

The Riverporter

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

A good news story

Hi there everyone! Heidi here. As you can see I have been promoted to the front page with this tit-bit of a recent incident that we hope will raise your spirits.

The editor of this wonderful newspaper received a letter of concern from a Bridgefoot resident about our highly popular swan family with eight, yes eight, cygnets (see right).

Closely monitored from nesting and hatching on Holt Island the female now brings them back on to the main river each day when they delight many children, residents and visitors as they parade in line astern.

Disaster Strikes?

However, disaster seemed to strike when a rowing club four ploughed into them at the town bridge. The editor (such a lovely man) asked Heidi to investigate.

Well, I've never been shy in that department. The Captain of the

Rowing Club succumbed to my advances – he kindly explained that as the boat (steered by him) approached the bridge the cygnets in their brown juvenile plumage were in his blind spot and not visible against the water from his low position until the last second. Navigating the main arch is in any case quite difficult as the bridge is not directly in line with the river. The two birds closest to the boat promptly dived and despite the concerns of onlookers no other cygnets were hit.

Phew, close shave!

And Heidi can confirm that the family was all intact and proudly parading again that evening. What a relief.



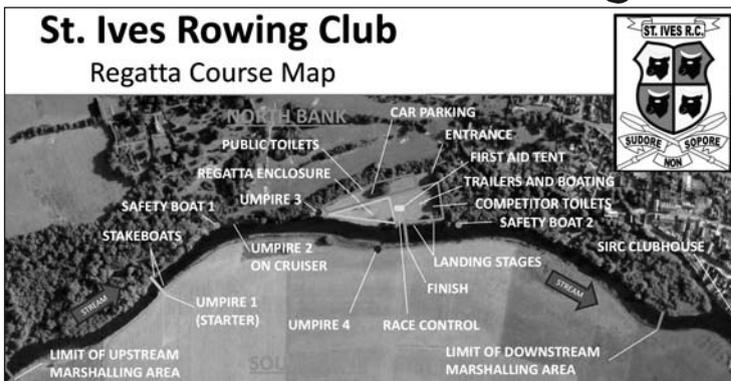
Photograph by Ian Jackson.

Our river is particularly busy with wildlife at this time of year. The Captain has confirmed that all rowers have been briefed to be especially vigilant. So there we have it – good news all round. Byeek! Heidi x

Summer season in full swing

This weekend you can enjoy the St Ives Regatta and Picnic in the Park - a sign that the summer season has started in earnest.

It's what St Ives has become renowned for in recent years. With a lot going on, there is something happening every weekend until the end of August.



Two 'Eights' competing at St Ives Regatta. This years event, being held this Saturday at Nobles Field, has 162 races starting at 8.30am and ending around 6.30pm. Photo by X-Copters Aerial Media.

Timetable agreed for buses to Morrisons

The County Council have at last confirmed that buses will be serving the Morrisons store from July 8th a full 16 months after the store opened in March 2018. Following comments from the Town Council the existing county supported services from Over (Route 15); Needingworth, Bluntisham (21); Fenstanton (1A); Hilton and Hemingfords (9) and Houghton (45A) will be extended and diverted to serve the store. The new timetables are on the Cambs County Council website, apart from Stagecoach's 22, the St Ives Town Service, the details of which will hopefully be available soon.

THIS SUNDAY

PICNIC IN THE PARK 2019 June 23rd
FREE ENTRY

WARNERS PARK ST IVES
12 noon to 6 pm

- Music with: Cambridge Youth Jazz Band, The Barefoot Doctors, Rock Choir, The Whats That Band?

- Beer Tent with real ale
- Food Stalls
- Free supervised sport and play sessions for children

Illuminated Boat Parade 7th September 2019

FEST is a not for profit voluntary group whose objectives are to organise and run events for the people of St Ives
www.stivesfest.org.uk



Mayor's Civic Parade



St Ives Mayor, Cllr Dan Rowe inspects the 'troops' last Sunday at the annual Civic Sunday Parade, following a service in the Parish Church. The RAF Wyton Area Voluntary Band led the parade.

The Riverporter was informed that the food served in the Corn Exchange after the parade to invited guest was excellent. Dan had ordered a Thai cuisine spread which seems to have got his diversity theme for the year off to a good start.

We're getting a new Toucan crossing!



And the amazing thing is that the construction company building the crossing are going to give us a new ALDI store at the same time. Last month HDC gave permission for the work to start on the new store development opposite Morrisons where the old Chicory factory stood.

Aldi has described the design of the new store as 'innovative and distinctive' and of high quality and preliminary work will start over the summer. Aldi have promised to keep St Ives residents informed on progress and say that up to 40 new jobs will be created. The new store plans show 126 car park spaces and they have ringfenced £172,000 to construct the Toucan crossing.

News from St Ives in Bloom

The judges from Anglia in Bloom are coming to St Ives on 10th July. Below is the timetable for the route they will take. A tremendous amount of hard work is done by SIIB members to try and win Gold (for a third year) and you too can help by making sure the whole of the town as good as it can be on the day.

9.30 The Norris Museum	11.45 Hill Rise Park
9.45 The Methodist Church car park	12.00 Planter on corner of Hill Rise
9.55 The Waits area	12.10 The Park and Ride
10.25 Holt Island	12.25 Bus Station
10.45 Westwood Rd. Cemetery	12.35 Free Church/Town Hall
11.05 Westfield School	12.40 Bridge St., Chapel and Quay
11.30 Kings Hedges	12.55 Lunch at the Corn Exchange



Above: Army Cadets working in Westwood Road Cemetery on their Community Day, 29th May, to care for the memorials of 8 people killed in World War 1.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

ERIK'S FISH?

ERIC'S FISH?



The Corn Exchange moves up a gear

St Ives is well known for its music scene with diverse genres and styles of music playing throughout the town from virtuoso performances in the Chapel Arts Season to Casa Vida at Floods, the town's Music Festival, this weekend's Picnic in the Park and of course the amazing Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival in September.

At the same time as we learn of potentially a new nightclub in town and the Corn Exchange too aims to stage high quality live music events that can compete with the best venues in Cambridgeshire.



Last month saw the award winning heavy rock band 'Powderhead' storm the building with an amazing performance. August will see the next presentation from local music promoters '3rd Rock' who will bring the band 'Strangers Knowmore' with two great supporting bands.

A fabulous floral display awaits you!

Stunning floral interpretations and displays will greet visitors attending this year's Hemingford Abbots Flower Festival on 29 and 30 June.

The beautiful Grade 1 St Margaret's Church will be brought to life when over 3,000 blooms, of all sorts of flowers and colours, are used in the creation of the theme for this year's Festival of 'And God Planted a Garden Eastward in Eden.'

Following almost 18 months of planning, developing themes and ideas and allocating the use of every single stem; the Flower Guild team of 28 members will decorate the church to wow visitors from the moment they enter the church via the Bell Tower.

Bridget Flanagan, Chair of the Flower Guild, said: 'I am always very proud of the team and amazed at the high standards that we achieve from a small village group. There's a lot of talent and love and it shows.'

She continues: 'This festival we will be looking at, and using, alternative ways to create the displays and reduce the amount of the old florist oasis used due to its poor green credentials. So where we can we will try to use other methods, and mechanics, to hold the flowers in place such as chicken wire and moss.'

In addition to the church and gardens, visitors can enjoy a fine display of historical cars, Morris Dancers outside the thatched village pub, river trips or just sit and relax with a traditional afternoon tea in beautiful surroundings listening to a brass band and watching the world go by.



Gardens are open from 12noon - 6pm. Costs :£8 per day programme or £13 for a weekend programme per person. Under 18s free of charge as is car parking.

The proceeds from this event will be put towards the maintenance and restoration of St Margaret's Church, Hemingford Abbots. For more information visit www.hemingfordabbots.org.uk

Celebrity Antiques Road Trip comes to Town

Hyperion's next Fine Art Sale will play host to the Celebrity Antiques Road Trip featuring experts David Harper & Louise Gostelow (below centre) who will be joined by Celebrities from Holby City - Rosie Marcel 'Jac Naylor' (below left) & Bob Barrett 'Sacha Levy' (right).



As well as auctioning the celebrities buys the sale, being held at 12.30pm on Saturday 29th June, will be a collection of over 150 Lots of Lladro from a one person collection plus a good collection of Ceramics.

It promises to be an interesting sale with lots of highs!



Hyperion Auctions

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



having your say ...

The Riverporter



Dear Erik PAWS FOR THOUGHT

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

Have you heard the Buzz?

For the last few weeks there have been less than subtle social media chatter about a new night club opening soon in St Ives. It appears that a local digital media firm have perhaps been circulating rumour to both test reaction and create interest in the new arrival. *The Riverporter* understands that the club is a reformation of the old 'Ice' club on Broadway and while the new operators are playing their cards very close to their chest it's been tipped to be open later in July. Work on the club has been underway for months with tight lipped builders working behind closed doors and *The Riverporter* noticed that no new license has been applied for. However it appears that the old club license is still current, even after being closed for so many years, and that license expires this August so we can expect more details any time now when a renewal application goes in.

Foal-de-Roll

A foal was rescued from a ditch in St Ives on June 11. Firefighters from Huntingdon and Cambridge were called to a field near Parsons Green, where they worked with a vet and members of the public to release the animal. After being released, the horse, left in the care of a local resident is recovering well.

It's that man again. Kenya!



The Riverporter makes it to Kenya with Colin.

Rumours around Dolphin

There has been much talk around town that the Dolphin has been sold again. We do know that the restaurant was available to be run as a separate concern and it would appear that discussions are underway on the sale of the hotel. When contacted by *The Riverporter* the paper was told that no sale has been agreed.

Parking problems continue

As the picture below shows even double yellow lines on a roundabout cannot deter some people. Having been mentioned as one of the town's main problems in the town centre by business owners in a recent survey, one would have hoped that this company would have led by example.



Bin and gone again!

'Well they are asking for it' said one town visitor watching workmen pull out a large commercial bin from the river at The Quayside. Local residents are starting to get fed up with the mess and disruption too. The commercial bin collection from Mick George in the Bridge Street area appears to require the local businesses, that are contracted to the Mick George service, to wheel their bins through the streets and leave them in a very long line on the town's picturesque Quayside right in front of our much photographed bridge. *Riverporter* readers may recall we ran a story recently where a bin had apparently fallen in the river. It appears that the culprits may be late night revellers who have their fun by pushing the bins into the river. On the previous occasion residents had worked together to fish the bin out but have now decided that the problem has gone too far and the rescue job is down to the company causing the problem. Our photo shows the latest event with Mick George employees struggling to recover the bin unfortunately most of the bins restaurant waste was either washed down river or can still be seen weeks later in the clear waters off the quayside (see right).

COUNCIL & COMMUNITY NEWS

It's sometimes better than telly!

Sadly Town Council meetings are not well attended by the public these days, that's unless your planning application is being discussed or you have a complaint to make. That's partly the fault of the meetings which, let's face it, can be lengthy and tedious, especially when discussing the problems of smelly toilets. However just occasionally one comes along that is interesting and last week's Town Council meeting was one of those.

Fancy twinning with Zimbabwe?

The meeting began with a presentation from District Councillor Patrick Kadewere and Felicia Munjaidi from the Zimbabwe Embassy who were informing the Town Council of an opportunity to twin with the town of Chinhoyi in Zimbabwe. Discussions have been ongoing with Huntingdon and Godmanchester for a while and the delegation is keen to involve St Ives with any links. Councillors will no doubt review the proposal but there is no indication yet of what might happen, although it does fit nicely into the mayors aims of celebrating diversity this year.



Patrick Kadewere (left) and Felicia Munjaidi (right) with Mayor Dan (centre right) in the Town Hall.

Anti-social behaviour in the town

The Riverporter's Ron Westrip, used the Public Participation item to inform councillors of the increasing anti-social behaviour, especially in the town centre. The level of drunkenness, abuse and incidents has escalated since the removal of the Public Spaces Protection Order. It has got so bad that residents have had meetings with the police, who are now hoping to get the notices back in place, which allows the police to take action on people drinking in the street, which seems to fuel the bad behaviour.

The notices were removed a while ago as there was no evidence of any problem, which is partly ironic as it seems the notices were effective in helping curtail the problem, that has now returned. Cllr Fuller stated that the notices are issued by HDC and he was sure that if the police had the evidence of a serious problem, the District's Licensing & Protection Committee would issue the order. Neighbourhood Police Sergeant, Alice Draper said she now had a large folder of 'incidents', so with luck St Ives will have the necessary Public Orders in place.

Unintentional consequences?

Item C46 on the Council agenda was certainly contentious. The motion put forward by ex-Mayor Tim Drye included the following request 'that the Town Council members and directors of the Corn Exchange CIC provide this council with a report by the September meeting at the latest, on the way that the Corn Exchange pricing policies have been implemented over the past four years. In particular, the report should include how the pricing policy has been implemented when the facilities are provided to organisations with a link to CIC members, directors and staff compared to those without some contact'.

Even before the debate began on the issue, Colin Saunderson, who used to do the accounts for the CIC, used the public participation slot to state how unhappy he was with the inference in the motion of biased pricing. Cllr Luter called a point of order, stating that legal advice he had received indicated that the motion's wording might be construed as libelous and the motion should be struck off. However no councillors supported this amendment and eventually the debate took place.

Cllr Drye said that he didn't intend for it to be particularly contentious and hoped that the CIC, like public bodies, would welcome transparency of its operations. Cllr Drye said that he was addressing things said to him whilst he was Mayor and felt his job as a councillor was to address the electorate's concerns. Eventually the motion was seconded by Cllr Dibben and passed by a majority vote.

[There is no doubt that the motion did imply that there could be irregularities in booking charges for the Corn Exchange, whether intended or not. *The Riverporter* sought the views of the CIC but as they have not been contacted by the Council, they were unable to comment.

It does seem strange to us at *The Riverporter* that the Town Council, which has two councillors as CIC Directors, and as all councillors can attend the CIC meetings, that issues of this kind weren't raised at CIC meetings. The CIC was set up by the Town Council in the first place as an independent body, presumably partly to prevent political interference, and this request could be ignored if so desired.

As the CIC is run by community minded volunteers that is unlikely to happen, although it will take considerable time to analyse four years of paperwork and like any commercial operation such details could be considered too sensitive to be in the public domain. After all would you want your payment details to be public knowledge if you booked the Corn Exchange? Ed.]

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Afternoon Tea on Saturdays 2pm-4pm
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or Pop in to see us at 7 King's Hedges, St. Ives
(between Jonquil and Lloyds Pharmacy)

Open Monday-Friday 8am-5:30pm,
Saturday 8am-4pm and Sunday 10:30am-2pm



Bringing people together through film

Following the success of their first 'A Classic Film in the Afternoon' screening, popular community cinema SCREEN ST IVES in collaboration with CARE NETWORK are pleased to announce that they will be showing the delightful British comedy Genevieve on Wednesday 10 July at 1:30pm.

Both Screen St Ives and Care Network

After enjoying the film together, there will be the chance to join in an informal chat over free refreshments. It's a chance for a break from the routine, to enjoy a great film and meet new people. And what's more, tickets are only a fiver.

Genevieve, made in 1953, stars Kenneth Moore, Dinah Sheridan, John Gregson, and Kay Kendall, two couples who are competing in the annual London to Brighton antique car rally.

A glorious highlight of fifties British cinema

Feedback from the first event included:

'Great community project with wonderful social interaction'; 'Would love there to be more of these screenings'; 'What a great film.'



Cambridgeshire work to bring people together through shared activities in a relaxed, friendly, and safe space.

This will be a warm and relaxed screening in the Burgess Room at the St Ives Corn Exchange.

The venue has disabled access.

Doors open at 1:00pm for a 1:30pm start.

Tickets are available online and at the Corn Exchange, St Ives in advance. Seating is very limited so advance booking is advised.

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 4th Jul 2019

Screen 2

LADY BIRD

Director: Greta Gerwig

USA 2017 1h 34m



You will love this witty coming of age comedy drama starring the brilliant Saoirse Ronan as the troubled but endearing Lady Bird. She's 17, desperate to break free and yet afraid of what the future might bring. Greta Gerwig's light-touch directing makes Lady Bird a must-see film.

ADVERTORIAL

THE KEY TO HAPPINESS

Mike Ellis of Ellis Winters assesses the current housing market



A recent article by Zoopla has suggested that owning a property could be the key to happiness, with homeowners reporting a greater sense of well-being and higher levels of life satisfaction than tenants.

With employment levels at record highs and those listed as employed leading the way when it comes to home ownership, its hoped that with the buying incentive the government has put in place and cheaper mortgage rates that more tenants will take the plunge and look to buy properties of their own and enjoy the same uplift in life satisfaction.

At elliswinters&co we've certainly seen a rise in the number or appointments our cost of moving advisor has been conducting since the start of the year.

Home ownership was of course only one of the factors that made people happy - unsurprisingly, people's health and their age also played a part, with younger people reporting high levels of life satisfaction, which fell away in middle age but then went up again in their later years.

The article also suggested that people spending their money on experiences like eating out or going on holiday rather

than household bills and food made a difference to their happiness as well as being in a stable relationship.

So, if you want to know the key to happiness, buy a house, go on holiday, stay healthy, get a partner and stay young!

If you would like some help or advice concerning house purchasing, please contact any member of our experienced team on 01480 388 888.



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