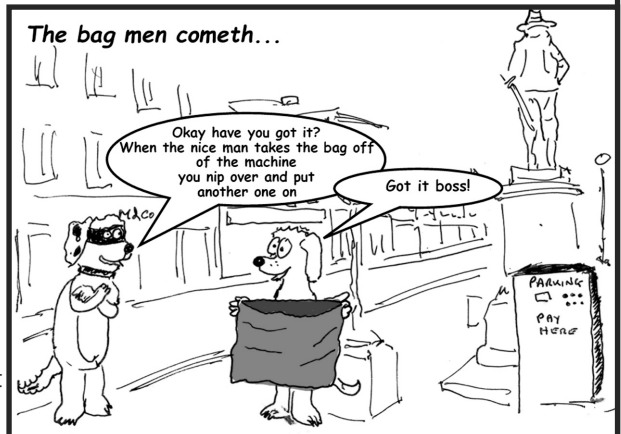
Nick Dibben has informed us that: There were 50 written responses to the consultation and a similar number filled in the on-line questionnaire. There were over 300 individual comments and the NP team is currently working through these. The NP will be updated to reflect these. Where comments are not suitable for the NP they will be added to a list and shared with other parties such as the Town Council or Town Team that may be able to take them forward.

A meeting was held with HDC this week to discuss their comments and ways forward agreed to ensure the NP is consistent with existing HDC planning policies, a key legal requirement. HDC have advised that there is a new flooding document coming out in March and given that the importance of flooding in St Ives, the NP will need too be updated to reflect this document, therefore the revised NP is unlikely to be sent to the Town Council before April.

Update on parking in Market Hill

We have been informed that the signage is up and there is now no reason for the covers on the parking machines.

But HDC have not been informed by CCC that they wish us to uncover the machine and re-start enforcement action. So until that request is received the machines will remain covered and the cash-strapped County Council will not get the money it desperately needs.



Dear Steve,

We are very sorry that you and other individuals missed out on the Langley Bread distribution this year.

We would like to apologise for the confusion surrounding this years distribution and any disappointment that was caused. Measures are being taken to ensure that it will be better advertised next year in a number of different ways which are more easily accessible to all members of the community.

Unfortunately, the St Ives Town Council is without a Town Clerk and has been since before the Christmas period and very little action had been taken to set this up. The date was pre-booked, but we now also understand it was a week earlier than usual so once again, apologies for this. Next year's date has been booked at the Corn Exchange for 8th January 2025 10am-12 noon. The committee will also look to re-introduce the tradition of bible dicing this year. Once again, our sincerest apologies.

St Ives Town Council, Cllr Philip Pope Mayor of St Ives



Mayor Phil Pope distributing food as part of the Langley Bread in the Corn Exchange on 3rd January.

Erik is looking forward to the Morris Dancing.

Dear Erik,

Subject: Flooding

My mistress and I recently got our feet wet in St Ives. We couldn't help wondering if the recent high water levels might not have reached their record height if all of the 7 sluice gates at the St Ives Lock and all 3 sluice gates at Brownhill lock were actually working and open?

Rumour has it that the EA cannot find the resources to fix the problem despite the frequency of these events clearly increasing. I could hear the pumps at the end of Filbert's Walk going flat out as we passed and am told by older dogs that they remember being able to swim along Victoria Terrace until the 2006 flood defences were built.

Erik, could you perhaps enlist our many four legged friends to persuade their masters/ mistresses to keep some pressure on the EA to get those gates working and keep us in the dry? **Yours Panda**

Dear Erik,

Subject: Abusing the Pews

All Saints' church will shortly be laying in the barrels of ale again and connecting up the payment devices. Why? Another three day booze-up in St Ives' Grade I listed parish church is being prepared. It would appear that an additional installment of defilement of this sacred place has now become necessary, in the winter months.

The early churchmen and women of Slepe for sure built their first parish church atop its mound to protect it from flooding. Now 1,700 years on it is the church's finances that are kept afloat, by administering not the sacraments but alcohol to the local populace. What an affront to common decency and what a stain on the present clergy and congregation!

Doberman

Dear Erik,

I was just walking down Broadway and noticed that the Telephone Box which was removed without any explanation has returned!!

Gordon

Dear Erik,

Subject: Amazement!!!

In your Issue 140 last August I complained that the telephone box in The Broadway had vanished.

Now, to my amazement, it has reappeared in situ! What is going on, please?

Steve Puttick

Dear Steve and Gordon, See page one Ed.

Dear Erik,

Subject: Illuminated Boat Parade

Following the cancellation of last year's event could you let your readers know that the Illuminated Boat Parade, which normally takes place every two years, will take place on 12th October this year, 2024.

The theme will be musicals. The event is likely to take place at approximately 6.15pm at The Quay. **Thanks Gilly Jackson FEST**

Dear Erik,

Subject: Parking back of Ivo lounge

I was just reading the last issue and wondered if you could help me reach out to Valerie, who wrote about parking in issue 150.

We absolutely do not want to be causing her issues with coming to get prescriptions from boots. If we could get my details to this person, perhaps she could contact me before hand, and I could make sure she has space to park.

Many thanks **Andrew Taylor GM Ivo lounge**

Dear Andrew, we contacted Valerie and she sent this letter and will be in touch with you. **E. Dear Erik,**

Thank you for forwarding on the email from Andrew Taylor at St Ivo Lounge its great to know that people read *The Reporter* as I find it very informative. I have no issue with the St Ivo Lounge at all as it is a very much needed smart addition to St Ives. Its just inconsiderate people who are parking on the double yellow lines when without a Blue Badge they are not really allowed and there is no deterrent.

Dear Erik,

Some of you may be aware my tenure as Town Clerk of St Ives Town Council unexpectedly came to an end the week before Christmas.

I would like to personally thank everyone who has supported me on my journey, including those I had the pleasure in meeting, chatting to and helping over my time as Town Clerk.

I held office with great pride and commitment to you all, and it is with sadness that I cannot continue the work I started. Over my time as Town Clerk, I have witnessed many historical moments with you all including the sadness at the passing of Her Majesty the Queen and the excitement of the Kings coronation and many more poignant events in the market place. St Ives will always remain a special place to me as one of the great towns in the county.

I would also like to express my sincere thanks to the amazing team old and new in the Town Hall, who work tirelessly and professionally behind the scenes. On a daily basis, they provided such a brilliant working environment, and I would urge you to continue to support them. I will certainly miss them. I would like to take this opportunity to wish the council all the best for the future and I am sure with the help and support of the residents, the town will continue to flourish. **Matthew Price**

Dear Erik,

Subject: Langley Bread

According to Issue 149 of *The Riverporter* on 15 December, the Corn Exchange [will be] up and running again in 2024.

However, you did not say that the Langley Bread distribution would be moving back there this year after previous Covid home deliveries. I, and I'm sure many others, sadly missed our chance of a share in this annual bounty. Please include the date in December this year for 2025. **Steve Puttick**

Dear Steve, we showed your letter to the Town Council, who organise the Langley Bread distribution, and they sent this response.

**Entries Invited for Our Next
Antiques & Interiors Sale**



Auction Sales Results from 2023

George Best 1967
Match
worn Manchester
United Jersey
Sold £16,700



2002 World Cup
winner's gold
medal
Sold £8000



Playboy v1
"Sweetheart of the
Month" Marilyn
Monroe.
Sold £2250



Large
Advertising
Shop display
Display tazza
Sold £2000



Kurt Jackson
b.1961 British
Artist Mixed
Media
entitled Priest
Cove
Sold £2200



Fine Ladies 18ct
Gold Diamond
Seven Stone
Diamond Ring
2.4ct total
Sold £2800



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



Tributes come in for cheerful Margaret

The Riverporter is sad to announce the death of Margaret Taylor who many will recall was a long term ACE (Action Corn Exchange) volunteer at the Corn Exchange and at Tookeys Cafe. Margaret died peacefully on Wednesday 17 January.



Ian Dobson from ACE wrote 'We will remember Margaret with great fondness, for her friendliness, her cheerfulness and her clear thinking. Margaret and John were pillars of strength at the Corn Exchange from the day it re-opened.

We can all remember how hard-working Margaret was when she ran the kitchen with her team so brilliantly well, raising thousands of pounds for ACE funds and creating a wonderful, cheerful community atmosphere. Our thoughts are with John, friends and family.'

Pat Clarke who was the manager of Tookeys Cafe when Margaret volunteered there said 'I knew Margaret as a very dear friend, a work colleague and a volunteer. I have probably known her for over 40 years. She was one of the kindest people you could ever wish to meet. She was a super volunteer and worked on a Thursday morning alongside Shirley Hammond. There was always a happy atmosphere when they were on duty. Margaret helped out whenever she could.

'She had friends all over the world. When she came back from a holiday, wherever she went, she always met someone that she knew! Over the past few months she had spent a lot of time in hospital, but was always cheerful and tell you she was 'getting there.'

She was a special friend to many and will be greatly missed!

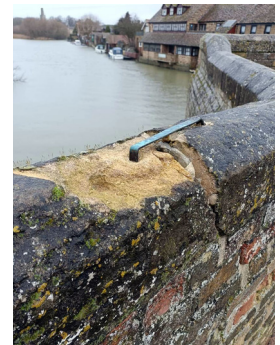
Margaret's funeral is on Tuesday 20th February at 1.15pm at Huntingdon Crematorium.

Who or what broke our bridge?

On Tuesday eagle eyed Erik noticed that our famous bridge had been damaged.

We contacted County Councillor Kevin to let him know as the County Council are responsible for it. He sent us this assessment from officers at CCC.

'Whilst it does stand out due to the sandstone I do not believe it to be anything other than a section that has either been pulled off or popped off due to the recent cold snap. [We] can see if it is worth carrying out a repair when we do the flood arches, or if we just let it weather and pick it up in a few years when a new pointing scheme is required. We wouldn't need HDC/Heritage England permission as it would be classed as maintenance work.'



Screen St Ives Community Cinema
Supported by BOONGATE KIA
Peterborough PE1 5UA, Tel: 01733 344344



PAST LIVES
Thursday 1 February 2024 at 7:30pm
Doors open 6:30pm. Tickets £7
Director: Celine Song, 106m, Cert: 12

Synopsis
Past Lives is a romantic drama film written and directed by **Celine Song** in her feature directorial debut. Starring **Greta Lee, Teo Yoo** and **John Magaro**, it follows two childhood friends over the course of 24 years while they contemplate the nature of their relationship as they grow apart, living different lives. The plot is semi-autobiographical inspired by events from **Celine Song's** life. Past Lives received five nominations at the Golden Globe Awards, including Best Motion Picture (Drama).



ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND (138m)
Sunday 11 February 2024 at 2:30pm
Doors open 1:30pm. Tickets £12

Synopsis
Christopher Wheeldon's Alice's Adventures in Wonderland burst onto the stage in 2011 in an explosion of colour, stage magic and inventive, sophisticated choreography. **Joby Talbot's** score combines contemporary sound worlds with sweeping melodies that gesture to ballet scores of the 19th century. **Bob Crowley's** wildly imaginative, eye-popping designs draw on everything from puppetry to projections to make Wonderland wonderfully real crisis.

Royal Ballet

Ticket at screenstives.org.uk or in the Corn Exchange

St Ives Community Choir Call for New Singers!

Mondays at 7:30pm - Methodist Church, St. Ives



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Rock, Pop and Musical Theatre songs ?

Would you like to meet new people?

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There are no auditions and you don't have to read music.

www.stivescommunitychoir.org