

The Riverporter

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

Mayor Making - a fine tradition

It's fifty years since Richard Carter, who many will know as ex PC Carter and now assistant at the Norris Museum, attend his first Mayor Making ceremony in St Ives. It seems that it hasn't changed much since then. Wednesday's event saw outgoing Mayor Phil Pope hand over the reins to Cllr Dr Tim Drye who outlined his plans for the year.

Not only was this the end of the Mayoral year for Phil Pope it was the start of the new Mayor's term and this year, following the elections, the start of the new Town Council's four year tenure.

The Councillors were there in the distinctive robes that Town Councillors wear at every full council meeting, a tradition St Ives maintains.

What a year

The evening began with Phil's report of a year which saw him attend well over 200 events. Phil praised the people of the town, who make St Ives such a vibrant place and highlighted the Royal Engineers' Freedom of the Town Ceremony, due to take place on 30th June, which he has helped arrange. Perhaps the most impressive part of the evening was the number of charitable donations Phil was able to give, some of which are pictured below - a result of raising £8,000 in the year. Phil even raised £2,000 from his 'sponsored slim' as he managed to lose 6 stone over the last 5 weeks of office, a feat he celebrated afterwards with a cake from the buffet.

Annual Awards included:
The Millennium Youth Shield

to St Ivo Schools under 16 Girls Football Team, the Commerce & Community Award to ITSO Travel and the Community Challenge Award to the Darby & Joan Club.

experience of this event 50 years earlier and then Tim outlined his goals for the year which included, finding ways to celebrate three blessings of the St Ives community - its

Tim also thanked those councillors who had retired this year after many years of loyal service.

Looking to the Future

Tim continued ...

'We have to face the challenge of maintaining a vibrant and functioning town centre and civic life.

We cannot rely on retail and businesses to keep this alive and diverse, instead we have to work hard to find new ways to meet and live together that includes all parts of the community.

I hope I can continue Phil's work of extending the appeal to other sections of the community, making sure that the only criteria for inclusion is that you have chosen to make your home in St Ives and you sought it's welfare.'

Charities

Finally Tim announced his charities for the year would be Holt Island Nature Reserve, the Norris Museum and the Huntingdon Volunteer Centre. He hoped to raise up to £6,000 by doing 12 physical challenges, one a month and hoped the public would sponsor him.

The ceremony continued with the election of Cllr Dan Rowe to the post of Deputy Mayor. Proposed by Cllr Pallant and seconded by Cllr Tiddy, he was also unanimously elected by the Councillors.

Finally Cllr Brian Luter gave a vote of thanks to Phil for his year as Town Mayor.



Well-known local, Muriel Moore receives the first Heart of St Ives Award.

Phil also announced a new award - **The Heart of St Ives Award** which he presented to Muriel Moore, who he said typified the welcoming St Ives spirit and was known and loved by locals and visitors from far and wide.

New Mayor

Finally as tradition demanded Phil handed over the Mayoral chain and robes to his Deputy. Cllr Tim Drye was proposed by Cllr Dibben and seconded by Cllr Davies and unanimously elected Mayor by councillors. Whilst Tim was being robed Richard Carter told us of his

beautiful geography, fascinating history and energetic and passionate people.

He went on to say he liked the reputation that St Iviaves have for welcoming newcomers into its diverse community, such as himself and for the people who vigorously desire to make change for the better. Having thanked everyone for a robust election and those who had accepted their defeats with dignity, he was confident that the new team could work together for the good of the community.

ST IVES TOWN TEAM PRESENTS



Sunday 20th May 2018

A Day of Dance with Ely & Littleport Riot

11.15 am - 12 noon - The Waits
12.15 - 1 pm - The Haywain
1.45 - 2 pm - Market Hill
2.15 - 3 pm - The Quay

www.theoldriverportstives.co.uk



Right to left: The new Mayor, Councillor Tim Drye; Deputy Mayor, Councillor Dan Rowe; Town Clerk, Alison Benfield; and the Reverend Peter Cunliffe, vicar of Hemingford Grey.

County Council to move

County Councillors have agreed to move 1250 officers at Shire Hall out to be closer to the residents they serve in the County. Their decision to stop using Shire Hall means the remaining 350 employees will move to a new dedicated building on the Alconbury Airfield site. The move is expected to save £45million over the next 30 years with Shire Hall being leased out.

Town Centre a disgrace following a rave style event at the Dolphin

Thursday's Town Council meeting heard from local resident, Gilly Jackson, that thousands of visitors to the Mayday Bank Holiday Market were greeted with overflowing rubbish bins, takeaway food cartons and broken glass littering the streets.

Much of the problem had been caused by a 'rave' style event at the Dolphin on the Sunday, which had ended with hundreds of young people wreaking havoc, including damaging several cars in The Broadway. Mrs Jackson wanted to ensure that it wasn't repeated at the next Bank Holiday Market in 10 days time.



Far left: St Ives Rugby Club juniors; bottom left: the Macmillan Woodland Centre and bottom centre Magpas receiving their cheques.

Left: Claire & Paul Welling of ITSO Travel and below Iris Smith & Joyce Hookham of the Darby & Joan Club receiving their awards.



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PLASTIC IN ST IVES - HDC at work

Discussing the contents of the rubbish bins isn't sexy but it's a much-needed conversation. We asked Heidi Field, HDC's Waste Minimalisation Officer about recycling in our area.

Amanda: What's the problem with black plastic packaging?

Heidi: The equipment at the recycling plant is not suitable because the scanner above the black conveyor belt can't read the black colour.

A: How are HDC dealing with China's ban on receiving recycling imports?

H: Fortunately our waste has generally been dealt with locally. Unfortunately, there is no nationwide plan to, so everywhere has a different way of recycling.

A: Are all plastic food bags recyclable?

H: No, it's about the logistics. The thinner film plastic bags, like the ones in the fruit and veg section, or the cheese counter, are ok, but thicker plastic, eg frozen pea bags, are not. Refill bags (for coffee, washing liquid etc) are not recyclable, whereas a coffee jar is.

A: Has recycling generally increased over the years and has that prevented rubbish going to landfill?

H: The amount of waste we all have has slightly decreased. 50-53% of waste is recycled, this is the same figure over last 3-4 years, so recycling hasn't increased. This may be because of fewer plastic carrier bags, fewer free newspapers, and people are perhaps thinking more carefully about what they buy.

A: How can we be sure that what we put in the blue bins

doesn't end up in landfill?

H: Look on the council website for 'What goes into which bin'. There's a handy A-Z to find out what to do with, for example, a yogurt pot.

A: What is plastic waste used for?

H: Plastics are chipped and melted down to be used in, for example, clothing. The school uniforms at Ramsey Abbey use fabric made from plastic; outdoor furniture; the council also remake waste bins with it.

A: Can we connect with you on social media?

H: Yes, on Facebook - Recycle for Huntingdonshire; Twitter @recycle@HDC; Instagram @recycleforhuntingdonshire.

A: Any campaigns in 2018?

H: Locally, we're working with communal areas (flats) encouraging residents to use bins correctly, not stuffing in the odd mattress or bike. We take part in the WRAP and Recycle Now campaigns. Cambridge City is campaigning to increase metals recycling, redirecting metals (eg aerosols and cans) from the grey bin to blue. We need people to rinse containers; contaminated paper (from spilt baked beans or hair conditioner) decreases the value and what it can be used for.

So now you know. We can all easily cut down our use of single use plastic. There is no excuse and little time to act. Let's do it!



Image WRAP

Next issue: The supermarket angle

Footnote: Needingworth School's year 5 Beech have been battling against plastic by writing to local businesses asking them to reduce their use of plastic and they have also done a litter pick in the park at Needingworth, where they gathered a considerable amount of plastic waste.

From our environmental correspondent Heidi N. D'Tries

WOODPECKER DOES A U-TURN!

Hello darlinks! This issue I have a bitter-sweet story to pluck the strings of your hearts ...



The U-Turn on the Island notice board.

My good friends on Holt Island Nature Reserve were feeling pretty pleased with themselves just before their spring opening at Easter. They told me their long-awaited 'audio listening post' was finally pronounced 'good to go' and positioned on the reserve. It was not inexpensive but was nevertheless deemed the perfect solution for the un-manned reserve to now welcome visitors and give information at various times of the year. No power supply was necessary. A visitor simply has to turn the handle for long enough to generate electricity to activate one of 8 pre-recorded channels.

So what could possibly go wrong?

Just about everything. First the

weather. Being Easter of course it rained and rained and river levels rose sufficiently for the Committee to consider the submerged boardwalk unsafe for the public. Just as well perhaps because the extreme conditions affected the settings and caused the U-Turn to malfunction.

This was also just as well as one of the audio-channels features spring bird songs and calls and during the trials the urgent drumming of a Great Spotted Woodpecker, desperate to find a mate, was broadcast all over the reserve.

Aroused Woodpecker?

Who knows what might have happened if the Holt Island 'Woody' was aroused and sought to satisfy his hormones ...

Ah well, I am happy to report that the U-Turn is up and running again and hopefully 'Woody' is happily mated.

Do pop onto the Island to see for yourself – and give yourself a good turn!

Byeeee! Heidi xxx



Wednesday Market Games Day in the Corn Exchange

Plans are being made to revitalise the Wednesday Market in St Ives Corn Exchange. As well as a range of market stalls and a welcoming place to have a cup of tea or coffee and food, there will be the added bonus of socialising whilst enjoying playing board games.

The idea, proposed by Market Organiser Chris Davis, is to encourage people to get out more, especially the retired, and to provide an informal place for people to meet friends and have a bit of fun whilst being able to do some shopping. Chris would like to hear from anyone interested in helping to organise this - contact him at The Corn Exchange.

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.

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

The evening starts with complimentary refreshments courtesy of Waitrose and Morrisons.

IN THE CHAPEL ON THE BRIDGE
PART OF THE *Chapel Arts Season 2018*

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

having your say ...



Dear Erik PAWS FOR THOUGHT

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

Mayor Erik in health scare!

Following the elation of Erik's election success, last week proved a very traumatic one for him. It should have been one of those exciting days in a roving reporter dog's life but it all went horribly wrong.



Erik and the family set off on a trip to Ely by boat. The day started off well, but as the afternoon wore on Erik started to feel unwell and very tired. Overnight he became extremely unwell and by 6am could no longer walk or stand up.

Getting a taxi early is not easy ...

Getting to an emergency vet proved very difficult that early in the day, as taxis were unavailable until after the school run. Like parts of St Ives, mobile phones just wouldn't connect down by the river, so calling the vet was impossible. Fortunately the wonderful people of Ely and Erik's lovely neighbours here in St Ives came to the rescue. Passers-by on the Ely Quayside helped to get through to Matthew and Amanda Kember who diverted their morning regime to help get Erik to the emergency room.

Warning to dog owners

Erik in very uncharacteristic pose!

But what had caused this? It now seems possible that Erik had eaten something from his morning walk that caused a severe attack of gastroenteritis and this may well have been as a result of eating grass recently treated with weedkiller.

SO, THE WARNING IS THIS - KEEP AN EYE ON OUR PETS. If they eat grass from kerbside borders and lawn edges when these chemicals are freshly laid, they may be harmful. We have no proof of this but Erik's two days in doggie hospital suggest it's not worth taking the risk.

Incidentally

It was reported to *The Riverporter* that grassed areas in Warners Park had been treated with weed killer which had left unsightly marks.

The Town Hall has said that this method has been used for several years but following a complaint the relevant committee may look into the use of weedkillers.



What do you think? Should we use weedkiller?



Elections - just a point of view ...

Sometime in the 18th century a clever writer and philosopher 'Joseph de Maistre' wrote: 'In a democracy people get the leaders they deserve' and this holds largely true, except perhaps when those that would

wish to be leaders seek to deceive the voting public.

The Town and District elections are now over, and our new councillors are in place and we must all embrace and support the outcome of our democratic process. However it will be interesting to follow the opinions and voting patterns of those new 'Independent' members in comparison to the national party members who supported their nominations.

Joseph de Maistre also said:

'False opinions are like false money, struck first of all by guilty men and thereafter circulated by honest people who perpetuate the crime without knowing what they are doing.'

Here at *The Riverporter* we will be watching.

Website news

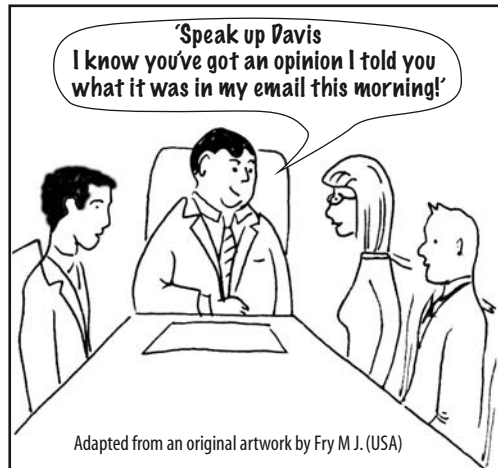
Did you know you can rate the Church on Tripadvisor?

Those of you who use Tripadvisor will know that as well as locating accommodation and places to eat you can also find places of interest. But did you know that you can give a review for any of these including the local church?

It appears that St Ives Parish Church has several good reviews. Now reviews can be misleading, partly because some people mark harder than others, so one man's 3 out of 5 can mean the same as another's 5 out of 5. That said nearly every poor or terrible review means that the experience wasn't good.

So with an average 4 out of 5 and no poor or terrible reviews, All Saints Church is doing well.

There are many places to eat out in St Ives and even the best can have a few poor reviews so sometimes it's hard to know where to go - perhaps *The Riverporter* needs a restaurant critic? Ron and I will have to fight for the job as Erik will review only dog biscuits. **Ed.**



Adapted from an original artwork by Fry M J. (USA)

Update

We can report that the tree blocking the back stream by the bridge to Holt Island has been removed by a team of scouts - our thanks to them.

Also that the Environment Agency needs to get new coping stones made for the repair to the wall at the Waits.

Apparently they are no longer a standard size and will have to be specially made.

Sounds expensive.

Hello The Riverporter,

I wondered if I could text you something of interest.

Riverport Rockers Facebook Kindness Pebble Group started a little while ago and already has 400+ members.

We decorate, hide and find decorated pebbles. The idea is spreading over the area and the impact it is having is great.

We have had parents say children will willingly go for walks now and even enjoy walking to school!!!

Have you found one?



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Proposed new homes on land at Houghton Road upsets councillors

Bellway Homes are in the process of submitting an outline planning application to Huntingdonshire District Council which could establish the principle for residential development on land between Houghton and St Ives.

The proposal seems to have come out of the blue without any consultation with HDC the local planning authority.

At Thursday's Town Council meeting, District Councillor Ryan Fuller explained that the first they heard of this proposal was on Monday.

He thought this was an attempt to influence where houses might be built, should the planning inspectorate determine that the more housing is needed in the area. He assured councillors that this did not have the support of the District.

Public Display and consultation

In the meantime Bellway are organising a public exhibition, where plans will be on

display, and members of the project team available to answer questions. It will be held at St Ives Corn Exchange on Wednesday 23rd May from 3pm to 7:30pm.

Like the proposals for the Gifford Farm site, off Somersham Road, and the plans for building North of Marley Road, this is likely to be pretty controversial.

One of the purposes of a Local Plan is to allocate development land and with the new plan not yet in place, speculation on potential sites in St Ives has developed.

If you are unable to attend the exhibition or would like further information, you can contact Bellway on: www.houghtonroad.co.uk



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ADVERTORIAL

Top Tips on Getting your Home Ready to Rent

Mike Ellis of Ellis Winters explains how to avoid the pitfalls of being a landlord



Becoming a landlord is nothing to be taken lightly, avoid the pitfalls by following these simple three steps.

1. Seek out a good local lettings agent: Especially for inexperienced landlords, a good lettings agent can be worth their weight in gold. Responsibilities include recommending the monthly rent to charge, advertising your property, finding and screening tenants, drawing up contracts and other documents, taking the deposit and conducting the inventory when your tenants move in.
2. Think about the type of tenants you want: This will depend on the size of your

property but you may have your own opinions too. Are you happy with small children for example? Or a family with three cars? What about if tenants work from home or work nights? And will you allow smokers or pets? Give your lettings agent an idea of who you are looking for and request to meet them before you sign the contract.

3. Make your home into a blank canvas: Homes are personal to their occupants so if you want your property to appeal to as many tenants as possible, it needs to be neutral. Give walls

(and ceilings) a lick of white paint and lay reasonably-priced flooring or one carpet throughout. If you are renting your home furnished, remove any items that are old and tired, not fit for purpose – or are just an 'acquired taste'.

For more expert advice on how to get your property ready for rental, contact our team today on 01354 694900 or 01354 701000



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