

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

Are they all mad or just bad?

Is it just me or are all the world's leaders mad? I say this on the morning that Russian troops have invaded Ukraine and, like many, I'm left wondering if it's too late to do anything about it. Is it the result of so many 'leaders' being mad, bad or liars?

Okay that's a bit of a wild statement for I'm sure there are some honest, hardworking world leaders doing a good job in difficult circumstances, but we aren't hearing much from them. Well that's not surprising as good news stories are rarely covered.

I don't blame the press for our woes [not surprising really]. Generally the press is reporting what is happening. No, my angst is over the more extreme views we are seeing these days. Okay you might say it's always been like that, especially if the person concerned holds a different view to you, but it seems we have tipped over the edge.

It was pretty bad when Trump was elected. How, I thought, could half of Americans elect such a person. Surely they would realise their mistake and get rid of him.

Well they did, just. But his legacy of false information hasn't gone away and sadly Joe Biden isn't converting many right wing extremists to his cause, quite the opposite.

It is an abuse of power when our Prime Minister says something in Parliament he knows to be untrue, for political gain, and gets away with it because his colleagues fail to correct him.

It's a disaster when someone as powerful as Putin can spout lies with impunity that could bring Europe to the brink of war. It seems we have, once again, failed to learn from history and have not dealt with those world leaders who have crossed the line.

It may be too late now to deal with Putin or Xi Jinping. Ruthless men that have been allowed too much power by 'the West', which leaves them holding all the trump cards. Has our need for gas and goods been more important than the genocide of the Uyghurs or an invasion of Ukraine. When our politicians fail to do the right thing here it's wrong, but it's disastrous that they failed to act on the 'human rights' abuses that they have known about for years. Can we control Putin with sanctions? I doubt it. **Ed.**

Mayor and refugees help with planting



On Thursday St Ives Mayor, Pasco Hussain, enlisted three refugee volunteers to help plant trees on The Quay.

As we reported in RP103 Pasco has been liaising with some of the 57 refugees, currently staying in The Dolphin Hotel, as they wait to see if they can remain in the country.

This can take up to 6 months, during which time the refugees aren't allowed to work, so they were very happy to lend a hand with this project organised by the Town Team.

Pictured are, left to right: *Muhammad Khurshid from Pakistan, Timur Safi and Sangar Tarakhil both from Afghanistan and Pasco (not in his Mayoral robes this time!).*

The three trees will provide colour in the spring, shade in the summer and perhaps lights at Christmas. It is part of the work of the Town Team in enhancing the town centre along with the Station History boards, the display in the ex Molise Restaurant window and the bandstand on The Waits.

Your chance to have a say

Saturday 12 March at 6pm in the Corn Exchange is the time set for the people of St Ives to get answers from local authority leaders and Town Councillors about matters affecting residents.

The Annual Town Meeting will begin at 6pm in the Corn Exchange, following a Community Fair which starts at 3pm.

The reason the Annual Town Meeting commences at 6pm, rather than a more normal time, earlier in the day, is due to the Local Government Act 1972, which basically states that the meeting cannot start before 6pm unless the Council have set a different time for it.

If you wish to voice your concerns over any matter, such as flooding, parking or parklets or even suggest a different time for the Town Meeting in future then this is your chance.

You can also go and praise the council for its work. The council want to hear from you about how they can make St Ives even better.

The Town Meeting returns to the Corn Exchange following an excursion to the Burleigh Hill Centre in March 2020, just before the pandemic rules stopped all face-to-face meetings.

The confirmed panel, who will answer the questions, includes representatives from the following local authorities and groups:

Police
Neighbourhood Plan
St Ives Town Council
Cambridgeshire County Council
Flood Action Group

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING & COMMUNITY FAIR

12th March 2022

Corn Exchange

3pm-6pm (Community Fair)
6pm (Annual Town Meeting)

Find out about community organisations

Discuss any concerns you have about our town

Get answers to your questions from our panel

Community Groups

Groups attending the Community Fair are:

ACE Friends of the Corn Exchange
 Burleigh Hill Community Centre
 Councillor Surgery Stall
 Eco Action
 Festival Events St Ives (FEST)
 Friends of Holt Island Nature Reserve
 Huntingdonshire Volunteer Centre
 KICK
 Parent and Carer Hub
 STAR
 St Ives Christmas Lights
 St Ives Day Care Centre
 St Ives in Bloom
 St Ives Neighbourhood Plan
 St Ives Rotary Club
 St Ives Town Initiative
 The Civic Society
 The Town Team

St Ives is renowned for the work of its community groups, so come along and find out what they do and how you can support them to do even more.

BANDSTAND UPDATE

The Town Team is delighted to have received pledges and donations bringing the appeal up to £18,000 already. Plans are currently underway to seek permission to erect the bandstand on The Waits from the local planning authorities but the appeal for funds continues.

Businesses are being contacted to help boost funds for what will be a significant gesture from the Town to mark the exceptional work of Queen Elizabeth II over the past 70 years.

You can support the project by making a pledge, either by visiting the Town Hall, (between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday) stating the amount and giving contact details or you can email: townteam@theoldriverportstives.co.uk.

Alternatively you can help by donating any amount, no matter how small at: www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/stivescambsbandstand.

PLEASE NOTE: Funds donated will be returned to the donors if the project does not go ahead.

St Ives ecoaction thinks global and acts local!

Join us at the Community Fair on 12th March (see front page) to tell us about your concerns for the local environment and find out what you can do to help shape our Local Climate Action Plan.

We are currently running a series of campaigns and initiatives and are always in need of more volunteers to sign up and help to build a more resilient community in the face of the environmental challenges we face.

Our motto of 'learn more, care more, do more' inspires us, and we aim to make our activities fun, as well as beneficial to both community well-being and the environment.

Working with St Ives in Bloom we will be announcing a series of regular group litter picks, encouraging more people to log their solo picks on the St Ives Against Rubbish Facebook page, turning the volume up on litter awareness and campaigning, and taking action to tackle the causes of littering and littering behaviours as well as the symptoms. We know that huge amounts of people feel frustrated about the amount of litter that is not disposed of responsibly in our town, and by working together we can seriously begin to do something about it and clean our town up.



The word LANDFILL has come to represent a monster that mustn't be allowed to take into its greedy paw any more broken household items. As we click online for shiny new replacements, we perhaps forget that these once useful objects are indigestible. Incapable of natural decay, discarded and broken they may occupy space for an immeasurable length of time, disfiguring and polluting our planet. The answer, recycle, reuse and REPAIR!



We are seeking more people to help with the administration and organising of Repair Clinics and Repair Cafés, and we will be actively recruiting for them. We've got repairers, we need more people to join the support team. If that's you, we'd love to hear from you.



As a result of a group discussion at one of our regular Climate Cafés we have compiled a list of questions we would like to ask candidates at local elections in May.

We'd like your help in shaping those questions, so that we can elect representatives who are going to serve our town well and speed our transition towards net zero carbon. We thought we might also use the Town Meeting to gather more information to inform those questions, we can pose to candidates which include:

- ◆ Will you propose and support a local planning requirement for new housing to be zero carbon?
- ◆ What will you do to contain water use as the East of England becomes ever more water stressed?
- ◆ How will you advance the Council's carbon audit and action plan?
- ◆ Will you seek to place solar panels on the rear elevation of the new Corn Exchange roof?
- ◆ Will you seek to create a Council eco-budget?



At the Town Meeting our in-house domestic energy expert will also be on hand to talk about some of the things you can do to make your home more energy efficient, and nature friendly.

For more information, please email stivesecoaction@gmail.com

or follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/stivesecoaction

We look forward to seeing you on 12th March!

What does The Town Team do?

In the last issue of *The Riverporter* we said that the Town Team has been busy lately, as lots of projects came to a conclusion. But what is the Town Team and what do they do?

The Town Team exists because of Mary Portus trying to revitalise the high streets of the country in 2011. St Ives was given money from the Portus fund and the Town Council decided to match it. The Town Council helped form the Team as the money could not be used by the Council directly. Hence The Town Team is a community group whose main aim is to keep St Ives lively and busy, especially the town centre, which was the Mary Portus aim.

The Town Team has done a range of things to improve the town, which lately includes the installation of two information boards about St Ives Station and a 'History of The Old Riverport' display in the long closed Molise Restaurant window in Bridge Street.

Town Team members researched the history of the river and discovered just how important St Ives was as an inland port. When the Town Council adopted the title of The Old Riverport to recognise this fact The Town Team began promoting St Ives in this way originally installing the **Welcome to The Old Riverport St Ives** sign on The Quay in 2014.

Many people will associate The Town Team with the successful Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival now in its 8th year but the Team do much more than organise entertainment.

The group are often able to do things more quickly and more cost effectively than the Town Council as it utilises its members' skills and works closely with local businesses.



The list of Town Team projects ranges from a Day Conference, installation of mooring signs, commercial promotions, the production of the Complimentary Guide and map to plays on The Quay, the Free Church Passage mural, the Boxing Day Hobby Horse Hunt and the Flea On The Quay markets.

The Team are currently working towards installing a bandstand on The Waits to mark the Queen's Jubilee (see update on page 1).

To find out more about this, and how to get involved, visit the Town Team stand at the Town Meeting, the Corn Exchange from 3pm on Saturday 12th March.



FRIDAY 25TH MARCH

The simply superb classical guitarist
Daniella Rossi



Daniella, with a special guest, will be performing a new programme with music by renowned guitarist and composer John Duarte and new pieces by the Serb/American composer Dusan Bogdanovic, written especially for her.

The rest of the season continues with:

- 29th April** - Fran McGillivray and Mike Burke - Play blues and country.
- 27th May** - Dickie de Vere & The Dorchester Mavericks - The finest in toe-tapping music.
- 24th June** - Chris Newman & Humfry Finkel - Ragtime improvisation from two guitarists.
- 29th July** - James Schouten, Tenor - An evening of operatic arias and contemporary songs.
- 26th August** - Kimberley Rew & Lee Cave-Berry - Eurovision winning musician/songwriter.
- 30th September** - Ruth Holden - With a new programme of music for Harp.
- 28th October** - Johnny 'Magic Boy' Wright & Chris Newman - Two great guitarists.
- 25th November** - Four Winds Saxophone Quartet - Music from Bach to Gershwin.

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 or can be purchased in advance from the Riverport Café Bar. A TOWN TEAM EVENT

**8pm Thursday
3 March 2022**

Tickets £5 from screenstives.org.uk or in the Corn Exchange

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

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as I'm
nearly as
big as him
now!'



having your say ...

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email Erik at:
editor@theriverporter.uk**

The Riverporter

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

COUNCIL NEWS

Commercial Vehicle Prohibition through Hilton

Feb 14th saw a meeting of the County Council's Traffic Manager, Sonia Hanson and County Councillor, Douglas Dew to consider objections to the ban of heavy goods vehicles using the B1040 through Hilton village. Correspondence was received from two companies who operate HGVs in the general area and opposed to the proposal.



Their objections were received outside of the statutory objection period and their concerns about the impact on their businesses were discussed. The two haulage companies use the B1040 daily and expressed concerns that the weight restriction will result in additional miles, fuel usage and an increase in CO2 emissions. Having heard all the objections the decision was to accept the proposal and implement the ban as published. Traffic data indicates that approximately 1,000 HGVs per week use the B1040. There has been clear support for the proposed restriction from local people, whose main concerns centred around pollution and noise. An interesting point is that the route is a well-used access to the west side of St Ives and the route through to the Envar site where the new incinerator plant is proposed. Perhaps the people of Hilton have got in early and made sure that the increased traffic from heavy vehicles won't be passing their doorsteps, so I'm sure the POWI protest group will be watching this outcome with interest.

Locum Town Clerk to leave in March

The Riverporter has been informed that Nicci Sewell, who was appointed Locum Town Clerk for 6 months, due to the illness of Alison Benfield, will be leaving in March. Councillors we have spoken to say Nicci has been excellent and this could leave the Council without a Clerk or deputy (who is due to retire). It is unknown if Alison Benfield is able to return to work yet.

District raise Council Tax

HDC's leader Ryan Fuller has said that a small rise in Council Tax is necessary despite delivering a surplus budget this financial year. HDC's share of the Council Tax is set to go up by £5 a year to £150.86 a year for an average property - which is under £3 per week for all HDC's services.

Think Local campaign to improve town

According to a piece in this week's Hunts Post HDC will be working with local partners in St Ives on exciting initiatives to revitalise the town's High Street including revamping the street furniture in the heart of the town, but no dates for the work have been announced.

There is a plan but only one man knows it

A Riverporter reader wrote to her ward Councillors Dickinson and D'Souza about the loss of the cycle rack when the parklet was installed by the toilets (see letter RP103). It turns out to be good news - although the reply didn't come from the councillors but from HDC's leader Cllr Ryan Fuller, who said that the removed rack will be replaced with a new covered one, twice the size, with lighting and repair facilities. Great. It seems that HDC are planning to do much in the town but does only one man know what and when? The Riverporter asked three Town Councillors about this, who said they knew nothing about the proposals. Considering five District Councillors are also Town Councillors - do they not talk to one another?

It seems that proposals in the master plan HDC commissioned a while ago, called *Prospectus For Growth*, are gradually being implemented with little or no consultation in the town.

Dear Erik,
Subject: Dentists going private
On Monday I went to MYDENTIST in Station Road to make an appointment. I was told that I would have to go private because I had not been for 2 years and a message had been sent to me in November.
I explained no message had arrived - plus that all appointments had been cancelled, not by me, but by them. It looks like sharp practice using Covid as an excuse to get NHS patients off their list so they have to re-register privately.
Can you advise people to check their dental status! Going private is not fair play and it is expensive. **Glyn**
Dear Glyn, You are not the only person we have heard of that has been given similar treatment at this practice. However we understand that you should continue to be offered NHS treatment unless you failed to go to book an appointment for 2 years. **ED.**

BOOK REVIEW

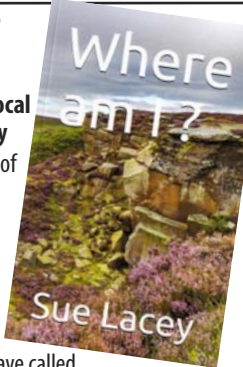
by Sandra Souter
Where Am I by local author Sue Lacey

The dark storyline of this book is full of 'What If's' and twists and turns, this includes 'If it were me what would I do?'

Actually I would have called the Police after the first chapter ... but then there wouldn't be a story.

It portrays in sharp focus what the itinerant life of the homeless might be like and part of the plot is set in Cambridge, a city the homeless might recognise. It is the first of a trilogy.

This and other titles by Sue Lacey can be obtained from her by visiting the Friday Market in the Corn Exchange.



Mayor opens shop a year late!

The Refill Shop of Ikigai was formally opened by the Mayor of St Ives on Saturday 12 February - exactly a year after opening in the middle of the third Covid lockdown.

Martin Cooper, owner of The Refill Shop of Ikigai, said: 'The shop has been a real success, we have a lot of regular customers, committed to doing what they can to reduce their plastic consumption and live an eco-conscious lifestyle.'

Since opening, the shop has saved almost 15,000 single use plastic packaging and bottles from landfill. Martin added: 'We are delighted at how people have embraced our shop and have chosen to make the switch to help us all help the planet.'
See more eco news on page 2.



Erik and Milly suffer a bad case of wind



Brick Lane Music Hall
70 Glorious Years - A very special show celebrating the 70th Anniversary of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth 11.
Tiaras optional.

Wednesday June 1st at 2pm. Matinee performance + Afternoon Tea.
£39.50 + coach fare.

To buy tickets or for further information, please contact Angie Walter on 01480 300 or 07925 516580.

Talking Together

Spring series 21 March - 28 April

Registration has opened for the Spring series of Talking Together, COPE's free programme of telephone discussions about topics of shared interest.

The series will run from 21 March to 28 April (excluding BH Monday 18 April). Groups are facilitated and will meet weekly for 45 minutes over the phone. New topics for this series are Crime Writing, a local history of water and the Museum of Cambridge. Favourites include Wicken Fen, Young Americans in Britain during WW2 and Poet's Corner.

You are warmly invited to register by email to: **cambridgecope@hotmail.co.uk** or phone: **01223 364603**

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Buyers form an impression within seconds of pulling up outside your property and you'll never get a second chance to make a good first impression. Give your home "kerb appeal" by painting the front door, tidying the garden and planting those hanging baskets.



DE-CLUTTER

Buyers need to picture themselves living in your property and it can be difficult to see past all the family photos and other "stuff" that's just hanging around, so de-clutter and make your home as neutral as possible.



BE ACCOMMODATING AT VIEWINGS

Be as accommodating as possible with viewings, try to see them at their convenience, make sure pets are out of the way and leave the viewing to the agents, they know what to do and say.



BE VIEWER READY

Viewers turn up just when you don't want them to, be ready. Ask the children to tidy toys away, wash those dishes, you never know when the agents going to call.



CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE

It's a cliché we know, but the smell of freshly baked bread, fresh coffee and flowers makes a big difference in making your home stand out.



LISTEN TO YOUR AGENT

A good estate agent will offer their impartial advice on how best to stage your home, take this on board when preparing your home for sale and chances are you'll find a buyer in no time.



DON'T BE GREEDY

Ask a price that will entice interest, over-valuing can mean extra months sat on the market. Buyers know the market well, they set alerts to see everything that comes available and soon realise when a property is at the wrong price.



HAVE ALL YOUR PAPERWORK TO HAND

Planning permissions, building regulations, insurance, utility costs, have them to hand, you're likely to be asked about them.



INSTRUCT A GOOD SOLICITOR

Engage with a good solicitor, even prior to agreeing a sale. Talk to us about who we recommend locally.

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