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COUNCIL NEWS

Council appoint Locum Town Clerk

St Ives Town Council have appointed a Locum Town Clerk for six months as a result of the continued absence of Alison Benfield through ill health. Nicci Sewell (pictured) took up the post at the beginning of October and officiated at her first Full Council meeting last Wednesday.



It looks like it will be a busy period for the Council looking at the agenda, which included reports on the Neighbourhood Plan and the Jubilee Celebrations which will take place over the extended Bank Holiday weekend from Thursday 2nd June until the following Sunday 2022.

Big Budget set aside for celebrations

The Council have set aside a budget of between £19k and £29k, which will allow the 42 Engineers to exercise their Freedom of the Town on Saturday 4th June, which is likely to be the main day for activities organised by the Council. The paper shows that in 2018, when the Engineers were awarded the freedom of St Ives, it cost taxpayers £17,000 for the privileged!

At this stage suggestions for the celebrations range from street parties to a river festival and a 'Blg Lunch' event in The Broadway. It is hoped that community groups will get involved.

Digital Information Screens get go ahead

The Town Council also discussed a proposal from HDC for two Digital Information Screens to be installed in St Ives. Councillors were told a decision had to be made straight away and they chose locations at the top of Bridge Street and by the Bus Station. Although other locations were suggested time was against a considered opinion. It is not uncommon to insist on decisions being made quickly, ostensibly to secure the funding, but there is some concern that this is a ploy to prevent serious discussion and assist the proposers to get the result they wish.

The Riverporter assumes that the funding for the screens, along with the new waste bins and proposals for Parklets, come from the Districts 'Prospectus For Growth' proposals to transform the Town Centre. These proposals received considerable criticism and as yet the full scheme has not been presented to residents.

Posthumous Freeman of the Town award

The Town Council have been considering the bestowing of a posthumous Freeman of the Town to the late Councillor John Davies. The verbal report given at Wednesday's meeting suggested that there may be some difficulties with this suggestion. Other options are being considered.

Council apologise again and again . . .

Planning is something that often causes problems and this week was no exception. First up: the Full Council considered a report by their Appeal Panel of a formal complaint made by Engineer and Planning Agent Peter Townsend of PJT Associates.

The Appeal Panel found in favour of Mr Townsend and his client and made recommendations including apologising to them. However Mr Townsend wasn't happy with the report which he said 'left many questions unanswered and until they are I consider my complaint unresolved'.

The Council apologised again and agreed to consider all of the seven points. However that wasn't the end of the matter as the Council had inadvertently published the name of the applicant, which was a breach of the Data Protection Act, and despite correcting the error was forced to make another apology. Erik wondered if the Council might consider issuing an apology coupon to give weight to its apologies. A sort of loyalty card in reverse. Perhaps all councils could adopt it!



Planning Committee go Conkers

Following the Full Council meeting the Planning Committee considered several applications including this one (left). It prompted this comment from a reader.

Since when did conkers, albeit in their shells, represent a health and safety hazard to children? Has the world gone mad? Fortunately common sense took hold and councillors refused the application. It will go back to HDC for a final decision . . . so who knows?

21/02143/TREE
David Brettell
19 Wilson Way
St Ives
PE27 6TG
T1 - Horse Chestnut Tree - Remove due to large amounts of sharp conkers landing in garden posing health and safety risk to children living in the property. Replant a new tree in its place.
19 Wilson Way
St Ives

Dear Erik,
Subject: Parking Ticket?



There is nearly always a car parked where Elm Drive meets Ramsey Road - it is illegal and dangerous. Will this car get a ticket?

Name withheld

Probably not, see RP95 article Is it a matter of priorities? Erik

Dear Erik,
Subject: Inconsiderate Contractor blocking the pavement!



A house in Wheatfields had the drive changed to block paving. The footpath was shut for three days while the concrete was dug up. Then the blocks were delivered - onto the footpath - which was then closed for a further three days. Surely the blocks (with lighting) should have been in the road. Please think first!

Cally

Dear Erik,
Subject: 'Big bum'

Following on from your article about 'big bum' (right) seen filling 4 cans with fuel. Sadly this shows the worst side of us, not caring about those whose needs may be greater. If he wants assistance from the emergency services, I hope they have sufficient fuel to reach him!



Peter

Dear Erik,
Subject: Rubbish by the Anglers Rest

I believe some of your correspondents have been concerned about this continuing eyesore. I can report that three groups, the Civic Society, Friends of Holt Island Nature Reserve, and the Great Ouse Valley Trust - are piling on the pressure in the Planning Enforcement Department at HDC, who are not exactly working speedily.

Name withheld

We believe a planning enforcement Section 215 notice may be issued. It is not clear yet whether the recent planning approval of Manchester House will result in an improvement here. Ed.

Dear Erik,

Strolling along West Street just opposite Globe Place car park the other day I couldn't help glancing through a glazed front door to discover what must be years of flyers etc. piled up just inside. Isn't this a health and fire risk hazard? Perhaps someone has passed away inside?



Luka That

Dear Erik

Further to the question (Issue 94) 'Who do we trust these days?', it might be easier to consider who we can't trust. Top of the list must surely be the ubiquitous 'spokesperson' who can say what they like but can't be held to account simply because we don't know who they are. Perhaps if we were to start asking 'Who are you?' we might start getting some honest answers.

But I won't be holding my breath. They will most likely say 'Sorry, I can't tell you that'. Grrr.

All you can then do is take it higher, press on with determination, and not give up until you have the answers, and the truth, you're looking for. Sometimes it can be easier than you'd first think!

Illegitimi non carborundum

Trust continues to be an issue

In the last two issues of The Riverporter there has been reference to trust and accountability of elected representatives and officials. This has also raised its head nationally with the tragic killing of Sarah Everard by a serving police officer, someone most of us used to trust.

Of course this horrific outcome cannot be compared to someone not being able to get a reply from his or her local councillor, or feeling that they cannot get any justice from their local council, but how did we get to this position where many people do not bother to get involved. Well the answer is that we got here gradually.

Our institutions and especially politicians who ignore genuine concerns, no matter how trivial, have fostered an attitude that 'it's just not worth it' and this has led to more serious issues such as women not reporting being raped.

The ignoring of genuine concerns for some time has consequences and that includes the feeling that those in authority seem unaccountable for their actions and much harder to reach. Has the Data Protection Act, whilst full of good intentions, made things worse? Genuine requests for information are often useless when all names are redacted. Ed.

HYPERION

Entries Invited for Next Antiques & Interiors Sale Saturday 23rd October



Results from our Antiques & Interiors and Fine Art Sale



Aynsley Fruit and gilded part Tea Set
by D Jones & N Brunt
Sold £550

Set of 3 19thC Graduated Majolica
water jugs with Iris and floral
decoration and weave handles
Sold £750



Omega Seamaster Professional Planet
Ocean Gents Automatic wristwatch with
Box and papers calibre 2500
Sold £2300

We are also Accepting Entries for our Winter Fine Art Sale on the
4th December with a Large collection of Fine Art, Silver, Jewellery
and Militaria

Hyperion Auctions, The Salerooms, Station Road, St Ives PE27 5BH



www.hyperionauctions.co.uk



01480 464140

Dementia Friendly Group visit Hamerton Zoo

At the beginning of the month the Dementia Friendly Group went to Hamerton Park Zoo for a lovely day out. It was made possible by a donation from Val Hart, which was in memory of her husband Tony who sadly passed away from dementia. It was the first visit for many and it was a nice sunny day with a variety of beautiful animals on show which looked happy and clearly enjoyed a high level of care.



We drifted apart whilst looking at the various creatures on display, but reunited at the café for lunch and some singing... 'these are a few of our favourite things'! prior to boarding the coach back to St Ives. There was lots of laughter, great company, and a thoroughly good time was had by all.



Calendar of events 2021

If you know of other events please email: editor@theriverporter.uk

OCTOBER

Saturday 23rd - Hunts Philatelic Society Stamp and Postcard Fair St Ives Corn Exchange 10am-3pm. Free admission. More info 01480 468037.

Friday 29th - Chapel Arts @ The Corn Exchange 7.30pm. Daniela Rossi, guitarist.

Saturday 30th - St Ives Comedy Club The Corn Exchange 7.30pm

Tickets: www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents.

NOVEMBER

Wednesday 10th - Lecture, A Tour of Big Ben - The Arts Society, Huntingdonshire. St Ives Corn Exchange 2.30pm. Guest Fee £5. Info: huntsarts.org

Saturday 13th - The Snowman Festival starts. Snowmen appear in shops and start of the children's Snowman Trail.

Saturday 20th - Christmas Lights Switch On. 5pm in Market Hill.

Friday 26th - Chapel Arts @ The Corn Exchange 7.30pm

Featuring Solomon Smith and Chris Newman. www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives.

ADVERTORIAL

Five reasons on why you should sell first:



1. Avoid missing out on viewing your dream home

While getting your property on the market before you buy may feel like a leap of faith, it makes sense. If you like a property you've seen advertised, it's likely in this market that another buyer in a position to move forward with the sale will also like it.

2. Sellers will take your offer seriously

In a market where there's a shortage of stock, like there is in St Ives, it's important to show sellers that you are committed and motivated to move. Competition to secure the perfect property is fierce and to be considered as a buyer when you finally find your perfect home, you need to be able to proceed.

3. Avoid rushing to sell and having to accept a lower offer

If you do find your dream home in a market as competitive as this, you might be tempted to submit a high offer in order to secure it. The clients that are not prepared are often end up rushing and don't have time on their hands. This also tends to result in them accepting a lower offer on theirs.

4. Get an accurate budget for your next purchase

With properties achieving record values at the moment, by selling first not only puts you in the strongest position to buy, but will also provide you with an accurate budget for what you can afford to buy next.

5. There's everything to gain

If the scenario arises where you have an acceptable offer on your sale but are yet to find a property yourself, your estate agent can help. It's their job to manage your buyers' expectations around timings, reassure on your seriousness and encourage patience; which in a market where good quality housing is at a premium, should not be too challenging.

If you need any advice on selling call our office on 01480 388 888

ellis&co winters