

COVERING THE NEWS FOR ST IVES AND AROUND

Issue IOI: I4 January 2022

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR TO OUR READERS

Welcome to our first edition for 2022 and our 101st edition overall. As we enter this fifth year of publishing we look at what 2022 might bring.

This might be a dangerous thing to do in these uncertain times, but we hope that with a fair wind this will be a better, and quite special year. The reason we say this is that the country will be celebrating the Platinum Jubilee of our Queen, who becomes the first monarch to reign for 70 years on 6th February. Although Covid, in its Omicron disguise, is currently rampant it seems that many people are learning to live with this virus and not everything is being cancelled quite so readily. It's extremely unwise to underestimate this pandemic, but we detect that people are generally attempting to get back to some normality where they can.

Of course vaccinations and particularly the use of free Lateral Flow tests, can help with this as you can test yourself before going out and ensure that at least you are not going to infect people around you.

So what is in store for this year?

The long weekend at the beginning of June will feature a range of events. An extra Bank Holiday on Thursday 2nd June, followed by the Spring Bank Holiday moved to Friday 3rd June will provide a four-day weekend when most of the Jubilee events will take place. St Ives Town Council are keen to mark this event in style and although nothing is confirmed yet, look out for their main events on Saturday 4th June. This should include parades by the Engineers Regiment and St Ives Army Cadets. Both have the freedom of the Town.

The Council have also said they hope to have a large party, possibly involving a picnic tea in The Broadway, similar to those held for the peace celebrations at the end of the First World War (see below). Other groups are planning various events during the weekend, which hopefully will be confirmed in the next few weeks. Meanwhile regular entertainment is continuing (see page 2) and events such as Picnic in The Park and Music On The Waits will be held again.

Meeting to discuss Bandstand proposal



A proposal for a Bandstand on The Waits in The Old Riverport of St Ives to commemorate the Reign of Queen Elizabeth II during her Platinum Jubilee Year

St Ives Town Team has produced a proposal for a Bandstand to mark the Queen's reign and the Team is hoping to receive community support for it at a meeting in St Ives Corn Exchange on Tuesday 18th January at 7.30pm.

Several groups have been invited to the meeting and the Team would like to extend that invite to any town groups not contacted and to members of the public who wish to give their opinion on the proposals. Town Team Chair, Sheila Stones said

'We have carefully considered the project and these proposals, whilst not set in stone, or indeed cast in iron, propose a 6 metre diameter stand in the location shown. The document lists some of the reasons for the conclusions we have come to. We appreciate that this is a project that requires the support of the Council and indeed the people of St Ives, and therefore we are inviting councillors, residents and other community groups to a meeting to discuss the project.'

The Town Team allocated £3,000 to the project and following a grant from St Town Council last month, has now raised this to £8,000.

The total costs of the proposal, thought to be about £40,000, are being assessed. It is hoped that the Bandstand will be customised with images that reflect the history of

St Ives and when completed will encourage more use of the area, which is already a popular venue for concerts during the summer.

'Unseen Collections' Norris Museum

Sat 22nd Jan to Sat 26th March

In the store rooms of the Museum lies a treasure trove of items. The Norris Museum does not have space to display all its collection. But the Museum is the guardian of these special items, keeping them for the public and researchers, both now and for future generations.

This exhibition explores how thousands of objects, artworks, books, manuscripts, photographs and ephemera have come to the Museum over the years, and how they are cared for.



Above: The children's tea party held in Market Hill on 19 July 1919 to mark the end of the First World War. This picture, recently coloured, is courtesy of St Ives 100 Years Ago.

STOP PRESS

Cannabis plants worth around £640,000 were discovered 'glowing with heat' inside a property in London Road St Ives last Monday by police using thermal imaging equipment.

STOP PRESS

Chapel Arts @ the Corn Exchange

COMING THIS MONTH

FRIDAY 28TH JANUARY
Lexie Green & Johnny 'Magic Boy' Wright



Whether performing solo, or as here with one of the region's most respected guitarists, Lexie's fun-filled presence always shines through.

7.30pm The Riverport Café Bar in the Corn Exchange. Tickets: £10 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives or can be purchased from the Riverport Café Bar. Places are limited - book now.

COMING THIS YEAR

A TOWN TEAM EVENT



Friday 25th February - The CBT Jazz Quartet

CBT are vocalist Lizz Taylor, guitarist Nick Barraclough, saxophonist Myke Clifford and drummer Malek Hyde-Smith. From Bossas to Bacharach, CBT ooze class and musical sophistication.

Friday 25th March - Daniela Rossi

'This wonderful performance will last long in the memory, and it is great news that she will be returning to play again next year.' Colin Burdfield The Riverporter 12 Nov 2021.

Friday 29th April - Fran McGillivray and Mike Burke

A welcome return for this excellent duo, perfect for a Friday night in the comfortable Riverport Café Bar. Enjoy fine Blues a little Country and some humour.



Friday 27th May - Dickie de Vere & The Dorchester Mavericks

The very finest in toe-tapping light music entertainment from the 20s and 30s.

Friday 24th June - Chris Newman & Humfry Finkle

An evening of improvised ragtime music from these exceptional 'duelling' guitarists.

All concerts start at 7.30pm in the Riverport Café Bar.

Doors open at 6.30pm. Tickets: £10 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives or can be purchased from the Riverport Café Bar.

February 6th sees a brand new music night

Coming upstairs to the Corn Exchange - The Sunday sessions will run on the first Sunday of every month. Floor spots and a feature band/artist every month.

Our first night sees up and coming blues/funk band - **The 29th Funktion** + special guests. Hosted by Stella Hensley and Chris Newman.

FREE ENTRY • BAR • FABULOUS ATMOSPHERE • ALL WELCOME • 7-10 PM

Donations to musicians welcome

Artists wanting to play please contact Stella Hensley on 07769 792700



ST IVES

The Burleigh Hill Community Centre
Constable Road, PE27 3ER

THURSDAYS 5.30pm & 7.00pm
Kim 07536 457520

FRIDAYS 9.30 am &
SATURDAYS 8.00 am & 9.30 am
Kathie 07772 868472

slimmingworld.co.uk



Consequences for not trusting the authorities

Over the past two weeks the Hunts Post has carried articles about drink spiking in St Ives. This weeks headline claims that people fear reporting drink spiking incidents, according to an action group 'Anti Spikers of St Ives' (ASSI).

The group was formed by Dan Sly after his daughter's drink was spiked at an event in the town before Christmas. Mr Sly organised a survey which 75 people completed, 74% of whom said they considered spiking to be a serious problem in St Ives. ASSI claim that 17 incidents have taken place, however Cambs Police, said they were only aware of 1 incident. 19 people claimed in the survey that they did not report an alleged drink spiking incident in 2021 due being 'fearful of not being believed' and 24 others said they were 'unable to recall' what actually happened.

'The squeaky wheel gets the oil'

Like any large organisation the police has finite resources, which it must use where they will be most effective. In general they will respond to issues that are deemed most important and if the public do not report things, as in drink spiking, it is unlikely to get any attention.

So it is up to all of us to report our concerns so we can 'oil the wheel' and this applies to every issue ranging from anti-social behaviour and parking to seeing someone acting suspiciously.

The Riverporter contacted Cambs Police about drink spiking in St Ives. This is their response:

Is the force is doing anything to raise awareness of this crime in St Ives?

Additional patrols continue this month.

How is the force encouraging people in St Ives to report any incidents?

We encourage people to report any concerns they have, no matter how small, to us so we can build up a picture of what is happening in a certain area and work to address this. Concerns can be reported online via web chat: <https://bit.ly/3vsiYDw> or by calling 101.

You have had one incident reported in St Ives, can you confirm if this was investigated thoroughly?

An investigation has been launched and enquiries continue, which includes checking CCTV in the area. Anyone with any information is asked to contact police via web chat: <https://bit.ly/3vsiYDw> or call 101, quoting investigation reference: 35/88896/21

The police have a lot of work to do to restore trust in their organisation but they cannot do that alone. They need the public's help on so many issues. We must do our bit by reporting incidents to them, no matter how small so that the police can make better decisions.

Snowman Festival announce winners

St Ives annual Snowman Festival proved successful once again with many snowmen filling the town.

The winner of the best shop display was IKIGAI and its owner Martin Cooper is pictured (right) receiving the first prize of £100 from Lisa Winters. Ellis Winters also donated the Residential display prize of £100 which went to Lorraine Bycroft. Sacha Rayner, the runner-up, received a Waitrose hamper.

The winners of the Snowman Trail Map were:

Riley Chapman, Eloise Smith, Tobias Juggs and Annabelle Ennion-Smith, who each won a £50 Townrow voucher!

Thanks to Townrow for sponsoring this!

The Snowman stones winners were:

Jordi Hammond, Kelly Watson, Beth McKinnie and Natalie Browne, who won vouchers from local shops. The organisers, The Old Riverport Retail Group, would like to thank everyone who took part and the Town Team who also sponsored the event.



Martin Cooper is encouraging everyone to fill 'just one bottle' in a new campaign that aims to battle climate change

Martin of IKIGAI said: 'Our aim is to encourage people who want to do their bit to help reduce plastic waste to start simply by just refilling one bottle. If each person over the age of 16 in St Ives did this with just one bottle, that would be almost 15,000 bottles saved. Whether it is refilling washing up liquid, shampoo or olive oil, we are encouraging people to just have a go!'

Refill shops up and down the country are supporting the campaign to help support local communities to live more sustainably more easily.

Martin added: 'It's easy to feel helpless when it comes to fighting climate change, but this campaign empowers everyone who has an empty bottle to make a change, and a difference to our planet.'

Volunteers needed for our Monday morning sessions

Whilst due to Covid some of our activities are back on Zoom for January, others are going ahead in person. Please contact Agi for further info. Email: agipeach@icloud.com.

We are hoping that shortly we can get all our sessions restarted face to face.

We are currently looking for some volunteers to join our team for the Love to Move/Reminiscence sessions on Mondays at the Burleigh Hill Community Centre. Any help you can offer would be much appreciated, from helping to arrange furniture for the session, to chatting with our attendees and supporting them with their seated exercise. We'd be very grateful for whatever you can contribute and help us deliver these sessions to our very appreciative attendees!

Please contact Susan if you're able to help: communities@norrismuseum.org.uk





The Riverporter

Voted Best local newspaper of the year 2019/20 in the Cambridge Building Society's Community Magazine Awards

having your say ...

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

OTHER NEWS

Shrink Your Waste Footprint in 2022

In 2020, Huntingdonshire residents sent over 29,000 tonnes of waste to the landfill. Much of this could have been directed elsewhere. Recycling, reusing and composting are the keys to cutting our waste footprint, according to #HuntsWasteBusters.

In 2019 the council found that over 70% of the contents could have avoided the landfill. Our blue bins can take a lot more items than you might expect and the council can make compost from our green bin waste. Many soft plastics can now be recycled at larger supermarkets. Our Household Waste Recycling Centres accept a range of materials from paint tins to small electricals. Terracycle schemes also offer local drop-off points to recycle a variety of items.

The most important change you can make in 2022 is to tackle your food waste. Keep a bucket or caddy near your kitchen bin so it's easy to collect your food scraps, kitchen roll and tea bags. Add this to your green bin with your garden waste.

Huntingdonshire is already leading the way on waste reduction. We achieved the 33rd highest recycling rate across all 317 English councils in 2019/20. Let's all make a New Year's resolution to shrink our waste footprint and help Huntingdonshire climb to #1!

St Ives travel preferences revealed

At its first meeting of 2022, the Transport and Infrastructure Committee of the Combined Authority heard how bypass and active travel options for St Ives got the thumbs-up from the public. Members agreed to recommend to the Board that the Huntingdon A141 and St Ives roads network project forward in one unified scheme.

The Committee recommended that the full Board approve the development and costing up of the next stage and that the Combined Authority Board approves the programme and budgeting for the Local Improvement Schemes for St Ives.

Public and stakeholder engagement for the St Ives roads network was undertaken between 14th June and 5th July 2021. In total, there were 469 responses to the survey. The most common issues that respondents were the most concerned about were congestion (339), heavy traffic (269), and road safety (241). Fewer respondents, but still a significant number, agreed with improve air quality and improved journey times.

Overall, when asked, 90% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed with the need to reduce road traffic (cars, lorries, vans) and that there is a need to improve ease of bus and coach use. Respondents also agreed about re-allocating road space to walking and cycling infrastructure. Overall, respondents most favoured a bypass option with other sustainable/active travel options and local junction improvements.

However the implementation of any of the measures is still a long way off as the next stage of work is for the Combined Authority transport team to develop the scope, programme, costs and preliminary design with Cambs County Council. The Combined Authority Board will then be asked to consider funding this initial development work, which will need to be completed before it's proposals and presumably the funding for the actual work can be unlocked.

The Cromwell Probus Club is back

The club for retired business people, which came close to being wound up because of the coronavirus pandemic is back on track after a relaunch and was able to hold its traditional Christmas gathering. Further information about the club and its activities and how to get involved are available from the website at: www.CromwellProbusClub.org.uk.

Crucifixion in Fenstanton a first?

Fenstanton High Street follows the approximate route of the Via Devana, which linked the Roman towns at Cambridge and Godmanchester. A previously unknown Roman settlement in Fenstanton was found to have five small cemeteries and in one was the remains of a man with a nail through his heel which is believed to be extremely rare evidence for an ancient crucifixion – the first in the UK.



Can Planning Dept learn from Refuse?

A letter in this week's Hunts Post compared the performance of HDC's Refuse and Planning departments. The writer, P. Ambrose stated that Planning could learn how to be more customer facing from the Refuse Department. *The Riverporter* is often told that HDC's Planning Dept. is the cause of delays, and considerable costs to developers and applicants. In the same Hunts Post edition HDC's Leader, St Ives Councillor, Ryan Fuller, extolled the virtues of HDC's parks and open spaces and its waste services which he claims is in the top 25% in the country. He states that this work on parks is not part of the Councils statutory work. It is undoubtedly good for our well being but is presumably done at local taxpayers expense. On the other hand the Planning Department, a statutory service which is vital for the economic vitality of Huntingdonshire, often fails to meet deadlines. Planning has a poor reputation nationally, but wouldn't it be good if HDC's Planning Department could become one of the better ones?

Dear Erik, Subject: Taxis

T&T Taxis have now extended their illegal parking from Crown Street to the Disabled Bays on Market Hill. (See Photo).



This taxi was parked in this bay from at least 11.30am (the time of my arrival until after 1pm when I left) which meant I had to park in the Waitrose car park and walk with my stroller back into the Town Centre.

Surely for these illegal activities they should have their Taxi License revoked?

Yours Sincerely, **Michael Lynch.**

Dear Erik,

Subject: Slum on the Waits



How long are we expected to put up with this eyesore in the most historic and pretty part of our town. Surely the council has some powers?

Gordon Walker



On that theme Gordon ... Is this wall safe? I'm not sure I would sit on this bench! **Ed.**

Dear Erik, Subject: Missing Signs

I have noticed that the two signs (one by the marina roundabout, one by the McDonald's roundabout) about the planned Envar incinerator on the edge of St Ives have gone walkabouts. Any chance of a whodunit-style article in the new year from *The Riverporter* team? All the best **John Marsh**

Dear Erik,

Subject: Christmas Day Lunch

Again this year we thought it unwise to host the St Ives Christmas day lunch at the Free Church, but instead our team of volunteers cooked lunches and delivered them to people who were isolated or alone on Christmas Day. Huge thanks are due to the team- the cooks, the drivers, the people who shopped for the Christmas gift bags and the organisers. It was a great effort and the fifty meals delivered were much enjoyed by all.

We are grateful to Buckingham Foods of Histon, to the St Ives Co-op and to St Ives Waitrose for their generous support.

We hope that all of our friends will be back in the Free Church hall on Christmas day 2022 for our traditional Christmas lunch.

Best Wishes, **Mike Baker**

St Ives Volunteer Centre

Busker Tony has surprise gig

On New Year's Eve Tony Jeevar (below) was busking in St Ives town centre entertaining shoppers who were enjoying his performance enough to generously tip him.



Things got even better when he was offered the opportunity to entertain diners at a New Year's Eve Party in the Corn Exchange. Ron Westrip, who was organising the event, and is co-editor of *The Riverporter*, was so impressed he thought it would be a nice if Tony could entertain the party goers during their dinner.

And so it was, as around 120 people enjoyed a proper New Year's Eve dinner dance with the excellent Rhythm & Blues Band.



Wokingham Borough Council find novel solution to bad parking!

Cars were lifted off the road so yellow lines could be painted and after the cars were lowered the authority's parking enforcement contractors issued them with tickets!

Could this be the solution we need in St Ives?



The COPE meeting scheduled to be held at the Corn Exchange on Thursday 20th Jan has been cancelled due to COVID. At the present time, the meeting scheduled for Thursday 17th Feb will still go ahead

HYPERION

The COURTYARD
St Ives
Open-air boutique market, run by independents



Hyperion Auctions, Antiques Centre and the Courtyard would like to thank all our customers for their support and wish them a Happy New Year



Come and visit us during the day and for late night shopping every Thursday until 8pm

Next Antiques & Interiors Sale
22nd January 2022



the saleroom
The home of art & antiques auctions

Hyperion Auctions, The Salerooms, Station Road, St Ives PE27 5BH
www.hyperionauctions.co.uk 01480 464140

UNLEASH YOUR DANCING QUEEN



29 JANUARY
2022

ST IVES CORN EXCHANGE PRESENTS



PLANET ABBA

8PM - LATE

You do not want to miss this!

Followed by a 70's Disco - Doors and Bar Open at 7:15 pm

ADVERTORIAL

WILL THERE BE MORE PROPERTIES AVAILABLE FOR SALE IN 2022?



As we welcome in the new year the question on every buyers lips is: are there more properties coming to the market? The early signs are yes!

Based on the first 7 days in January, several of which being bank holidays, we've seen 21 new properties launched across the areas we cover in St Ives, Chatteris and March. Rightmove has reported that seller numbers are up by 21% compared to Boxing Day the year before, which is great news for buyers. We're delighted to say that almost 40% of these new properties are being advertised through Ellis Winters and we have a similar number of homes that are in the process of having photos taken now that the Christmas decorations have come down.

Buyer demand is still incredibly high with many having missed out on purchases last year. Our Property Premiere Group on Facebook has reached an all-time high with over 950 motivated buyers taking advantage of the sneak peek of new properties coming up for sale. It's too early to say where house prices are heading with confidence this year, however, the consensus from lenders is that a 5% rise is highly likely. To give some context, that would be a £10,000 increase on a £200,000 property, £25,000 rise on a £500,000 home and for those fortunate enough to be looking around £1m a £50,000 rise in the cost to purchase the same home.

Starting your move now could save you thousands of pounds if you can beat the price rise. The first step if you have a home to sell is to organise a valuation of your home. At Ellis Winters we offer a free property valuation with no obligation or hard sell. Contact your local Ellis Winters branch to organise an appointment today.

ellis&co
winters