

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

## A PARKLET'S SPECIAL Town Centre Transformed

Residents awoke this week to find that St Ives town centre had been transformed with the construction of the long awaited Parklet.

Situated in a corner of the bus station exit, with an unobstructed view of the toilets this sophisticated seating area is expected to attract visitors from far and wide.



A district spokesman said: 'We are delighted that we have been able to spend some of the money that the government has provided to invigorate our town centres. It is important that, following the decline in the numbers of people coming into town and visiting our remaining shops, that we did something to reverse this trend and we believe that this will do just that!'

'It is a significant moment for St Ives as this Parklet has been carefully designed and located to make the biggest step forward in revitalising the businesses in our town by encouraging people to sit and socialise here.'

The Riverporter has been out seeking views from residents and soon encountered an enthusiastic response from Sparky, who told us: 'This is simply great news for me and my colleagues. Until now we were forced to sit and have a tinny on the old, uncomfortable bench in the small garden between the auction centre and the guide hut. This parklet will offer us better, larger, seating with room for us all to relax together, in comfort and with the added benefit of being much nearer the toilets. It's bound to encourage some of us to use the loo more rather than having to water the flower beds, which we used to do.'

It will be interesting to see just how successful this project will be over the coming weeks. Please let The Riverporter know your views by writing to: [editor@theriverporter.uk](mailto:editor@theriverporter.uk)

## BANDSTAND UPDATE

It is hoped that funding will include an award from Grantscape but with around £4k required to unlock any grant, the Town Team has decided to seek Pledges of support from the community now.

### Pledges towards the Bandstand on The Waits

Dedicated to the Queen in recognition of her considerable reign, the Bandstand will be a lasting legacy from the people of St Ives. The structure will list all those who help provide the funds. At this stage we hope that people, who would like to support the project will pledge a donation. Pledging support will allow

the Town Team to progress the project, which will need planning and other permissions as well as sufficient funds before the bandstand can be built, which we hope to achieve in 2022.

You can make a pledge by visiting the Town Hall, (between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday) stating the amount you pledge and

giving your contact details.

Alternatively you can email: [townteam@theoldriverportstives.co.uk](mailto:townteam@theoldriverportstives.co.uk) with your details

Or go to:

[www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/stivescambsbandstand](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/stivescambsbandstand)

### PLEASE NOTE:

Pledged money will not be taken until we know that the project can go ahead and the funds are needed. Any funds donated for the bandstand, but not used, will go towards other events during the Jubilee celebrations or will be returned to the donor.

## Festival programme announced

The Town Team has released the programme of bands that will be playing at this year's Festival, which has nine bands playing for the first time. Festival Friday in the Corn Exchange includes a chance to dust off your dancing shoes.

The dancing starts at 7pm on Friday 16th September with The Umbrella Big Band, playing classic big band music, including some of the best ballroom dance tunes, a chance to put on your tux and patent dance shoes.

Friday will finish with a chance for people to re-discover the the rhythms and dance moves of Northern Soul music.

It's also an opportunity for those 'of a certain age' to enjoy the dance sensation of their youth with the well-known DJ Marco.

Okay it might not quite match the atmosphere of an all-nighter at Wigan Casino, but it may be the next best thing!

This, the 8th Festival, looks as though it will be as popular as the first seven and with a great range of music and new artists from far and wide it is sure to continue to offer four fun filled days of entertainment - and it's all free to attend.

### THURSDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER

7pm	The Oliver Cromwell	Phil Crawford 'Him in the hat'	A Fenland troubadour
7.30pm	Amore Restaurant	Martin Kemp Trio	Cool Jazz
8pm	Golden Lion Hotel	Lexie Green	Americana, Blues, R'n'R
9.30pm	Nelson's Head	Dickie de Vere & The DMs	Tunes of the 20s & 30s

### FRIDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER

6pm	The Haywain	The 29th Funktion	Blues, Funk, R&B
7pm	The Corn Exchange	The Umbrella Big Band	Big-band dance music
7.30pm	All Saints Parish Church	CBT band	Sophisticated 'Gin & Jazz'
8pm	Golden Lion Hotel	Kafkadiva	Riffy-Bluesy-Rock
9pm	Ivy leaf Club	Dr Ika's Pharmacy	Rock, Jazz and Blues
10pm	The Corn Exchange	Northern Soul with Marco	Northern Soul dance night

### SATURDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER

11am	The Quayside	Stamford Stompers with Helen	Trad Jazz
2pm	The Quayside	Barefoot Doctors	Electric Blues
3pm	All Saints Parish Church	Four Winds Sax Quartet	Gershwin & Beyond ('Gin & Jazz')
4pm	The Oliver Cromwell	Dove & Boweevil	Blues 'n roots
5pm	Floods Tavern	Mr Griff	Funk and Soul
7.30pm	Golden Lion Hotel	Chris Lord and her Blues Express	Raunchy Rhythm and Blues
9.30pm	Ivy leaf Club	Rhythm & Blues Band	Rhythm and Blues with Soul

### SUNDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER

Noon	Golden Lion Hotel	Spiral G's	Jazz, Funk, Fusion
2pm	The Quayside	Split Whiskers	Chicago Blues
4pm	Nelson's Head	Kopy Katz	Rockabilly
6pm	The Lounge	The Reavey Brothers	Soul, Rock, Blues, Funk & Ska

Programme may be subject to change [www.stivescambridgeshire.co.uk](http://www.stivescambridgeshire.co.uk)



# COMING Next Month

A TOWN TEAM EVENT



**Friday 25th February  
The CBT Jazz Quartet**

From Bossas to Bacharach, CBT ooze class and musical sophistication.

**The Town Team are delighted to have booked a very special act for the start of the August Bank Holiday.**



Kimberley Rew and Lee Cave-Berry will grace the Chapel Arts stage on **Friday 26th August**, accompanied by Christine Kitching on percussion. Rew's credits include winning the Eurovision Song Contest with Katrina and the Waves in 1997. Their winning song *Love Shine a Light* was written by Rew, as was Katrina and the Waves' massive 1983 hit, *Walking on Sunshine*, which was described as the crown jewel in

EMI's catalogue and is estimated to have earned over £10m in royalties. In 1998 Cave-Berry teamed up with Rew for a series of albums- the latest, *Purple Kittens*, propelled three singles into Mike Read's Heritage Chart and the Radio 365 playlist chart. They now live in St Ives.

**All concerts start at 7.30pm in the Riverport Café Bar, St Ives Corn Exchange. Doors open at 6.30pm. Tickets: £10 from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives) or can be purchased from the Riverport Café Bar.**

# St Ives 20 years ago ...

**A coffee-table book about St Ives and its people at the Millennium is now on the internet for everyone to enjoy.**

Long out of print, it is a photo-documentary showing the historic market town as it was around the year 2000 and featuring a cross-section of the people who lived, worked and played there.

Author Stuart Littlewood says: 'It was a hugely enjoyable project photographing so many wonderful characters and telling their stories. St Ives is a fascinating place evolving all the time. If I still lived there I'd have done a follow-up book illustrating the town and its remarkable people twenty years later.'

The book, 'St Ives: a New Millennium', was funded by the Town Council, Huntingdonshire District Council, the Goodliff Fund, and the local Vauxhall dealership in those days (Mann Egerton/Inchcape). But, says Stuart, the book still wouldn't have been possible without the generous help of John Souter with his digital design and printing skills, and the co-operation of so many other people.

Stuart now lives in Galloway, south-west Scotland. **'St Ives: a New Millennium' can be found at: [www.paperturn-view.com/uk/stubizz/st-ives-a-new-millennium?pid=MjA206661&p=55](http://www.paperturn-view.com/uk/stubizz/st-ives-a-new-millennium?pid=MjA206661&p=55).**



# St Ives and District BHF thank you

The St Ives and District fundraising branch of the British Heart Foundation would like to thank all those who supported them during 2021.

Jean Chandler, Branch Chairman said: 'Our Candle Lighting event, in the lovely St Ives Bridge Chapel, was again very well supported in November and December and we are delighted that through donations we raised £1,400, which will be used for much needed heart research. 'We are hoping 2022 (Covid permitting) will enable us to hold our quiz again, which we are moving to the Corn Exchange in St Ives in the spring, and we know Ron is planning a big event also in the Corn Exchange in April (see right).'

The British Heart Foundation fund a laboratory at the Addenbrookes campus which is doing amazing work with stem cells and it hopes will be able to regenerate damaged parts of the heart caused by heart failure. This costs an enormous amount of money and the more we can all raise the quicker human trials can begin.



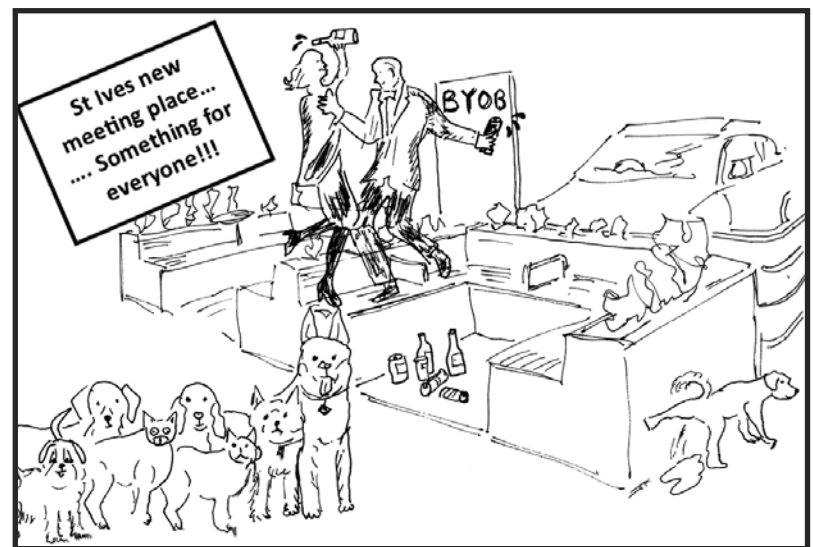
Please contact us on 01480 469557 for more information or with any ideas you may have for fundraising. If you wish you could also drop a donation in an envelope into the British Heart Foundation shop in St Ives stating it is for the fundraising branch, with either cash or cheque and all your details inside.

**Dear Erik,**

I thought this could be a positive New Year article for the Riverporter, as you can see from the attached before and after photos.

Last year I was very dismayed to find this graffiti sprayed on the side wall of Poundland and FatFace in July last year after the final of the Euros 2021. After several months the graffiti was still visible so I contacted Barry Williams, Managing Director of Poundland and Mark Wright, Global Operations Director of FatFace and I was very pleasantly surprised that they responded to me immediately and both assured me that the graffiti would be removed very quickly.

**Job done! Jill Burt**



**8pm Thursday  
3 February 2022**

**Tickets £5 from [screenstives.org.uk](http://screenstives.org.uk) or in the Corn Exchange**

**Pre-screening drinks in the licensed Riverport Cafe from 7pm**

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12A



# 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

### Incinerator is still a hot subject

The Cambridgeshire County Council has passed a motion requiring them to write to Michael Gove expressing their concerns over the proposed incinerator plant at the Envar site on Somersham road. 2,500 people have now signed a petition against a hospital waste incinerator to be built near St Ives. County Cllr Steve Criswell presented the petition against the Envar facility at Woodhurst with representatives of the POWI action group.

The petition was not supported by all present with some councillors attempting to sidestep the issue by referring the matter to the planning committee. The motion was passed but many of the POWI group took to social media shortly afterwards asking why some Labour and Lib Dems had abstained. *The Riverporter* understands that they abstained because it could compromise their ability to vote at a planning meeting if they had been seen to pre-determine any application by Envar. The feeling was that this was an attempt by the Tories to make political gain, which could impact on an inevitable planning determination.

### Cambs CC 'no option' than a tax hike

Cambridgeshire County Council leaders say they have been left with "no other option" than to propose a council tax increase from April this year. The proposed increase of 4.99% would mean a Band C household paying £1.19 more a week, an increase of £62.08 for the year. Council Leader, Councillor Lucy Nethsingha, said they recognised that many people are struggling, and that the proposed budget also sets aside money to support people. Under the proposals the free school meal voucher scheme in the school holidays and the household support fund, will continue to be funded after central government funding ends. She said: 'There are always questions, could you do something different. But in reality, we have been left with no other sustainable source of funding other than council tax, there is literally nothing else. People usually understand council tax can be good value for money if it means it is spent on services, which we intend to do.'

### Two conflicting stories in same paper

A piece in this week's Hunts Post stated that Huntingdonshire District Council has been shortlisted for one of Keep Britain Tidy's annual Network Awards.

Executive councillor for Operations and Environment, councillor Marge Beuttell, said: 'We know that people want to live in places that are clean and tidy and local authorities have a massive role to play in this and should rightly be recognised for their efforts.'

The second snippet, a letter from a J R Allcock of St Neots, highlighted the problem of litter in Huntingdonshire under the heading **Why is disposing of litter so hard?**

He says '... the levels of litter on our streets, grass verges, roads, slip-roads, motorways and in alleyways and parks is now increasing to epidemic proportions.'

**Eds note:** I noticed these two pieces because I had just driven along the A14 and A1 and couldn't help see the masses of rubbish lining both roads. It struck me that this accumulation had happened quickly as the roads had only been constructed one year ago. Can we assume that Marge will be doing something about it? After all the local authority have a massive role to play in keeping Huntingdonshire clean and tidy according to Marge.

### Would you like to while away the hours sitting here?

According to research parklets can:

- clean air with pollution absorbing plants
- actively increase footfall to local businesses
- support active travel in encouraging people to leave their car at home and walk
- help people feel safer by reducing traffic speed on the roads in which they are located and are ideal for showcasing local businesses and bringing people together through shared space and conversation.



Executive Leader of the HDC, St Ives Cllr Ryan Fuller, said in a recent press release: 'The parklet project is just one of the many schemes that we are delivering, in conjunction with local stakeholders, following our successful bid for COVID-19 Recovery Funding.'

More parklets will also be installed around the Oliver Cromwell statue on Market Hill and will be maintained by the District Council.

*The Riverporter* has established that these parklets cost around £10,000 per bay and that with four units going around Oliver Cromwell, the cost of these parklets is likely to exceed £60,000. According to the Town Council no planning application was received and that the District Council informed the Council of the installation by correspondence.

**Several questions immediately spring to mind: Why doesn't this need planning permission in a conservation area? Who are the stakeholders and what evidence is there that they were properly consulted? And who decided this was a suitable location?**

Dear Erik,

I refer to Mike Baker's comments regarding the Christmas Lunch (RP101) organised by all concerned providing, preparation and delivery as a great effort. The food was delicious and personally I would like to thank all who gave the supplies, time and effort to the task. It was consoling to have contact, especially at Christmas. **Mrs. Lawrenson**

Dear Erik,

Further to publishing the letter about T&T Taxis parking in St Ives, I took this photo of one of their taxis parked outside their offices in Crown Street today 18.1.22 at 11.12 am.



That taxi was completely blocking the footpath. The driver walked off into the town. Clearly T&T Taxis have their own set of parking rules. **Name withheld.**

Dear Erik, **Subject: Taxis in St Ives**

I was very interested to see the photo and letter from Mike Lynch regarding the T & T Taxi parked illegally in St Ives town centre.

This firm seem to think it is perfectly acceptable to park anywhere in residential areas - particularly Westwood Road, Burstellers, Broad Leas. The drivers of these vehicles don't live in the areas and come and go twice a day leaving large mini-buses parked in a dangerous way. They are often 'the wrong way' round overnight and quite frankly it is an accident waiting to happen.

I have been in correspondence with Councillor Ryan Fuller about it and have suggested they could very easily leave these vehicles either at the Park and Ride or at the car park on Marley Road, both of which are three-quarters empty most of the time and in doing so would pose no nuisance (or danger) to the public. Perhaps HDC shouldn't be handing out taxi licences unless these vehicles have somewhere safe to park!

Kind regards **Alison Webber**

Dear Erik,

**Subject: Community Fair and Rotary Club**

The Rotary Club of St Ives has taken a table at the Community Fair being run by the Town Council in the Corn Exchange on Saturday 12th March. Our hope is that we can provide the local community with more information about who we are and what we do - and thus raise awareness and, perhaps, attract a new member or two.

Kind regards **Sally Heffer-Martin**  
President Elect **St Ives Rotary Club**

Dear Erik,

Could you please mention our Societies February Stamp Fair?

**Huntingdonshire Philatelic Society**  
**Stamp Fair with Post cards on the 19th**  
**February 10am-3pm at the Corn**  
**Exchange St Ives. Further information**  
**01480 468037.**

Yours faithfully **David Birkert**

Dear Erik,

A lovely bench with a view dedicated to Mr and Mrs Berman at Berman Park, but blighted with rubbish left behind. Is this selfishness on the part of users of the bench something you could highlight in the Riverporter?

There is a bin not far away.

Thank you **Gilly Jackson**

Dear Erik,

Can you find out where I can buy a Parklet for my garden. I think it would enhance my garden scheme beautifully. In fact, it could catch on, forget hot tubs or water features, install a Parklet. Every home should have one.

**A homeowner.**

**Dear Homeowner,**

Can I suggest you try Ikea? If this proves fruitless contact the Conservative Party HQ as this looks like it may be a Boris initiative to promote BYOB parties.

Dear Erik,

### 'What were they thinking?'

I ask the question in response to the appearance of the new 'Parklet' that has appeared in town. Please don't misunderstand me Erik, I love our town it's a lovely place to wander around and take in the features and amenity that the town offers in abundance, furthermore the idea of parklets is, I think, a good idea. But why there? Of all the places in town where people may like to sit and dwell who thought that the car park beside the bike sheds with a view of the town toilets and bus shelter was a good idea? Who for one second wants to sit there and eat their lunch or suggest it as a good meeting place for friends? I have no idea what this cost, but I suspect thousands (£) including installation, an absolute waste of time sitting there waiting for the inevitable defacement. Shame on the District Council for a thoughtless act of disregard for our community.

**A town resident**

**St Ives Day Centre is hoping to re-instate the mini bus service in the near future but we desperately need volunteers who can escort the members on and off the bus.**

**The role is either in the morning or afternoon and you will assist the members on and off the bus and to/from their door.**

**If you are interested in helping to provide this valuable service, please contact us on 01480 463444.**

**Entries Invited for Next Fortnightly Antiques & Interiors Sale**



Results from our last sale on 22<sup>nd</sup> January



Wedgwood Florentine W2714 Turquoise pattern Dinner service.

**Sold £900**

Good Quality 1970s Teak Sideboard on tapering legs

**Sold £500**



Collection of 10 Coalport figurines Ladies of Fashion

**Sold £360**

Entries Invited for our next Next Antiques & Interior on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> February



Hyperion Auctions, The Salerooms, Station Road, St Ives PE27 5BH  
[www.hyperionauctions.co.uk](http://www.hyperionauctions.co.uk) 01480 464140



# Niece of St Ives War hero dies aged 91

The Riverporter is sad to report that Sheila Day - passed away peacefully at home near Norwich on December 27<sup>th</sup> 2021 aged 91 years. Sheila, who lived in Houghton for many years was instrumental in supporting the book and play produced by the Town Team about one of St Ives' First World War heroes on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of that horrific war.

Flight Commander Miles Jeffrey Game Day was a brilliant flying ace and poet who died aged just 21 on 27 February 1918 when his plane had to land in the North Sea. Sheila was Jeffrey's niece and a member of the influential Day family which was well respected in St Ives during the 19<sup>th</sup> and into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Days held prominent positions, two were Town Clerks and they were notable solicitors. The firm Leeds Day still exists today.



Sheila Day visiting the Shuttleworth Collection in 2018 with her carer Marianne. David Bremner, the grandson of another WW1 pilot, shows Sheila a Bristol Scout the type flown by his grandfather and by Jeffrey in the conflict.

Although she never met him she was keen to tell Jeffrey's remarkable story. Jeffrey and his elder brother Dennis are both commemorated on the St Ives War memorial. The play performed in the Corn Exchange on 10 March 2018 was well received and proved very emotional, especially for the ten members of the Day family that came to see the show.

Copies of the book about Jeffrey called 'Gamelyn' can be obtained from the Norris Museum.

A 72 page hard-back book about Huntingdonshire's First World War Poet & Flying Ace, Flight Cmdr Miles Jeffrey Game Day, DSC, RNAS.

The book includes his poems, letters and correspondence with his family and close friend Hilton Young and fascinating pictures and details of the early years of aviation.



ADVERTORIAL

## PROPERTY VALUATION – ALL CHANGE!



January started the way 2021 finished...busy, busy, busy, with calls and enquiries going through the roof. The difference is, we're now seeing an increase in the number of properties coming up for sale, however, there is still a shortage of stock. Property in sought-after areas are receiving several offers, driving prices up further. This has caused a shift in the way we as estate agents value a property, paying closer attention to availability of similar properties, or lack of, to determine what we can achieve for our clients.

Estate agents value property in different ways but primarily by the location, size and condition, other factors are then taken into consideration, recent nearby sales, the potential for improvement and of course what the seller is hoping to achieve. But, over the last six months, things have started to change, the lack of supply and increased demand has caused many sales to be recorded higher than the asking price. Interested buyers are asked for their best and final offer, by a certain date, these offers are assessed and put forward to the seller, who then makes the final decision.

Of course, it doesn't matter what the asking price is, it's the price that's achieved that matters. If you ask anyone in Scotland, they've been using the "offers over" system for as long as they can remember and I think it'll be used here for a long while yet!

**If you'd like to know how to price your property to maximise the sale price, call Ellis Winters on 01480 388888.**

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