

# Ye Olde Riverporter

**A TOTALLY FAKE NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY REAL NEWS**

## The End of Austerity - Official

**I**t is now eight years since Charles II returned to take the reigns of our fair country and St Ives Town Council has formally declared an end to austerity with the return of our popular markets and ale houses open all day. Mind you it was a close run thing as the vote was split 9 for and 8 against with several members claiming that this would lead to rack and ruin if the people were able to drink and be merry!

Several instances had been noted lately on *The Quay*, with foul and abusive language from some of the many boatmen who pass through the town. One unnamed councillor even suggested this was due to the 'foreigners' that come over from the continent to sell their linen. He went on to say that we would all be better off if we severed our European connections, allowing our own wool & cloth industry to compete on an even parade ground.

### LOOKING BACK

## When there was a big bang in the night

Residents of the St Ives Riverport area were woken early on Wednesday morning by a loud explosion that demolished a large section of the ancient town bridge. Witnesses stated that chunks of ancient stone were hurled through the air damaging several local pubs and ruining the breakfasts of many of the local surfs preparing for their 20 hour shifts in the meadow.

The full reason for the explosion has not been confirmed but popular opinion states it was to keep the army loyal to the king from accessing the Monday market as they have been known to drink the local ale houses dry by midday. A local resident was quoted as saying that he believed the explosion had not gone entirely to

plan as he had heard a loud Huntingdon accent shouting 'You were only supposed to blow the bloody doors off!'

The Roundhead brigade of engineers have promised to have a new drawbridge in place within 3 months, but local traders are expressing concern at the gross profiteering of the local boat trips captain charging a massive 3 groats for safe crossing to the pub.

Additionally, this publication supports a petition started by Ramsey Abbey's Friar Bob, who has publicly announced that he is fed up with the monkey business and written to a certain Mr O Cromwell saying 'Stupid boy, You'll pay for that' - Further history next issue.



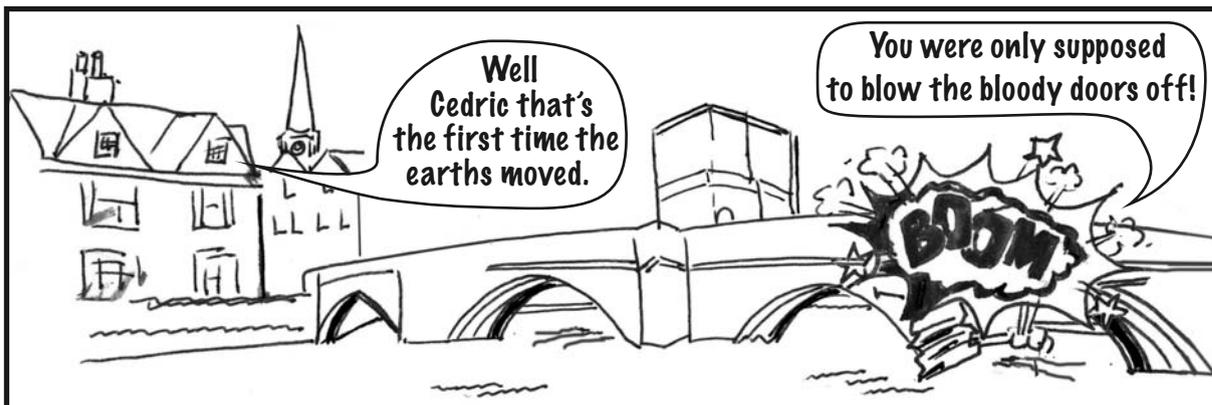
## Come forth and be Merry at the Town Music Festival

It has been decreed that the town will hold an Annual Music Festival each year to be located at any such town hostelries and alms houses that can furnish space for poor and smelly touring musicians whilst continuing to serve good fresh ales with jolly and suitably attired inn keepers and wenches.

It is further decreed that this event should be held in the latter part of September once surfs, slaves and servants have completed their harvest duties in the fields and meadows.

The town fathers hope that so successful will be this event that it will continue for hundreds of years to come and has been so licenced.

Those attending are required to eat drink and be merry whilst enjoying the talents of our fine Fenland musicians, however musicians failing to raise such pleasure may face an uncertain future.



# Famous Diarist enjoys New Town Guide

Diary of Samuel Pepys April 1st. 1668

Up, and to dress myself, and call Deb the maid to brush and dress me . . . , and I to my office, where busy till noon, and then into the country with my wife where we spend the afternoon in the sleepy towne of St Ives.

I notice this fine old place has just printed a new, and impressive, Complimentary Guide, showing all the ancient places of note and providing simple but interesting walks.

## Ye Olde Court House

We cannot resist visiting the sights that Cromwell would have known, including his Barn and Slepe Hall.

Such beautiful buildings, which we are glad to see preserved for future visitors to see.

We visit all these sights and were most impressed with the strange light boy by Green Leys cart stables kindly paid for by the Town Council.

And so to the tavern there, The Dolphin, and did spend 16s. 6d.

Mighty merry, and sang all the way to the town, a most pleasant evening, moonshine, and home and to bed after calling at my bookseller, Moses Silk, and took him a copy of

the wonderful Complimentary Guide of St Ives for him to see.

Green Leys  
Cart Stables  
Link Boy  
Light



Cromwell's Barn



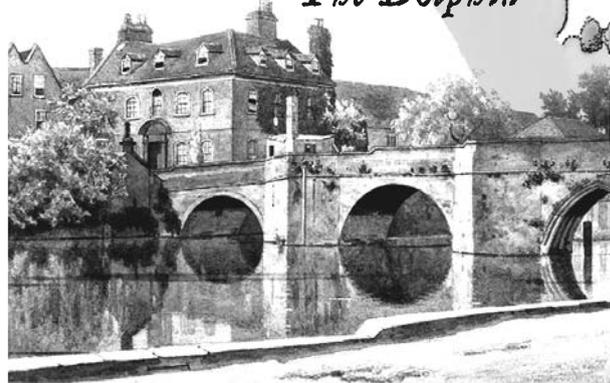
Stone Cross



Ye Olde  
Slepe Hall



Proposed  
Route  
for  
New  
Guided  
Waggonway



The Dolphin



The Priory

## Further concern for the New Guided Waggonway

At a recent town riot, residents again raised the issue of the Guided Waggonway and its hazardous track to Cambridge. Concerns centre around the maintenance of the route and being constantly harassed by highway bandits, causing delays and tailbacks while bodies are removed. However, a more serious concern was expressed over the use of cart traps that prevent smaller vehicles from using the Waggonway. These trapped carts and numerous upside-down sheep are creating major delays in deliveries to Cambridge and commuters to the local serfdoms and land owners are considering holding a series of town riots in protest, however the Mayor, Phil Whittington-Pope, has asked for papers to be sent to ACAS for dispute advice.



# having your say ... Ye Olde Riverporter



## PAWS FOR THOUGHT

Get it off your chest - tell 'Erik', son of Erik who will be in the Feathers and happy to accept some pork scratchings.

## New Development Challenges ...

Alarming news has come to our intrepid news hound 'Erik', son of Erik, that contrary to the agreed town plan, signed off two centuries ago, a development of 200 new hovels are to be built on the East side of the river.



This publication asks... 'Where is the infrastructure to support this?' The local barber already has a waiting list of two weeks for limb amputations making it impossible to get a decent shave. The churches can no longer meet the demand for exorcisms and the last time we held a witch trial the crowd control failed dramatically, leading to four lynchings, six drownings and we'll never know what happened to the man with the pitchfork.

The local Sargent, Mr Avenue, did call for assistance but mud on the road means they won't arrive for three weeks. He said that concerned residents can leave a message nailed to his door and he lives at number 101.



## A right Scottish cock up

This Reporter learns that a recent call to arms did not go to plan and heads will certainly roll as a result.

The instructions were issued when our noble parliament learned that the Scots with their Bonny Prince were once again leading a major raiding party south and the call to arms went out for each town to prepare men for battle. It was agreed locally that the brave men of St Ives and the more motley types from Huntingdon would combine and travel north as a single proud fighting force.

Once on route these brave souls sought to rest, having walked all the way to Abbots Ripton, and a game of football was engaged. However, a serious outbreak of hooliganism broke out when it was discovered that Huntingdon had paid an outrageous transfer fee of 50 groats for a foreign player and were profiteering from selling unlicensed autographed codpieces.

The incident became more serious when it was noticed that the pikestuffs being used as goalposts had the severed heads of the Huntingdon goalie and centre forward on the top.

The referee called a halt to the match and both teams returned home in disgrace. As a direct result of this dispute the Scots have taken the town of Carlisle and questions are being asked in parliament with the possibility of St Ives Town FC being withdrawn from the European Football Union due to the influx of illegal foreign players.

From our Foreign Correspondent.

## D'oh! French court fines baker for working too hard

Chef d'entreprise Cédric, from L'ancien Lumiere Boulangerie de Distinction (Ye Olde Lantern Bakers of Distinction), has been fined 3,000 Francs for working too hard. Under local employment law (from 1664) boulangeries must close once a week.

'Because of the demand from British tourists, we just want to open every day during the summer, not all the year,' said Cédric.

The authorities explained that while exceptions can be made in specific cases, the only way to get around the regulations would be to open a second boulangerie with different opening hours.



Exciting and unusual gifts  
at amazing prices.

La Muse



Pussy cat salt and pepper pots  
by Hannah Turner Ceramics.

## Tales of a country man . . . FENMAN GETS HIS WAY

Today, 1 April 1668, I woked with the dawn and as the mist hung oer the river oi sought me punt, loaded with eel traps and gun but God me 'ed 'urt. Curse that Jerry's ale down the Feathers last night. His prices get higher and the wenches still tempt a man.

I rubbed sleep from me eyes and lifted first trap. It felt 'eavy and fair warmed me 'eart when oi spied what was writhin' an wrigglin' within - a goodly eel. Ee will fetch a good price on market when that comely Bendingfield lass will be awaitin' for me wiv a gleam in 'er eye. Gor she do luv an eel.

But I are a bit afear'd, times are a changin' wot with the weather we be a 'avin'. The winter just gone 'as ad great storms and now its so warm I wonder if it be affecting all the globe. They do say them Dutchmens tryin' to drain the waters for farmin'. Oi knows what that'll do. Stands to reason dunnit? Land dries, shrinks lower, rivers flood and spoil crops. Leave well alone oi say.

They'll regret it, you mark my words - even if it takes 350 years from now they'll want for water and natural Fen.

We can live on fish and ducks well enough - me and Mistress Bendingfield - specially if oi gets me way wiv me big fat eel tomorrow mornin'.

Eli Brimly, (He smokes like a chimly), Slepe Cottage, Ives Town.



To advertise here find the Editor in The Feathers and buy him a pint or two depending on the size of the advertismnt required.

ADVERTORIAL

## Landlord Jerry Schonfeldt explains the benefits wearing tights and a pointy hat



Formerly  
The Feathers

Try our home-cooked Sunday lunches using the freshest, locally sourced produce, prepared in-house by our experienced chef.

Just a stone's throw away from the Quayside in The Old Riverport

Six real ales and Belgian and German beers

## NOW The Oliver Cromwell



The Oliver Cromwell (Freehouse), Wellington Street, St Ives PE27 5AZ  
e-mail: [theolivercromwell@btinternet.com](mailto:theolivercromwell@btinternet.com) [www.theolivercromwell.co.uk](http://www.theolivercromwell.co.uk) 1480 465601

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