

# The Riverporter

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

## How do you choose?

In less than 5 weeks all of us will be asked to cast our votes for our local councillors. This will be the first time in a while that all District Councillors will be elected at the same time. You will also be able to vote for your Town Councillors on the same day.

Whilst *The Riverporter* does not support any party we do consider it important that people vote and get the councillors they want. To help you decide who to vote for we will be contacting the candidates to ask them to give us a short summary of why you should vote for them.

We will be asking them to send *The Riverporter* a 'tweet' full of words to convince you to support them.

We will then print their replies in the next issue, due out on the 20th April, giving you enough time to make up your mind before election day on 3rd May.

In this issue you will find an article from The Civic Society about their competition to visualise what St Ives will be like 50 years from now.

***The Riverporter* decided to celebrate this competition by looking back and so you will find inside this edition a reprint of an old issue.**

If history teaches us anything it is that some things never change and nothing lasts forever, except *The Riverporter* of course. Finally we need to let you know that you can now get *The Riverporter* at even more places.

### HOW TO GET YOUR FREE COPY

Fortunately there are quite a lot of places you can pick up FREE copies. They are in pubs, cafés and many shops.

They are also available from the Corn Exchange, the Library and at the new Morrisons.

They are also available at the following newsagents; Mace, WH Smiths, Premier Store in East St, Store on Needingworth Rd, Kings Hedges Post Office and Whateleys Newsagents at Constable Road.

Of course we hope that most of you will read it and pass it on.

## Does Busway crossing cause traffic congestion?

This is a question raised at the recent Town Meeting. Some people think that having a traffic survey, such as the County Council's £1m scheme at various roundabouts, without considering the effect of the Busway crossing, is a waste of money.

In an attempt to look at the problem *The Riverporter* decided to do its own investigation and spent two mornings studying the Busway crossing during the morning 'rush hour'.

The data collected proves pretty conclusively that the congestion, which sees traffic clogged up in most parts of the town and along Harrison Way to Morrisons, is NOT caused by the Busway.

On average the traffic stopped every 88 seconds but only for a short time which did not cause a tailback on Harrison Way. There were 33 buses, 37 cyclists and 33 pedestrians crossing over during the period, which averaged out as one of each, every 2.5 minutes.

All the traffic hold ups were beyond the Meadow Lane roundabout. Any long-term solution to the traffic congestion should include a new bypass and another bridge, which is likely to be costly and controversial. Perhaps traffic would flow better with the stopping of rat-runs by operating a one-way system and making important junctions less susceptible to hold-ups with filter lanes. No doubt the survey will tell us.

**Well done St Ives Bulls for winning the Midland Senior Vase when they beat Long Eaton 19-8 a fortnight ago. They are now just one game away from the National Final at Twickenham if they beat Wath Upon Dearne on 31st March.**



## The Old Riverport

St Ives  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE

## The Chapel Arts Season

The Chapel Arts Season begins This April and runs through to the end of October. All the events take place in or around the Bridge Chapel and include poetry, music and arts and crafts.

The poetry sessions are part of the Poetry Folk group run by Chris Morgan and encourages all St Ives' poets to come and share their work. The music sessions are designed to bring a different kind of music to St Ives and this season includes a harpist, oboist and lutenist.

The intimate concerts, created in the building, can only seat 30 people so you will need to purchase your tickets (£10) early to ensure a place.

The Season programme (still being finalised) is below.

### Chapel Art Season Programme 2018

APRIL	Friday 20th	Daniela Rossi, Classical Guitar Concert
MAY	Friday 25th	Dickie De Vere & The Dorchester Mavericks, tunes from the 20s & 30s
JUNE	Wed 13th	Chris Newman and Humfry Finkle, ragtime guitarists
	Tuesday 19th	<i>Poetry Folk</i>
JULY	Wed 11th	Lutenist James Eisner sings songs through the centuries
AUG	Sunday 12th	Harpist, Ruth Holden plays music from Offenbach to Titanic
	Tuesday 21st	<i>Poetry Folk</i>
SEPT	Friday 7th	Accoustics Anonymous, yet more folk in the Chapel
OCT	Sunday 12th	Composer Jenni Pinnock plays her beautiful compositions for oboe and piano
	Tuesday 16th	<i>Poetry Folk</i>

Tickets are on sale from 1st April, can be purchased from The Corn Exchange or on-line at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives)  
See details at: [www.theoldriverportstives.co.uk](http://www.theoldriverportstives.co.uk).

**The next Poetry Folk Night is on 15th May 7.30 pm in The Dolphin Hotel**

This year's **Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival** is taking shape and the programme will once again include new bands for St Ives, including the brilliant Gravy Train trio and all the way from Norwich the Mojo Preachers, fresh from appearing at The Great British Rhythm & Blues Festival. Also new this year is a Blues masterclass for budding musicians with Chris Newman and Myke Clifford. Steve Lockwood's popular harmonica workshop also returns as do Festival favourites, the Savoy Jazz Men, The Barefoot Doctors, Split Whiskers and The Feelgood Band, to name just a few. **Looking forward to it already.**

# PLASTIC IN ST IVES

## Own it!

We've all seen the recent scary reports on Blue Planet and in the press about plastic pollution in our oceans, rivers, in landfill and more recently, in our own bodies from insidious bits of microplastic in bottled and tap water. To get an idea of the problem, would it surprise you to know that 12 million tonnes of plastic makes its way into the oceans every year? Now that is a massive load of rubbish! Take a look around at home and see how much single-use plastic is in the kitchen and bathroom - it's mindboggling.

### Why now?

So why is plastic in the news? Several high profile scientific reports have detailed how much plastic is in our water. Here's a shocker: the highest concentration of microplastic particles in water ever reported was found in the River Tame near Manchester in 2016. The top 10 cm of riverbed contained more than 500,000 microplastic particles per square metre, which is 50% more than the previous record found on a beach in South Korea. This record has probably already been broken. Another issue is that until January, a huge amount of UK recyclable waste was shipped to China, but the Chinese no longer take low value waste so we can't continue to ignore the problem.

### Doing our bit

Every year we use 8.5 billion plastic straws (they're the most common plastic items found discarded on beaches); they take more than 200 years to break down. Every day in the UK 38.5 m plastic bottles are used, with barely half being recycled. More than 16 m are put into landfill, or are burned or leak into the environment and oceans each day. Plastic production will double by 2040 and quadruple by 2050, which makes a mockery of the government's latest plan to get rid of 'avoidable' plastic waste within 25 years. Legislation can help; since the plastic bag charge came in during 2015, plastic bag use has plummeted by at least 85%. Now all shops must charge, which should help further reduce waste. Tesco and Sainsbury's have removed single use bags.

### Progress

Starting in 2020, France will ban plastic cups, plates and cutlery, the only exception being disposable items made from biodegradable substances (eg bamboo). Just recently one supermarket in Amsterdam opened the world's first plastic-free aisle - 700 products are now on sale with no price increase involved. We shouldn't underestimate how these seemingly small changes could set off a revolution in helping to clean up our planet. What's the best single thing we could do? **Buy less stuff!**

From our eco-correspondent Amanda Randall



## Who will take responsibility for this?

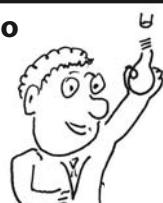
During the recent high winds several trees were damaged. As Riverporter readers will know the tree at the corner of Cromwell Place fell over blocking the road. Residents in Church Street have informed us about a tree on Holt Island which has also lost a large branch. As the picture shows it has fallen into the stream and rests against the footbridge which gives access to the island. It is assumed that HDC, as owners of Holt Island would be responsible for clearing the tree.

Whilst events like this are quite natural, concern is mounting that the delay in clearing the branches will not help the flow of water along the back stream which has had no dredging for a while and the flow of water is not good anyway. Should this be made worse and the flow reduced sufficiently it could result in stagnant water which would not be good for wildlife or residents.



### Update on how many councillors it takes to change a light bulb?

After 40 minutes of earnest debate about the light at Green Leys garages at last month's Town Council meeting and a large article by Cllr Davies in the Hunts Post, demanding someone take responsibility for it, the light has now come on. Did the lightbulb need replacing? **Ed**



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**Descendents of Miles**  
Jeffrey Day were delighted  
by the celebration of his  
life as a poet and flying ace.  
The family learned much  
more about the brief life of  
'Uncle Jeff' as he was known.

**The Town Team**  
will be  
producing a  
new book of  
Jeffrey's poems  
later in the  
year.



Pictured from left to right: Andrea Porter (Narrator), Chris Legg, Ron Metcalfe (Historian), Monica Finlayson, John Groom, Carol Legg, Guy Turner (Jeffrey Day), Guy Fancourt, Jenny Beaumont, Ian Jackson (Newsreader), Phil Cherrington, Kym Cherrington, Anthony Cherrington, Janet Widdows and Robert Lloyd Parry (Hilton Young).

having your say ...



## Dear Erik PAWS FOR THOUGHT

Get it off your chest, email Erik at: [editor@theriverporter.uk](mailto:editor@theriverporter.uk)

Erik was cock-a-hoop on Thursday 22 March when Dotty McLeod and Andy Lake visited St Ives as part of their Sports Aid walk from Cambridge to Peterborough. Erik couldn't wait to get down to Market

Hill and get the latest gossip from Dotty.

As the picture shows Erik and Dotty soon bonded and this picture appeared on Dotty's twitter feed with the following comment - 'I think we can safely say Erik was @dottymcl's favourite visitor this morning'.

Dotty and Andy continued their walk to Ramsey after finding out about the town's efforts to make every business Dementia Friendly from ex-Mayor, Ian Jackson.

Also on hand was current Mayor, Phil Pope who announced his campaign to raise money for his charities by losing 5 stones in weight over the next 6 weeks. As Phil said, 'a difficult task' but we wish him well. If you want to sponsor Phil contact the Town Hall on 01480 388929.

Erik was sad he couldn't go on the walk with Dotty and Andy as they were going to visit Erik's Alpaca friends in Houghton on the way!

Erik mentioned in an earlier edition of *The Riverporter* that he had heard that Poundstretcher may be set to become a Tesco Local. According to the manager this is not the case and he is happy to report that the rumour was incorrect.

## ST IVES IN BLOOM LANDSCAPING... A FITTING TRIBUTE TO HUMPHRY REPTON

St Ives in Bloom have commenced phase 4 of their xeriscape landscaping of the beds at the St Ives Park and Ride Car Park – a project that won an award for "Best Drought Garden" in Anglia in Bloom last year. Xeriscaping means that the planting has been planned to be drought-resistant and is suitable for the lack of rain and the drying winds of the East Anglian climate.

St Ives in Bloom has dedicated this phase of the landscaping to Humphry Repton. He was the last of the great English landscape designers of the eighteenth century, often regarded as the successor to Capability Brown. He also sowed the seeds of the more intricate and eclectic styles of the 19th century. A local East Anglian, he was born 21st April 1752 in Bury St Edmunds and died 24th March 1818, almost exactly 200 years ago. The raised bed excavations were sponsored and carried out by 21st century landscapers SP Landscapes, whilst skips for spoil removal and new soil were kindly provided and donated by Mick George.

St Ives in Bloom volunteers will be planting up the newly cleared planters with a selection of drought tolerant plants on 25th April – please come and join us! Look us up on [www.stivesinbloom.uk](http://www.stivesinbloom.uk), or contact [sibinfo@gmail.com](mailto:sibinfo@gmail.com)



# The Riverporter

## Tesco Bags of Help Grant Scheme – VOTE FOR LOCAL SCOUTING!

Cromwell District Scouts is bidding to bag a massive cash boost from the Tesco Bags of Help initiative

Cromwell District Scouts is one of the groups on the shortlist to receive a cash award from Tesco and has applied for funds to support the Copley Scout Centre.

For decades thousands of boys and girls have made use of the 4-acre woodland site in St Ives.

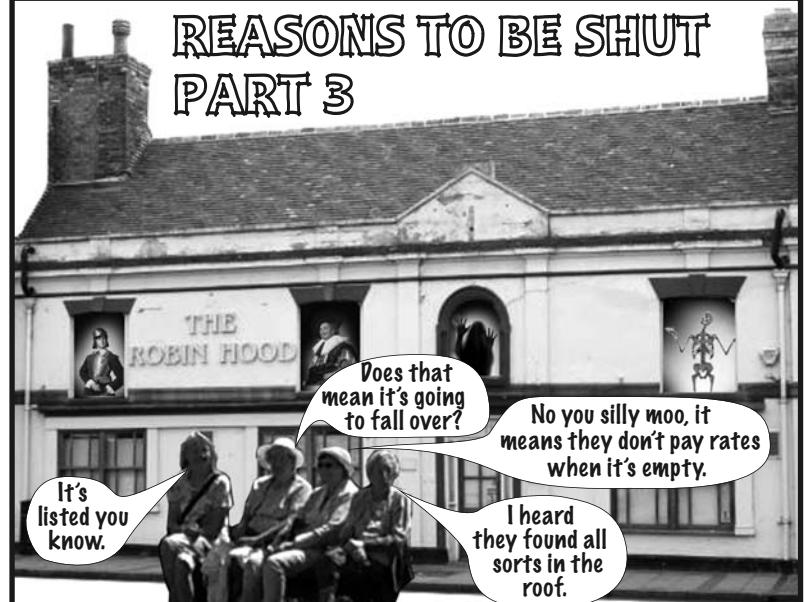
Funds will be used to replace and enhance sustainable native species of trees and hedging across the site. It is essential work, and will ensure the regrowth will continue for future generations to enjoy.

Voting is open from 1st March to 30th April 2018 at all stores, including the Needingworth Express.

*Below: Learning the ancient art of firelighting.*



## REASONS TO BE SHUT PART 3



## Motorists to benefit from free parking at Cambridge's Park & Ride sites from 1 April.

The £1 parking fee is being removed to encourage more people to get out of their cars and use greener and more sustainable modes of transport to travel into Cambridge city centre.

The Greater Cambridge Partnership and Cambridgeshire County Council agreed to split the cost of the shortfall. This arrangement will be reviewed after three years. A key aim is to make travelling by sustainable means – public transport, cycling or walking – an attractive option for more people, helping to reduce congestion and improve air quality.

There have been a number of improvements made at the sites to make it easier for people to access the bus services. Almost 100 new

cycle lockers have been installed to store bikes and all buses now accept contactless payments as well as cash. Meanwhile, the Guided Busway recently reached a milestone of carrying four million people over a 12 month period, taking the total to 22 million busway journeys since it opened in 2011.

**Ed's Note:** Town Cllr Nick Dibben commented: 'At the Town Meeting there was concern about the traffic lights at the busway crossing. Considering that the HDC car parks in town charge, there will now be more people parking at the P&R then walking across the by-pass to get into town. On the other hand, the people parking in the streets to avoid the P&R charge who may go back to the P&R?'



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9.30 am  
Contact Kathie on 07772 868472

**Tuesday** The United Reformed Church, Chequer Street, Fenstanton  
5.30 pm & 7.30 pm  
Contact Kathie on 07772 868472

**Thursday** Crossways Centre, Ramsey Road, St Ives  
9.30 am, 5.30 pm & 7.30 pm  
Contact Diane on 01480 464296

**slimmingworld.co.uk**  
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News from The Civic Society

## A new Car Park for St Ives

HDC have approved the planning application for a multi-storey car park on Hemingford Meadow. Access will be from the north via Ramsey Road and across Holt Island, exit will be to the south with an additional slip road onto London Road. Work is scheduled to start in January 2048 and will take two years.

**What would your reaction be to this news item?**

**Is this how you see St Ives developing in the next 50 years?**

The Civic Society of St Ives was formed in 1968 when locals decided that the proposed route of a bypass, along Ramsey Road, over Holt Island and Hemingford Meadow, was unacceptable. Harrison Way was built and the Civic Society has been keeping a watch on St Ives for 50 years.

Now, looking forward to another 50 years there is a competition **Your St Ives '68** - it is fun, free and open to everyone. It's simple - all you have to do is use your imagination to visualise what St Ives could look like in 2068. Will there be a multi-storey car park on Hemingford Meadow, a roof over Market Hill, any cars allowed in St Ives, how will we cross the river, will Holt Island be home to a Nature Reserve or an exclusive riverside housing development?

When you have an idea of what St Ives might look like you could write about it, paint a picture, make a model or make a video. Your written entry could be prose, poetry, a limerick, humour or maybe a horror story. Your two-dimensional entry could be a painting, collage, mixed media, photographic. A three-dimensional entry could be made of Lego, 3D printed, matchsticks, clay, papier mache, recycled materials. A video entry might be animated, sung or acted. If you can think of any other way that fits into a category, do it that way!

**The closing date is Thursday 6th September 2018:** you can enter as many times as you want to - enter as an individual or as a group. Schools may enter by class or Key Stages, teachers and students may enter individually as well. **Your St Ives '68 is open to all.** On 7th September the entries will be judged in the Free Church on Market Hill and from 12 noon they will be on display for everyone to enjoy until 4 pm Saturday 8th. The winning entries will then be exhibited at the Norris Museum from Monday 10th until Saturday 22nd September.

The Conditions of Entry give the maximum sizes allowed and also asks for registration by 1st July. This is to ensure we provide sufficient, appropriate space for all the entries.

For full details contact [yourselves68@gmail.com](mailto:yourselves68@gmail.com) or [chairman@stivescivic.org.uk](mailto:chairman@stivescivic.org.uk) text 07946 629098 or call 01480 354011 or go to: [www.stivescivic.org.uk](http://www.stivescivic.org.uk).

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## WHAT EXACTLY IS A BUILDING SURVEY REPORT?

*Mike Ellis of Ellis Winters gives some tips on what to do when your offer has been accepted.*



One of the most frequently asked questions following 'Congratulations, your offer has been accepted' is 'what do I need to do now?'

An important item on your checklist should be to make sure your new purchase is as expected with regards to its general condition. This is where an accurate survey report is invaluable. There are several levels of a report that can be commissioned but in this article we concentrate on the 'Building Survey Report'.

Formerly known as a Structural Survey, a Building Survey Report is an in depth inspection of all accessible elements of a property. It provides an evaluation of the condition of a property and will suggest which aspects might need maintenance or further specialist investigation.

The Reports are compiled by chartered surveyors and usually cost from £600 for a small flat to £1,500 for a larger property.

They do not usually comment on the value of the property and they should not be confused with a Homebuyers Report which is similar to a mortgage valuation which is often required by any company you are using to raise finance for your purchase. Mortgage companies may not require a Building Survey Report but you almost always do!

There are only a handful of occasions when we wouldn't recommend getting a Building Survey Report but, with all purchases now costing a substantial amount, these are few and far between.

The report's primary purpose is to draw attention to anything unsuspected or unusual that wasn't evident to the layman

when you viewed the property. That could be, for example, subsidence or a roof at the end of its life. It is far better to be aware of potential costs as soon as possible so you can buy accordingly.

Building Survey Reports are often long, complex documents so consider meeting the surveyor on site so he or she can talk, and walk, you through any issues. Give yourself plenty of time to read the whole report, highlight any problems and be realistic. Your Building Survey Report is a key ally and it will help you to keep your property in perfect health for years to come.



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