

The Riverporter

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

Northstowe marches on...

Will it be good or bad for St Ives?

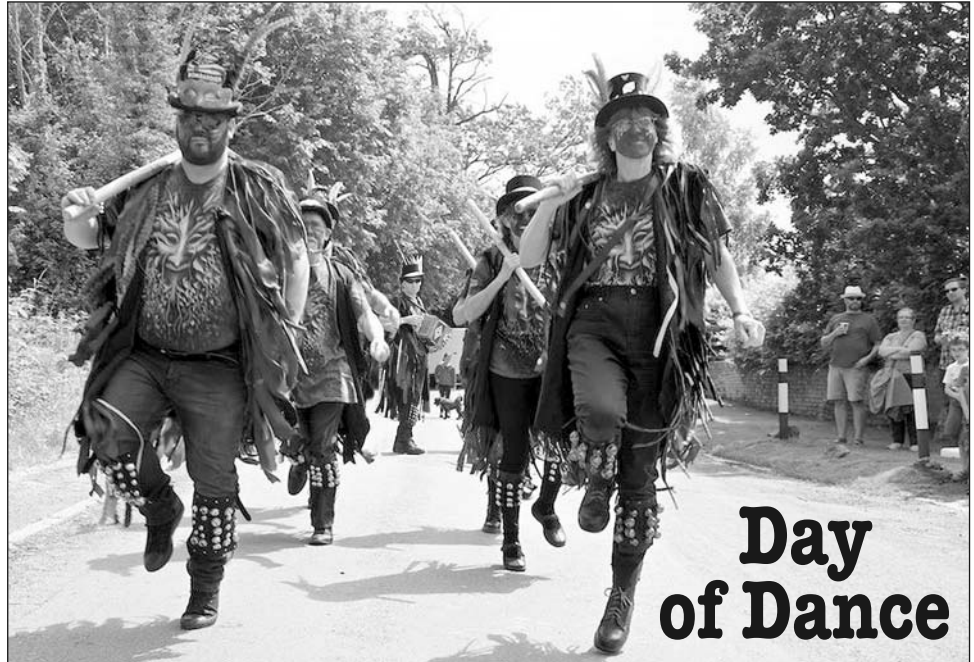
Further details of the plans for Northstowe have been released showing the 30 metre wide high street and the planned apartments and homes either side of the modern thoroughfare.

The first stage will see the development of the town gardens, market hall, civic hub and education campus. Stage two will introduce residential units and the third stage will create the high street.



Currently some 300 new homes have been built on the development but up to 10,000 are planned and it's expected that the final population will be larger than St Ives at 24,000. The governments housing agency, Homes England, claim that Northstowe is the biggest new UK town project since Milton Keynes. It's been pointed out that there was a similar plan for Milton Keynes in the 1960's, which now has a population of a quarter of a million. The proposed new town centre will have 500,000 sq ft of commercial and community space but the proposals aim to make the centre 'more than just retail' with a mix of leisure, cultural, employment and civic functions. The town centre will be developed in three stages, in the hope that Northstowe evolves as it develops.

The new town is being built on the site of the old RAF Oakington just south east of St Ives. What this all means for us in St Ives is unclear but a parallel could be drawn between Stevenage and Stevenage Old Town. In that case the Old Town has become a popular hub, with small shops, bars and restaurants. Could a new large population nearby be a renaissance for St Ives? Or could the huge boost of available new houses could be detrimental to our housing market? Over the next few years we will see major changes to public transport, roads and housing and it's therefore vital that we take a close interest in the St Ives Neighbourhood Plan, as this is no time to wait blindly to have change thrust upon us... But what do our *Riverporter* readers think? Write to Erik and let us know.



Day of Dance

St Ives will be ringing with the stamp of clogs, clash of sticks, jingle of bells and whoops and hollers next weekend as traditional dances are performed by three local sides (teams) on **Sunday 2 June**. The Town Team presents Sutton Masque (above), Coton Morris and Manor Mill Morris who will entertain the crowds with repertoires from the English-Welsh border, the Cotswolds and the North West – a dazzling range of styles and costumes that date back to the origins of 'olde England'.

The action starts around noon on *The Waits*, moves down to *Cromwell's Statue* and the *White Hart* in Market Hill around lunchtime, and finishes in style with a grand massed dance finale on *The Quay* late afternoon. **Come along and enjoy the fun, tap your feet and even give it a try! It's easy to get hooked.**

Terrified passengers flee guided bus



Fire crews were called to a major incident on Monday when a car hit a guided bus on the busway near Longstanton. The driver of the car was seriously injured by the collision and remains in hospital. A nearby witness to the incident said the car appeared to catch fire first and then flames very quickly spread to the bus and by the time three teams of firefighters had put out the fire both the bus and car were totally destroyed. We were informed that busway officials suggested passengers walk back to Swavesey, two-mile walk! All busway services were cancelled.



THE Chapel Arts Season 2019

An evening with Argentinian guitarist and singer

Federico Pecchia

Saturday 8th June 8pm

Doors open at 7.30pm

After a successful visit to the Chapel last November, Federico is again touring Europe and will be once more delighting us with his songs full of South American colour.

He is a young composer, singer and guitarist who can not only play a mean Tango but sings with passion. Federico has participated in various international campaigns and has composed songs for the Paralympic Games and the United Nations.

Please note: Some performances take place on the lower floor of the Chapel, which can only be accessed down a narrow flight of stairs. There are only 30 places available for each music concert and the doors open at 7.30pm for pre-concert refreshments.

Tickets cost £10 (include refreshments) and can be purchased from The Corn Exchange or on-line at www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives For details www.theoldriverportstives.co.uk



Darby & Joan Celebrate 71st Birthday

On Thursday 25th April St Ives Darby & Joan celebrated its 71st Birthday in the Corn Exchange. Members and invited guests were treated to lunch including a birthday cake.

Music was supplied by Tonica and much attention had been paid to the decoration of the tables with colourful cloths and flowers, raffle prized abounded and a great time was had by all.

Jan Dobson, from the Corn Exchange, was delighted to find out something of the clubs history -

'I was lucky enough to sit next to Joan Kelly, a former Secretary of the Club, whose memory of the early days was razor sharp, and I have since heard more about the founding of the Club from current Secretary Joyce Hookham and current Chairman Iris Smith.

I was able to read intriguing detail in meticulously written minute books dating back to the Club's inception in February 1948, based on the initiative by the WRVS after the war to find a means for people to meet in pleasant



surroundings for a friendly chat and a cup of tea. The first meeting in St Ives was held in March 1948, in the Free Church schoolroom (now the St Ives Bed Shop) with 7 signed up members. The Club's popularity increased with membership climbing to a massive 139 in 1949.

The format of the meetings has changed very little over the years, with members' birthdays still being

celebrated at every meeting. I am told that in the old days, all those with birthdays in the previous month would sit on the 'birthday' table, a practice no longer followed. Although members no longer sing 'Auld Lang Syne' after every meeting, music still features largely, with singing, occasional dancing, and much merriment.' Said Jan who wished Darby & Joan many more birthdays. Regular highlights of the year are the annual Birthday Party (normally held in March), the festive Christmas Party in December, the Harvest Festival in September and the hosting of the Haigh Draw for the Town Council. Speakers are invited to meetings during the year, which are always well attended by the 89 members of the Club. The Mayor has a standing invitation and the club welcomes new members with 6 joining in February, so if you are interested in joining come to the Corn Exchange on the last Thursday of the month just before 2 pm and introduce yourself.

7th St Ives Book jam

ACE are proud to present the 7th St Ives Book jam on Saturday 8th June at St Ives Corn Exchange. Amongst the many exciting workshop presenters are Matty Long and Elys Dolan.



Matty is an author and illustrator of picture books and children's fiction, graduated from the Children's Book

Illustration MA Course at the Cambridge School of Art in 2011. His first book, Super Happy Magic Forest won the Cambridgeshire Libraries' Read It Again! award in 2016. He likes to make books full of humour and with lots of detail to keep readers hooked on every page. He is excited to be a part of Book Jam again; a fantastic event that allows children to celebrate literature.



Elys Dolan is an author and illustrator of books for children. Elys makes books

about everything from seagull detectives, capitalist bunny rabbits, weasels plotting world domination to german goats and marauding doughnuts.

Along with her work as an author and illustrator Elys is a lecturer on the world renowned MA in Children's Book Illustration course at The Cambridge School of Art.

For more details of the day and the workshops go to our website - stivesbookjam.com.



Sun shines on Town Team events



Above: The new Town Mayor and Mayoress call in on the busy Flea on the Quay which will be held on the second Sunday of each month. Right: Ian Jackson rebukes a duck for taking his pitch!



Below: The Martin Kemp Trio enthrall a full house at the first Chapel Arts concert of the season.



Welcome to CALM Town

St Ives featured on a BBC Radio Cambridge documentary which interviewed local people trying to make St Ives the first mental health town in the UK.

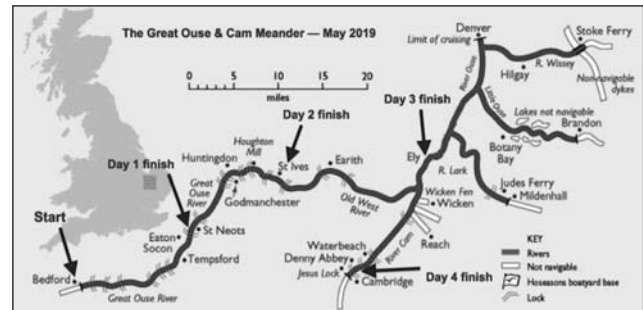
With contributions from ex-mayors Tim Drye and Phil Pope plus Reverend Matt Finch, who began the campaign, it was an impressive programme which you can listen to at - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0783f13>

Exhibition is a success

The Mayor of St Ives, Cllr Daniel Rowe (right), opened a ME/CFS Global Awareness exhibition at Time for Health in St Ives on the 12th May. This event was St Ives' contribution to the Global Missing Millions campaign for the sufferers with ME/CFS. The campaign held 'Visibility and Awareness' events all around the world. St Ives was up there next to San Francisco in the listings. The tolerant and caring attitudes of the people of our town make St Ives a safe haven for ME/CFS sufferers. It is estimated that there are about 250,000 Uk sufferers of this disease.

Skiff club to visit St Ives

Keep your eyes open for people in hooped sweaters, as members of the Skiff Club from Teddington navigate the river on Saturday evening and Sunday morning. Their Bank Holiday Meander will see them 'skiff' (skiff uses two oars and rowing is one oar) the 70 miles from Bedford to Cambridge via St Ives and Ely as their route map below shows.



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Erik and his mates are in for a shock
BEFORE **AFTER**



The St Ives Old Riverport

Flea on the Quay

The New Market Event here in beautiful St Ives
Collectables • Curious items • Crafts • Objet d'art • Antiques
10am to 2pm on 2nd Sunday of each month April to October



Dear Erik PAWS FOR THOUGHT

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

Dear Erik,

On 15th May I gave a talk on behalf of St Ives Town Team, to the Burwell Historical Society on the heritage and future of the 'Old Riverport' of St Ives. Part of it was about the heritage of the north European Hanseatic League. 700 years ago East Anglia was heavily reliant on a direct trade relationship, via Kings Lynn with Europe.

Strange how 'what goes around comes around!' **Professor Chris Lewis**

Dear Erik,

Please can you let people know about our **Heritage themed Coffee Morning** A coffee morning is to be held on Saturday 8th JUNE from 10 to 12 noon at St Ives Methodist Church for people to share their memories.

When the Methodist Church renovation work (Project 200) comes to an end the Church wants to publish a Book of its 200 year history. It is hoping that all those who were baptised or married, and relatives of those who have had funerals will come along to share memories and memorabilia. This includes those who attended services or the Sunday School in their youth. If you have memories to share please call in on Saturday 8th June between 10 and noon. **Mary Gatehouse**

Incident in Boots the Chemist

Earlier this week *The Riverporter* was approached by a distressed 83 year old lady who was shocked that while waiting for her prescription on Monday 20th May in Boots, in the Sheepmarket, a man, perhaps in his forties, rushed in and triggered an alarm on his phone and shouted frantically for everyone to leave the store.

Pharmacy staff immediately raised the alarm and police did attend the store shortly afterwards. *The Riverporter's* newshound Erik was at the store around the time of the incident but police would not comment further on the issue.

The following day the lady returned to Boots for her prescription and while there asked Boots staff what had happened.

She reported that she was answered very rudely with a refusal to discuss the incident. She said 'I don't think staff realised how much the incident shook me. I was very frightened and didn't know how to react.'

News shorts



Award for Ivo teacher

Rob Chambers, head of geography at St Ivo School, will be the recipient of one of only two Ordnance Survey Awards to be presented this year by

the Royal Geographical Society.

The society's award recognises 'extraordinary achievement' in geographical research, fieldwork, teaching, photography and public engagement. The award will be presented at a ceremony on June 3.

Royal visit

St Ives-based 42 Technology was visited by the Duke of Kent on May 14 to celebrate their success and 20th anniversary. The Duke was joined by Julie Spence, the Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, proving that some Royals are happy to visit the town that has the only statue to Cromwell paid for by public subscription.

10 year celebration

The Yorkshire Building Society celebrated 10 years of serving the market town by raising money for its charity partner by welcoming customers, shoppers and residents to take part in 'hook-a-duck'.

Refreshments were served as part of the event, which also doubled as a fundraiser for EYH - a national movement to end homelessness among 16-25 year-olds in the UK. Young people also benefit from dedicated support and financial advice in building the life skills and confidence they need to lead successful and independent lives. For more information, visit: www.ybs.co.uk/your-society.

Erik's favourite tree to be felled

Huntingdon District Council plan to fell the Horse Chestnut tree in Warners Park. Work was scheduled to start in the week beginning 20th May. A report by the Arboricultural Officer in 2011 stated it was a fine tree of great stature with no obvious defects of a very good quality for its age. Two recent reports have both confirmed that the trunk is decaying and it now poses a risk to park users.

COUNCIL & COMMUNITY NEWS

St Ives, Huntingdon and Ramsey to get masterplans

Stakeholders from St Ives gave their input on the long-term future of the district at a workshop hosted by Huntingdonshire District Council, in partnership with Metro Dynamics, and feedback from the meeting will be used to help draw up prospectuses for each of the towns. Cllr Fuller said they had brought together stakeholders from across the district to help in producing the masterplans, focussing on the individual needs of each town, and that the meeting had been 'incredibly successful'. The masterplan process, working with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, using specialist consultants, should help to secure increased investment and support our market towns in adapting.

Who thinks this is a good idea?

The Riverporter has learned that BT is offering communities the chance to adopt their local phone box for £1. Community groups across the East of England are being encouraged to do something inspirational with their phone boxes that are no longer used or have fallen into disrepair. BT say they will continue to provide electricity (if already in place), free of charge. Where electricity is available, adopted boxes can be used for defibrillators. Communities can adopt a kiosk if they are a recognised public body, such as a town council. Comment... So, if any of our town councillors are reading this, how about adopting the awful phone box near W H Smith in Market Hill? ... A prime site we would have thought!

Petition stops immediate closure

Members of St Ivo Racquets Club gathered 158 signatures from members and supporters, and presented the document to HDC councillors. The club was told on March 22 that the decision had been made to close the four courts and install a 'functional training facility' in its place.

The club is extremely concerned about the lack of a public consultation prior to this decision being made. Neither a sporting nor business case for this change of use has been made public yet. It was agreed that the proposal would be further considered at a meeting of HDC's overview and scrutiny panel on June 13, with representatives from the club invited to attend. There are falling trends in squash participation both nationally and locally, so options are being explored as to how we keep the St Ives Outdoor Centre most effective and efficient.

When I said I wanted to engage with stakeholders this was not what I had in mind!!



Summer Concert

St Ives Choral Society's summer concert on 8th June is inspired by America. Copland's Old American Songs are settings of American folk tunes collected in the 19th and early 20th centuries, including the famous Shaker melody 'Tis the gift to be simple'. The songs sung by African American slaves have inspired many composers in Britain and further afield.

Rutter's 'Feel the Spirit' brings together seven of those spirituals including 'When the Saints' and 'Joshua fit the Battle of Jericho', with the choir being joined by a soprano soloist.

Tickets £12 (£10 concessions) accompanied children under-16 free. Available online from www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-ives-choral-society and from the Fair Trade Shop in the Free Church, St Ives.

Musical Director Alison Daniels
Olga Elbourne Piano
Felicity Hayward Soprano

Songs of Old America

featuring
Copland Old American Songs,
Rutter Feel the Spirit
and other Spirituals

Get your tickets online at
www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-ives-choral-society

FREE CHURCH, ST IVES Saturday 8 June 2019 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. 591640

ST IVES TOWN COUNCIL

HORSE CHESTNUT TREE - WARNER'S PARK

SPECIALIST TESTS UNDERTAKEN ON THIS TREE RECENTLY REVEAL EXTENSIVE TRUNK DECAY POSING A SAFETY RISK TO PARK USERS.

IT IS LIKELY THAT THIS TREE WILL BE FELLED OR EXTENSIVE REMEDIAL WORK UNDERTAKEN WITHIN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS.

A REPLACEMENT HORSE CHESTNUT TREE WILL BE PLANTED IN THE AUTUMN.

If you have any queries please contact the Town Hall on 01480 388928



From Korea to St Ives to Wales

Doug called into the antique centre a few weeks ago and found some old magazines from the 1950's about the Korean War.

Doug had a friend who lived in Wales who he planned to visit the following week. He was delighted to find a present for his old friend who had fought in the Korean war as he felt he would really appreciate them.

While looking through them, his friend's wife spotted a photograph of her husband taken 'during the fighting.'



Hyperion Home and Antiques Centre offer the widest choice & variety in the area with over 25 independent dealers under one roof
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Riverport Pirates

Treasure Hunt

Half term fun event,

Thursday 30th May

£4 per child

Cruises leaving from the Quay to Nobles field:
10:15 am - 10.45 am - 11:15am - 11:45 am

Follow the clues back to town and raid the pirate treasure chest.

To book : Text : 07552 518334

or email: beccymorgan@btinternet.com



Gt-Ouse-St-Ives-Electric-Riverboat-Co



Screen St Ives

Doors open at 7.30pm 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.

Thursday 6th Jun 2019

Screen 2

POOL OF LONDON

Director: Basil Dearden

UK 1951 1h 25m



Set in and around the docks of post war London, this atmospheric noirish crime drama from Ealing Studios stars Earl Cameron as sailor Johnny Lambert who is unwittingly caught up in a smuggling racket. The film is notable for featuring the first interracial couple in British cinema.

ADVERTORIAL

ARE YOU IN A HURRY TO SELL?

Mike Ellis of Ellis Winters assesses the current housing market



Research from Rightmove has recently shown that a quarter of properties on their website have been listed for longer than six months and 8% have been there for more than a year.

To help improve your chances of selling and increase your property's appeal you could think about refitting the kitchen or bathroom or if finances are a little tight re-arrange the layout, re-decorate in neutral colours, give the place a good spring clean and don't forget a garden makeover.

If there are more serious or costly works required such as wiring, heating, rising damp

or a new roof, then it may be best to look at reducing the price to allow for those items.

Get your agent to make it clear on viewings that you have priced accordingly, so the buyer does not try to knock down the price again. Getting detailed feedback from every viewing and listening to your estate agent's advice will help you decide the best course of action.

The speed you want to sell your property should determine the price you ask for it. But if you do your research, price competitively and realistically, the odds of

selling rather than sitting on Rightmove for a year, are more likely to be in your favour.

If you'd like some information about selling your home call us on 01480 388 888 for an informal chat, it cost you nothing and our advice is free.

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