

The Riverporter

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

Well here we are already with the fourth issue of *The Riverporter* and we can report it seems to be pretty popular from the compliments we have received. As we said in the first issue, 'our aim is to keep you better informed of what is going on and although we may be controversial at times, we will endeavour to give you accurate facts and information with the occasional touch of humour'.

Therefore we have to amend the information we gave you about the Town Meeting being held this **Saturday 3rd March in the Corn Exchange**. We reported that the Town Council have changed the format for the Town Meeting in an attempt to increase public participation, which is indeed true. We also said that residents will have the opportunity to question Councillors, the Police and even the Police & Crime Commissioner, but sadly this may be only partially true.

No Shows

Despite being invited it appears that some District and County Councillors have indicated that they may not attend, much to the disappointment of the Town Councillors who have made an effort to improve the meeting and make it more effective.

St Ives District Councillor and Police and Crime Commissioner, Jason Ablewhite has indicated that he will not be there, so unfortunately we will not be able to ask him how many of the new police officers that we'll be paying for will come to St Ives.

The good news is that many groups and organisations are attending - 18 at the last count (listed below) and we must praise them for supporting the event.

This is the strength of St Ives, where so many groups work hard to do important things that make life here so much better. I hope their efforts aren't wasted by the lack of interest from the 'No Shows'.

Take the chance to have your say

Following the Community Fair and café, which is open from 4 pm, the Town Meeting will start at 6pm. We understand that the Mayor and the Committee Chairs will report on their work over the last 12 months and their plans for the year ahead and that there will be a 'Question Time' session hosted by Ed Goodman with the Mayor, the Town Clerk and Sergeant Street from Cambridgeshire Police answering your questions.

Following this the bar will be open when you will have the opportunity to ask further questions of the Councillors and Community Groups present, over a drink.

The Riverporter encourages you to come and make your feelings known and we hope that we are wrong and that our next issue will report on a lively meeting, which all St Ives councillors attended. Although organised by the Town Council this is a Town Meeting for everyone connected with St Ives and we feel it is not too much to ask all our councillors to meet the public once a year.

Those organisations attending are:

Huntingdon Volunteer Centre, St Ives In Bloom, Acorn Cancer Support, Cambridgeshire Police, Riverport WI, Action Corn Exchange (ACE), St Ives Neighbourhood Cares, Friends of Holt Island, Magpas, Screen St Ives, Civic Society of St Ives, RSPB, Macmillan, Tookey's Coffee Shop, St Ives Dementia Friendly Community Steering Group, St Ives Town Team, Festival Events St Ives (FEST) and Cambridge Classic Car Club.

HOW TO GET YOUR COPY

Several people have asked us where they can get a copy of *The Riverporter*. Fortunately there are quite a lot of places you can pick up your FREE copy. Of course we hope that most of you will read it and pass it on.

Copies are regularly available to read in most pubs, cafés and many shops. They are also available from the Corn Exchange, the Library and the following newsagents; W H Smiths, Mace, Kings Hedges Post Office and Whateleys Newsagents at Constable Road.

If you can't get hold of a copy in your area, please let us know, and we can inform you of the nearest place to pick one up.



New Town Car Park?



The celebration of a special St Ivian

The evening of Saturday 10th March will be a special one for St Ives as the Town Team commemorate the life of **MILES JEFFREY DAY** - a remarkable poet and Flying Ace.

Young Jeffrey (left), as he preferred being called, grew up in Rheola (right), when it was a private house, long before it became the care home we know today.

Like many young men of the time, Jeffrey readily enlisted to fight in the First World War but unlike most he joined the Royal Navy Air Service becoming a pilot.

Although life in the trenches was terrible, being a pilot was even more dangerous, pilots days were literally numbered. At the end of 1916, a pilot's average life expectancy was just 18 hours in the air.

Jeffrey turned out to be a gifted pilot and lasted longer than most. His time of warfare clearly affected him, as did his friendship with poet and MP Hilton Young.

Jeffrey's letters to Young and his poems capture the unique experiences of those early pilots and tells us about Jeffrey's love of his home, the river and the Fenland landscape.

With readings, correspondence, and fascinating archive films and photographs this one-off performance will be entertaining and informative.

An evening not to be missed.

PRODUCED IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE NORRIS MUSEUM AND SPONSORED BY LEEDS DAY SOLICITORS

**St Ives Corn Exchange
Saturday 10 March
7.30 pm Tickets £15**

Tickets are limited. To ensure your place please purchase your tickets from The Corn Exchange or on-line at www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives



HUNTINGDON MALE VOICE CHOIR

present a Concert in aid of the Ladybird Boat Trust on
Sunday 25th March 2018 at 2.30pm.



The concert will be in the Free Church, St. Ives.

Tickets are available from <http://www.hmvc.org.uk/>
'Just Sharing' in the church or Hugh on 07941440370.

Award winning Huntingdon Male Voice Choir, originally formed in 1962, has a membership of over fifty men. Their repertoire has wide appeal and the concert this evening will include classics and more modern arrangements. The concert will be fun and the Choir look forward to entertaining you with their guests Tapestry.



Ladybird Boat Trust

The Ladybird Boat Trust was set up in 2013 and is based at Hartford Marina near Huntingdon. You might have seen the boat Ladybird moored on The Waits in St Ives where the pathway is raised to allow wheelchair access to boats.

The vessel Ladybird is wheelchair accessible and accommodates up to 20 passengers in a large heated cabin complete with kitchen and wheelchair accessible toilet facilities.

The open foredeck area enables passengers to enjoy to the full the magnificent scenery and wildlife on the river.

The service operates from mid April to early October and is crewed by a Boatmaster and trained crew, all of whom are volunteers who give up their time and skills to run over 100 trips each year.

A typical trip is between 10am and 3pm, and is either upstream towards Godmanchester and Brampton, or down to the Hemingfords and St Ives.

Trips are open to groups of the disadvantaged or disabled, young or elderly (and their carers) based within reasonable road travel distance from our base on the Great Ouse near Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire. Many groups return year after year and the annual boat trip is a highlight in their year.

In 2017 The Trust welcomed 130 groups carrying 1850 passengers, including Specialist Groups, Care Homes, Day Centres and Friendship Groups. The Trust works hard to cover the £15,000 annual running costs and is fortunate to have generous donors who continue to support its activities. If passengers are able to make a donation themselves it is always very gratefully received.



Damage to closed cemetery causes distress

As many readers will know, there are two 'closed' cemeteries in St Ives, one in Broad Leas and one at the end of Westwood Road, and the committee of St Ives in Bloom is concerned to help the council maintain them as pleasant and peaceful open spaces within the town. There has been a lot of new planting done in recent years at Westwood Road, and so it was with great distress that St Ives In Bloom volunteers saw, after the January storms, that a van had ridden over the verge, through the hedging plants and across the newly planted daffodils to sort out a fallen tree from a nearby garden.

It is a testament to the positivity and commitment of our volunteers that within the (very cold!) month, all the fallen branches have already been cleared from the wildflower area, the wheel ruts have been filled in, and the hedging plants replaced. Well done and thank you to all our volunteers!

Would you like to join the friendly St Ives in Bloom volunteer team this spring and summer? You don't have to make a regular commitment: they will add you to their volunteer list, then let you know when work parties are on - and you just go along and join in if you can make it!

Get in touch at siibinfo@gmail.com or via the Town Hall, or go to the website or facebook page for more details.



Above St Ives in Bloom volunteers a few months back in autumn 2017.

Left A surviving daffodil in front of the new hedge.

having your say ...



Dear Erik PAWS FOR THOUGHT

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

Keeping an eye on local matters

I noticed today an article in a national newspaper warning that local elections coming up in just a couple of months are likely to be fought on national issues.

This publication has no political leaning and would want everyone to have their fair shout, but let's all think about this. The outcome of the St Ives town council elections will have zero effect on Brexit, (Unless Herr Juncker is proposing a hard border between us and Huntingdon) but can influence our town councillors views on local policing, schools and the many amazing local organisations that give up their time to promote and support our great town.

So, when we start to get the inevitable flurry of election leaflets coming through our doors let's take a moment to check them out, consider 'what's best for St Ives?' and not waste a vote taking a shot at national politicians who probably think we're in Cornwall anyway... Just saying! **ERIK**

The Riverporter



Morrisons launch day

Sniffing around again Erik has had it confirmed that our new St Ives Morrisons will open on Thursday 8th March, both the supermarket and the petrol station.

Erik understands that the staff are all trained and raring to go and he's sure all you shoppers are eager to go and see what's on offer... For Erik's part he does enjoy a nice dog biscuit, so donations are always gratefully received and I'm sure his mates at the Ollie will provide safe storage. **Ed**



COPE

"Cambridgeshire Older People's Enterprise" Forum

Local Charity has National Impact

COPE (Cambridgeshire Older People's Enterprise), a Cambridge charity, which came out of the 'ashes' of The Phoenix group, set up to support the over 50s, has achieved much since its inception just 18 years ago. With Cambridge Councils support, COPE's main aim was to speak up for the older person in Cambridge, acting as a 'Sign Post', directing members to the right place to get information and or help.

It ran County wide campaigns, such as the Free Bus Pass, which spread first to the whole County and is now available throughout the Country. Similarly COPE took on the banks when they wanted to stop issuing cheques and after gathering 1,000s of signatures, presented them to Downing Street causing the scheme to be withdrawn.

There is now a Huntingdonshire unit arranging its own events, lunches, coach trips and meetings with speakers and they are keen to hear from people in the area who could benefit from COPE's work.

If interested please contact Gerald Collins at 22 Falcon Drive, Hartford, Huntingdon, Cambs. PE29 1LP. Tel: 01480 370808 email: gerald.collins1@ntlworld.com

To the editor

It is with interest that I am reading your newspaper.

I read the article, with picture, in issue 1 about Riverport Bitter being available at the Swan & Angel. This shows that Wetherspoons will serve anyone! Only joking!

I think it (the Swan & Angel) is an asset to the town. I often see young families going in for a meal & drink.

I wish you all the best with your paper.

Regards

Andy Huxford



ARE YOU LOOKING

FOR SOMETHING NEW TO DO THIS YEAR?

Do you want to:

- Meet new friends living near you?
- Take a refreshing break from your everyday routine?
- Share a skill or specialism?
- Make a difference to the lives of girls in your community?
- Spend time laughing, playing and being inspired by incredible girls and young women?

Then Girlguiding St Ives needs YOU!

Working with young people and other volunteers helps develop valuable, transferable skills like event planning, time management, leadership skills and budgeting, plus it makes your CV stand out from the crowd!

We have opportunities for volunteers in Fenstanton, Hemingford Abbots and within St Ives town itself. In particular we are looking for volunteers who would be keen to volunteer with Rainbows (girls aged 5-7) or Brownies (girls aged 7-10). We are looking for volunteers for both Fenstanton Rainbows and Brownies who meet on a Wednesday, for Hemingford Brownies who meet on a Monday evening and for St Ives Rainbows who meet on a Tuesday evening. All units meet during term time and desperately need to find some volunteers who would be interested in leading these vibrant units otherwise the units will close!

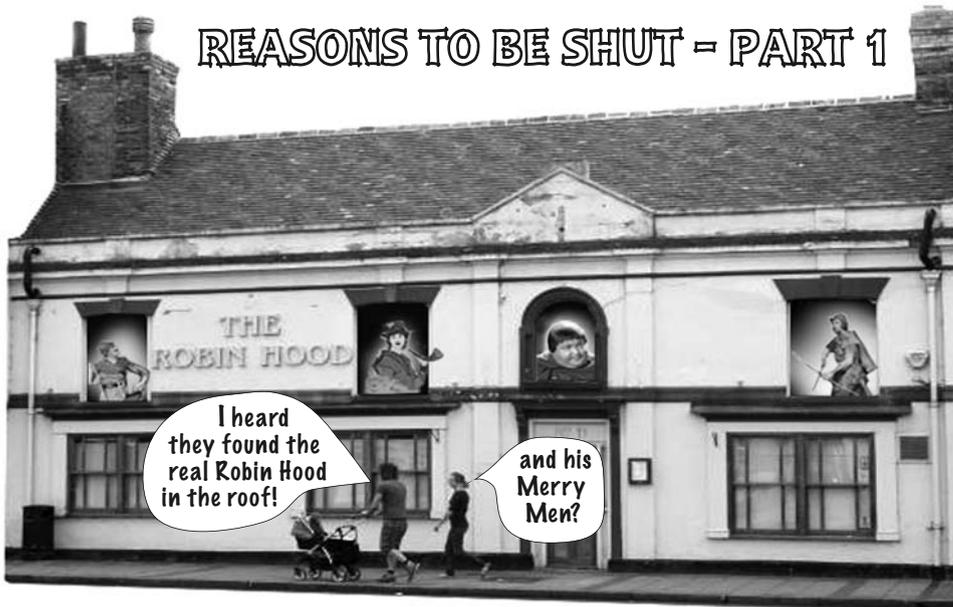
For more information please email

papworthguides@gmail.com or to register your interest please do so at this address:
<https://go.girlguiding.org.uk/join-us/join-as-volunteer/>

Did you know that there are over 70,000 girls on Girlguiding waiting lists across the country waiting for someone just like you to volunteer?

So why not give us a try!

REASONS TO BE SHUT - PART 1





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LET'S GO AND FEED THE DUCKS!

From our environmental correspondent . . .
Heidi N. D'Tries

Wait! *What's up, it's the most natural thing in the world, right?* Wrong! The kids may love it, the birds may appear to love it but chucking slices of white bread into the river and up into the air, and pouring bags of seed onto The Quay is the worst thing you can do.

Why? Well for one thing there is no real nutritional value in white bread. It simply acts as a 'filler' and causes serious vitamin deficiencies in birds. It can prevent proper development and cause death. And food left on The Quay, along with droppings from gulls and swans, is a health hazard and especially for children.

Yuk! Exactly.

So what can we do? Well, nobody wants to spoil the fun. Think about the food birds eat naturally. Don't feed them 'people food'. Feed them waterfowl feed pellets (not expensive), use shredded kale, chard, lettuce, grains – wheat barley and oats - seedless grapes halved. Feed little and often and don't leave any on the ground. Visit

www.greenplanet.org for more advice.

What's the Council doing about this?

Our moles tell us that after research, signs are planned for The Quay and The Waits that should look something like this.

So there you have it. Now you can go feed the ducks! Have fun, byeeee! Heidi x

FEEDING US!



A PLEA FROM THE DUCKS

If you are going to feed us bread or biscuits please don't. It is not our natural food and it makes us sick. Instead try these foods.

- Feed pellets from the shops
- Cut up lettuce or seeds

Please throw it in the water. If you leave it on the ground it makes a mess and could make you sick!
Thank for feeding us responsibly.




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ADVERTORIAL

How to save a deposit for your first home

Mike Ellis of Ellis Winters gives some tips on saving a deposit for your first home.



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One of the biggest challenges to taking a step onto the property ladder is the deposit. With property prices high even saving for a 5% deposit can seem a daunting task

Here are some top tips to help start you on your campaign to turn your pennies into pounds:

A realistic monthly saving plan to start the wheels in motion. There is a lot to be said for initiating the 'saving'! and there is no better way to start than a regular monthly plan.

How much to save. There are plenty of free online budget templates you can download which will help you to assess your finances. This is a great time to trim your outgoings! You would be surprised how much you spend on small

items. Start this process by reviewing your previous months spend to avoid forgetting or being too optimistic.

Try to avoid being too optimistic by overestimating the amount you can set aside each month. Settle on a minimum figure and, if you have an extra good month, you can always transfer some extra pounds into your savings account.

Before you choose an account, do some research as interest rates can vary. Since saving for a deposit is a long-term goal, it may be that an account which gives you better interest rates, but does not allow you instant access is more appropriate.

Also remember that a savings account is not for life:

periodically assess whether moving your savings could be more beneficial.

Talk to an independent financial advisor before you start to save. Very often spending double the time to save a larger deposit is not cost effective. You may pay a slighter higher interest rate with a smaller deposit but if house prices increase by 5% per year the £150,000 home you are aiming for will be over £165,000 in two years' time!



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