

The Riverporter

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

Amazing Election Result ERIK elected Mayor!

Following a heated Election campaign, voters eventually saw sense and voted to make ERIK Mayor of St Ives.

A total shock to the cat community whose candidate, Alley Cat, was heard saying it was a fix!

Pictured right, ERIK was getting the feel for wearing a silly hat and sitting in the Big Chair in front of the Big Table in the Council Chamber.



See real results on page 3

Motorbike Festival LEAVES TOWN CENTRE

Organisers of the St Ives Festival of Motorcycles have decided to relocate this year's event to Johnsons Farm in Oldhurst. The Festival has grown every year since its inception in 2014 and the organisers have donated over £20,000 to its two charities, MAGPAS and The Poppy Appeal.

Speculation has been aired about the reasons for the change of venue and it was front page news in the Hunts Post this week but, as usual, *The Riverporter* has the 'inside' story.

The Festival Chairman issued a statement saying: 'With an attendance of 10,000 visitors we have become a victim of our own success. With the space being limited in town plus being able to meet the cost of providing all of the health and safety requirements... we would have to start charging an entry fee. This is something we really wanted to avoid... as for the Town Council, we would not be here without their support.'

It isn't surprising that the Festival has had to move, due to the numbers attending, but there are several reasons why it has happened so late in the day.

The Riverporter is aware that last year's event upset many residents, as the noise created took them unawares and lasted many hours, causing severe distress to some elderly people. Putting on a noisy event of this kind, especially in a confined town centre, near homes and with machines full of flammable liquid requires that health and safety measures are strictly followed which includes notifying all residents well in advance.

This failed to happen last year and many of the safety measures were not followed. Rumours emerged as to why the Festival left town, ranging from the



Where would the buses go?

result of a petition by retailers or that it was the fault of the Town Council. Neither of which seem true, as the statement from the organisers made clear, but this confusion largely came about because of an 'unfortunate' notice issued by St Ives Town Clerk, Alison Benfield.

The notice stated that virtually the whole town centre would be shut to traffic from 5pm Friday 29 June to 6pm Sunday 1 July for A Freedom Parade (see map left) but failed to mention the Festival of Motorcycles.

This naturally upset many of the traders, who signed a petition complaining that a total road closure on a Saturday could severely affect their

businesses at a time when they are already under pressure due to much lower footfall in the town (see future article in *The Riverporter*).

Although the Town Clerk said they wanted to work with retailers, the letter sent out was a 'fait au complet'. Discussions could have happened long before, as the Freedom Parade was decided months ago, avoiding upsetting traders and possibly helping to keep the St Ives Festival of Motorcycles here. The Freedom Parade is expected to attract between 4,000 and 6,000 people to the town and the road closures will be different, only affecting Saturday now. The Parade sees the Town Council presenting the Freedom of the Town to the Royal Engineers in the morning, with stalls and entertainment in the afternoon.

ST IVES TOWN TEAM PRESENTS



An evening with Dickie de Vere & the Dorchester Mavericks Friday 25th May 7.30pm for 8pm

The very finest in light musical entertainment, playing a toe-tapping selection of your favourite melodies from the 20s and 30s.

'Your music is splendid but your trousers are splendider'

Tickets £10 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives or The Corn Exchange

The evening starts with complimentary refreshments courtesy of Waitrose and Morrisons. Performances are on the lower floor of the Chapel, only accessed by a narrow flight of stairs.

IN THE CHAPEL ON THE BRIDGE

PART OF THE Chapel Arts Season 2018

For details of each event go to: www.theoldriverportstives.co.uk

THE GREAT HOLT ISLAND FISH DRAMA!

From our environmental correspondent Heidi N. D'Tries

Well, the river rose, flooded our beautiful, award-winning nature reserve on Holt Island, and then dropped quite quickly. All OK? Actually no. Walking round to check things, the Friends were perplexed to hear and see hundreds of fish thrashing around under the boardwalk, obviously in distress. Led by former angler Nigel Sprowell wielding his trusty landing net a rescue was launched and over 400 fish were saved.



Heidi on the boardwalk with one of the larger fish rescued?!

They included Roach, Rudd, Dace and Perch, plus an Eel - and some of them were of reasonable size (to an angler!).

So what had caused this near catastrophe? The fish were probably massed together sheltering from the fast current in the margins of the island. They may even have been spawning in the backwater. After being swept onto the island they became stranded by the rapid drop in level as the flood subsided and then suffered from lack of oxygen.

So it's 'Hats Off' to Nigel, St Ives Fish Hero and his helpers for quick and effective action. We need the fish to feed the Grebes, Herons, Kingfishers, Terns and Cormorants and cheer up the anglers. I'm not sure about the Seals though! Who'd have thought I'd be writing a fishy story for you?

Byeee! Heidi x

Diamond Geezer Arrested

A Rushden & Diamond supporter was arrested on Saturday 21st April following incidents at the Town football ground, where Cambridge City were playing their last home game. It is believed that these 'supporters' were responsible for rowdy behaviour on The Quay earlier in the day.



The police are keen to hear of any incidents of anti-social behaviour, particularly where alcohol is concerned. It was clearly a day's drinking that led to the frightening scenes at the football ground and the arrest.

Half-terms blues?



Dinomania!

At Holt Island Nature Reserve and The Norris Museum
Tues 29th May—11am to 3pm—free to drop in!
A herd of dinosaur activities complete your passport to earn a prize

Here's the answer. Bring the kids on to the Holt Island Nature Reserve or in to the Norris Museum garden. Let them loose and find a nice spot to relax for a couple of hours. The theme this year is dinosaurs - activities, projects, things to make - that should do it!

Screen St Ives

An independent community cinema in the Corn Exchange
Films are screened on the third Friday of each month in the main hall (Screen 1) and on the first Thursday in the month in the upstairs Tony Burgess Room (Screen 2).

Doors open at 7.30pm for all Screen St Ives shows 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.

Screen 1: Fri 18 May: The Beat That My Heart Skipped 15

Directed by Jacques Audiard. France 2005 108 mins.



A young man involved in crime realises that he needs to change his life when a chance encounter reignites his passion for music. His chance to become a concert pianist becomes an obsession until

a murder stops him in his tracks. How will he react?

Something wonderful is happening here

St Ives is one of the first Dementia Friendly towns in the region thanks to a small band of dedicated people, one of whom is Kim Hall.

Kim has played a huge part in developing the Love to Move programme, so that it can help more people living with dementia. She also has incredibly inspirational story. 'My Mum was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2000. My dad was also diagnosed with dementia in 2011. Sadly he passed away the week the programme was planned to start. He was very excited about it and would've loved it. I learnt a lot from caring for him. He had a passion for music, which has very much shaped the way the programme has developed.'

Kim's personal experience gives her an understanding and insight into how dementia affects the everyday lives of people and families affected by the condition. 'People have problems communicating: some people can't find the right words to express what they're trying to say. Basic things like eating and drinking become a major issue. It's very difficult visiting my Mum. Each time I see her it's like a bereavement. She hasn't known me for about 3 years, but I can help others.'

And Kim is doing exactly that.

Dementia steals loved ones, lives and memories; but it doesn't have to be this way...

The Love to Move Programme is an age and dementia friendly seated gymnastics programme which is transforming the lives of people living with dementia.

'I thought the programme would, at best, just be able to slow down the rate of dementia progressing, but I am actually finding that some participants appear to be regaining functions which were thought to be lost' said Kim. 'At some point in your life, you will probably all have done patting your head whilst rubbing your tummy; these types of actions are all bilaterally asymmetrical. If you draw an imaginary line down the centre of your body from head to toe (the body's mid-line), the actions you create on the left side of your body will be different to the right side of your body.'

Almost every part of the Love to Move programme is based on bilaterally asymmetrical movement patterns. This is understood to benefit older people and those with dementia by enabling the left side and right side of the brain to process information independently, thus improving cognitive function, coordination and the ability to carry out daily activities.

Three Monday mornings, from 10am to 12 noon each month, Kim does sessions at the Crossways Christian Centre for people living with dementia and their carers.

For information call 01480 891984 or email: sam.c@britishgymnasticsfoundation.org



RAF Wyton Voluntary Band will be playing in the Free Church St Ives on Saturday 16th June 2018 at 7.30pm.

The concert is to raise funds for the Royal British Legion and Guiding and Scouting in Hilton and Fenstanton. The tickets will be £10.00 and available from the 'Just Sharing' Shop within the Free Church. The price includes light refreshments, but there will be an opportunity to give a donation, there will also be a raffle. For more details call: Julie Briggs 01480 830580 or Margaret Shardlow on 01480 831 186.

NOW THE LOCAL ELECTIONS ARE OVER... WHO WILL WIN the LOCAL GARDEN COMPETITION?

St Ives in Bloom are again running a local garden competition - please do go and collect an entry form from the Corn Exchange, the Town Hall, the Library or the Post Offices at Kings Hedges or Constable Road, and read up all the details. The closing date is on June 4th, and judging will take place during the following week.

In contrast to the elections, the garden competition can have as many gold awards as there are gardeners who enter - with many others making the grade to reach a silver, bronze or highly commended award. The judges are interested in sharing gardening chat and discussing how to improve all our gardens in St Ives. The awards ceremony in July is a chance for like-minded people to get together and get gardening ideas from the photos.

So, if gardening is your thing, please do get involved. Last year we had a record number of residents, businesses, pubs and hotels enter the competition and also a record number of winners. The prizes are gardening vouchers donated by local garden centres: Wyevale Garden



Centre in Wyton, Parkhall Garden Centre in Somersham and Cranbrook Plants in Colne.

If you fancy some company when you garden, please feel free to come to one of our volunteer sessions around the town - we love to meet new people and have plenty of expert gardeners to give advice if your fingers are not that green.

Details of all our work parties are on our website www.stivesinbloom.co.uk, or email siinfo@gmail.com for more information.

having your say ...

The Riverporter



Dear Erik PAWS FOR THOUGHT

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

Dear Erik

Yes, the excellent *Riverporter* reaches all the way north of the border to deepest Galloway.

As readers know, the Tory-boy infestation was nearly eradicated up here but unfortunately the pests developed a resistance to all known repellents and are slowly making a comeback.

So it's depressing to hear they are putting up as candidates for election to St Ives Toon Council and mis-describing themselves as Independents in the hope of stealing votes from the real Independents who have done so well for the toon.

Jeeppers, they must be desperate. I'm told such dastardly tactics are permitted under electoral law but it ain't cricket! When this is all over I won't be surprised, on my next visit, to see those fakers dangling by the neck from the Auld Brig in true Cromwellian style.

Good luck to the team on the day!

Stuart Littlewood

New Galloway, Castle Douglas

Dear Editor

Ref: Oh What Fun at Election Time ?

Like others I saw the humour in the above article, However, I also found the 'cant and hypocrisy' of Conservatives standing as 'Independent for St Ives' to be breathtakingly dishonest.

I was also surprised and disappointed that among the many fine words and aspirations expressed by the various Town Council Candidates, none expressed a desire to give the Council Taxpayer 'value for money'. A study of the Council accounts shows that for every £1 of Council Tax raised, some 82p is spent on Administrative/Establishment costs and only 18p on the Community of St Ives.

Does anyone care?

Regards, **Michael Lynch**

Seven weeks ago we reported that the damage to The Waits would be done in a week. Sadly this information, that came from the Town Hall, appears to be wrong. Although the work has started it seems they forgot to order the coping stones?

ELECTION SPECIAL

Whether you are excited or fed up with the electioneering which has been going on for the past few weeks, you are likely to want to know the results and here they are, hot of the declaration board.

The campaigns were dominated by the issues around the labelling of candidates, which we reported in the last issue. At first glance, this tactic seems to have changed the make-up of the Town Council. The original *Independents for St Ives* lost seats although remain a majority on the Council. Tories took all 5 District seats with Labour coming second.

It would appear that the number of spoilt papers was higher than normal, not just in St Ives but in many parts of the District, which perhaps is an indication of the public's disillusionment with the campaigns in St Ives and politics generally.

Whatever the results, most people want those elected to get on with dealing with all the issues that affect our town. These include dealing with the local plan and deciding on future housing and sorting out the traffic problems.

One of the easiest ways to help the town would be for the new Town, District and County councillors to work together as most of the issues that the town face require cross-authority solutions.

The Results

District Council

St Ives East

ABLEWHITE Conservative 758 votes **Elected**
BELLAMY Conservative 766 votes **Elected**
FEENEY Labour Party 492 votes not elected
JEBSON Liberal Democrat 414 votes not elected

St Ives South

DAVIES Conservative 1041 votes **Elected**
DEAN Labour 761 votes not elected
DICKINSON Conservative 946 votes **Elected**
LYNN Liberal Democrat 369 votes not elected
WELLS Liberal Democrat 535 votes not elected

St Ives West

FULLER Conservative 461 votes **Elected**
JORDAN Liberal Dem 135 votes not elected
WHITE Labour 199 votes not elected

Town Council

Beech Ward

CAMPBELL Ind for St Ives 54 votes not elected
KING *Independent for St Ives* 64 votes **Elected**
North Ward
AHMED Ind for St Ives 390 votes not elected
AYERS-WILSON *Ind for St Ives* 756 votes **Elected**
BELLAMY Ind for St Ives 600 votes **Elected**
DIBBEN *Independent for St Ives* 691 votes **Elected**
DRYE *Independent for St Ives* 607 votes **Elected**

KUCH *Independent for St Ives* 458 votes not elected
LACE *Independent for St Ives* 361 votes not elected
PALLANT *Ind for St Ives* 498 votes **Elected**
POPE *Independent for St Ives* 909 votes **Elected**
SMITH Ind for St Ives 371 votes not elected

West Ward

DAVIES L *Independent for St Ives* 233 votes **Elected**
FULLER *Independent for St Ives* 347 votes **Elected**
HEWITT Ind for St Ives 203 votes not elected
PEGORARO *Ind for St Ives* 218 votes **Elected**
SETCHELL *Ind for St Ives* 213 votes not elected
VALERO-SANCHEZ *Ind for St Ives* 194 votes not elected
WHITE Labour Party 126 votes not elected

South Ward

BUSH *Independent for St Ives* 610 votes not elected
COOK *Independent for St Ives* 413 votes not elected
D' SOUZA *Independent for St Ives* 872 votes **Elected**
DAVIES Conservative 849 votes **Elected**
DEAN Labour Party 647 votes not elected
DICKINSON Conservative 797 votes **Elected**
HEWITT Ind for St Ives 374 votes not elected
HUSSAIN *Ind for St Ives* 893 votes **Elected**
LUTER *Independent for St Ives* 775 votes **Elected**
MOKBUL Ind for St Ives 369 votes not elected
ROWE *Independent for St Ives* 818 votes **Elected**
TIDDY *Independent for St Ives* 814 votes **Elected**
WESTRIP *Ind for St Ives* 723 votes not elected



Tookeys



WANTED:

PART-TIME COOK/CATERING ASSISTANT

Do you enjoy cooking and meeting people, and can you be flexible on time?

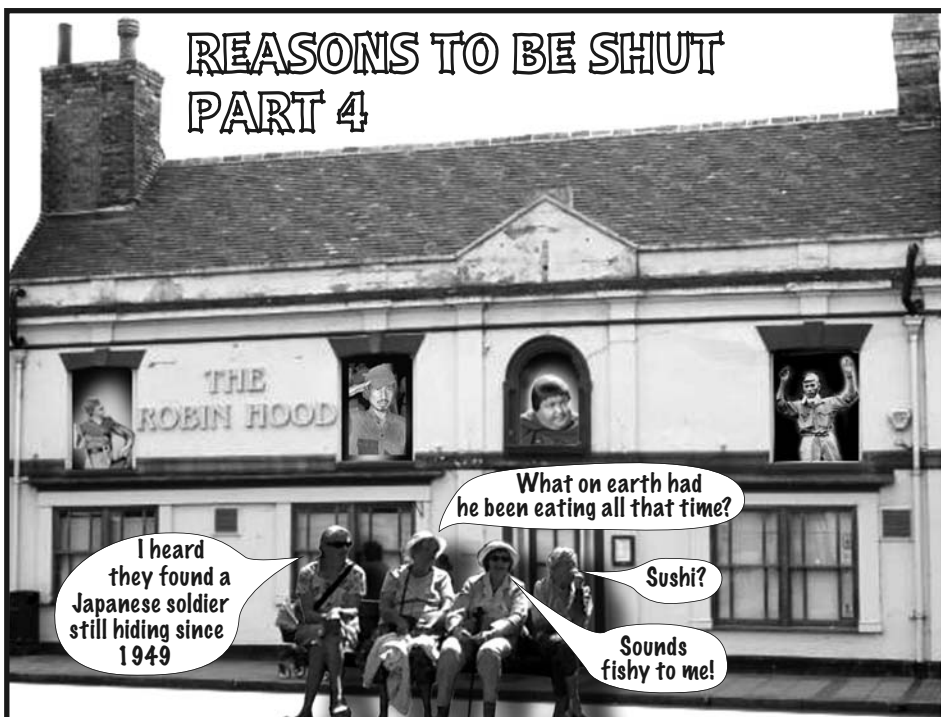
Then we would like to meet you.

Tookeys catering team need another member to help with coffee shop within the Church.

Initially a minimum of 30 hours per month. Catering experience would be an advantage.

If you would like more information, please contact Pat Clarke on 07876 354 442

REASONS TO BE SHUT PART 4



I heard they found a Japanese soldier still hiding since 1949

What on earth had he been eating all that time?

Sushi?

Sounds fishy to me!

PLASTIC IN ST IVES - Coffee Cup Crisis

Takeaway coffee (or tea if it's me) has become ubiquitous in the last few years and the question has to be - what's the environmental impact?

Just 1% of cups currently sold by coffee retailers are recyclable. They are made of plastic-lined paper and every day in the UK we throw away seven million of these 'disposable' cups. Yes that's right - seven million; all of them going to landfill.

Some savvy retailers are looking for alternatives; Smell The

Coffee and the Rockabilly Cafe in St Ives already use cups made from plant-based material and Waitrose now use a cup made from 25% less material, but it's still not recyclable although they are 'trying to find a cup that can be recycled in mainstream facilities'.

They will no longer stock plastic straws by September 2018. So there is some progress but we can influence how quickly it happens by demanding change and taking action by cutting

down the amount of plastic we buy and chuck away.

Who gives discounts on takeaway coffee in town?

Tom's Cakes 15p

Little Acre discount coming soon

Oanas: buy a Keepcup from this cafe and every time you use it you'll get a 60p discount

The Tap Room give 60p discount, and they already use recyclable straws

River Terrace discount coming later this year

Costa give 25p discount

Greggs 20p

At the time of printing, Nuts, So Scrumptious and Tookeys don't offer discounts.

If there is anywhere else you know about, let us know.



Next issue: HDC at work

Image WRAP



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ADVERTORIAL

Blooming Gardens bring in Buyers

Mike Ellis of Ellis Winters explains why tidy gardens help sellers



It's that time of year again when summer is in the offing to inspire the green-fingered in all of us, and thoughts turn to BBQs over long bank holiday weekends.

Now is also one of the optimum times to view a property. Not only are the days longer and lighter, but gardens are beginning to come into bloom and you can see the outdoor space on offer in the best possible light. For many buyers, particularly those with young children, finding a property with a private and enclosed garden or outdoor space is a huge bonus.

Tidying up the garden or yard to make it attractive to buyers, can work in the same way as a loft conversion in terms of

adding value to your home, but without the large outlay for building works.

Remember that size is more important than current condition – landscaping can be relatively inexpensive.

Clearing old debris or overgrown weeds is often not such a mammoth task as it looks. You can never grow a small backyard, but you can revamp a generous garden and add value to your property in the long term.

Pay attention to the foliage around the property because it can have a profound impact.

Trees cast shade and cause patchy lawns, dead leaves and twigs can block drains, fallen branches can damage property, and rogue roots can crack driveways so it's always best to stay on top of these relatively easy tasks.

If you would like more advice, call our team of property experts today on 01480 388888



ellis winters & CO

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