

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

Bands to Play For Ukraine

When the call went out to support Ukraine the Corn Exchange was overwhelmed by the response from local musicians, with 16 bands and performers offering to play for free to help raise funds.

Here, in our busy town of St Ives, where there is no shortage of local news to report, the headlines have been dominated by national and international items for many years. Brexit was followed by the pandemic and now it is the terrible situation in Ukraine that occupies our thoughts.

Who isn't thinking ...

How can I help? What can I do?

Well there is something you can do and that is pop down to the Corn Exchange on Sunday 27 March between 1pm and 9pm where you can listen to some great music and, as everyone involved is giving their time freely, you can make a donation.

**Calling local businesses
Can you donate a prize?
If so call the Corn Exchange
on 01480 496454**

As well as music there will be a raffle as local businesses are already donating prizes.

If you can't make it on that day you can still go in and donate to the appeal at the Riverport Café Bar, open between 9am and 4pm Monday to Saturday.

The musicians taking part include:
Glenn Burgess & Alice Felicity, Silverbacks Blues

Band, Charlie & Rheanna, Graham Buxton, Ffion Rebecca, The Sidekicks, Jake Wadd, Jacen Bruce, Soul Sisters, Paul Dodson, Reggae Ray, Dark Horse, Jay-D, SO 80's the MJ's
And more!



PLAY FOR UKRAINE

CHARITY MUSIC AND COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

LOCAL MUSIC COMMUNITY GROUPS

WITH OVER 16 BANDS AND MUSICIANS

SUNDAY 27TH MARCH 2022 1PM - 9PM

ST IVES CORN EXCHANGE

FURTHER INFORMATION TO FOLLOW

ALL PROFITS WILL GO TO THE CRISIS IN UKRAINE

CORN Exchange

Town will be blooming marvellous this year

On 22nd March the volunteers from St Ives in Bloom will be planting up six extra planters at Kings Hedges, hoping to make a pleasant community seating area on the corner by the Spar shop.

On the following Saturday, 26th March, a day of celebration will take place for all the new planters in town. At Kings Hedges from 10.30am to 2.30pm St Ives in Bloom will set up some 'flowery' children's craft activities on the new picnic tables.



The Norris Museum will be in attendance to talk to residents about the development of Kings Hedges – can you remember when the new housing was built? Or is there anything you would like added to improve the area even more?

The Morris Dancing troupe 'Sutton Masque' will arrive to entertain us with their music and dancing throughout the morning and early afternoon.

Then the group will go down to The Quay and from 3pm will again be dancing to celebrate the three new trees in planters installed by the Town Team there.

Please do come and help celebrate the arrival of a brighter spring.

BANDSTAND UPDATE

The Bandstand appeal has now reached £19,000 thanks to the generosity of residents.



An application for a grant from the Mick George fund has been made and 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. Thanks to Peter Townsend, who has prepared the plans, you can see a 3D animation on Youtube of the bandstand, showing the style of the structure and possible inscription on the front panel, simply search for St Ives Platinum Jubilee Bandstand Project.

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: townsteam@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 want to know ...

St Ives EcoAction has provided the following questions for the members of the Town Council to answer at this Saturday's Annual Town Meeting:



1. Will SITC propose and support a local planning requirement for new housing to be zero carbon?
2. What will you do to contain water use as the East of England becomes ever more water stressed?
3. How will you advance the Council's carbon audit and action plan?
4. Will you seek to place solar panels on the rear elevation of the new Corn Exchange roof?
5. Will you seek to create a Council eco-budget?
6. Will you oppose new road building?
7. Will you press for more and improved cycle routes?
8. Will you press for more cycle racks in the town centre?
9. What is your plan for decarbonisation of the town?

To hear the answers to these questions and perhaps to ask a question yourself, go to the Annual Town Meeting at St Ives Corn Exchange this Saturday at 6pm. You can also go earlier, at 3pm, to find out about some of the many community groups that work hard for the benefit of St Ives and its people.

The amazing guitarist, Daniela Rossi returns to the Riverport Café Bar in the Corn Exchange in two weeks time. Tickets are selling fast and with limited numbers you need to book now to ensure a seat. These concerts, on the last Friday of each month are proving very popular. Tickets £10 can be purchased in advance from the Riverport Café Bar or online from: www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives Details of all the concerts can be seen at www.stivescambridgeshire.co.uk



SSI Screen St Ives Community Cinema

Anya Taylor-Joy
Matt Smith
Michael Ajao

Terence Stamp
Diana Rigg

LAST NIGHT IN SOHO

8pm Thursday
17 March 2022
screenstives.org.uk

Tickets **£5**

18

There is no such place as 'away'

We all have to buy things and we all produce waste in doing so and we all have the power to reduce the impact this has on our planet. Below is a guide to help you do this.



The expression 'throw it away' has become so common place in our society, that it is often forgotten that there is no such place as away. When we have finished with an item, we have the ability to dispose of it into our bins and it is taken away and dealt with, and we do not need to think about it again.

However, if we all did start to think about it, we might all change where we decide to put it, or if we create it at all.

The majority of the 'waste' we create can be recycled. We may not be able to recycle it all at the kerbside, but there is usually a lot of valuable resource within products at the end of their life. It is also worth noting, that if a lot of energy went into making a product that is subsequently sent to landfill, a lot more energy will have to go into making the new replacement product, increasing the emissions created. With a little forethought and a little planning, we can reduce the amount of 'waste' that we waste, as well as the emissions we cause when buying products.

Textiles (clothing and fabric) should never be sent to landfill, so should not be placed in your kerbside collections. Textiles are a very energy intensive product. In other words, they use a lot of energy and emit a lot of carbon during the process of being made. This is from growing or mining for the materials, to dyeing processes and transporting it around the world for the different stages of production. When they are no longer wanted, they should be sent on for reuse by either being sold or donated. Even when textiles become worn out, they can still be sent for recycling if taken to the right places. You can recycle textiles at some charity shops or any of the ASTCO clothing banks across the district - find your local one here: www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/bins-waste/recycling-centres/#RecyclingBanks. Just remember to clearly mark the bags as rags.

What to do with food waste

Food is another product that should be carefully considered. We can reduce the amount of emissions linked to our food by changing our diets. But other ways to reduce emissions is to minimise food waste as much as possible and then sending any food waste created to be composted. For example, due to the 20 million slices of bread thrown away in UK homes every day, 318,000 tonnes of CO2 is unnecessarily generated every year.

Not only should we be thinking about this at the end of the life of an item, we should be thinking about it when we buy new items.

- Are we buying a product we simply do not need?
- Are we buying an item we know will not last?
- Could we buy a better quality item that would last longer?
- Could we buy a product that can be easily recycled over one that is much more difficult to recycle?
- Could we buy a product that can be reused time and time again, rather than a single use item?

If you are looking to reduce your waste, and would like some support, please do get in touch at:

WasteMinimisation@Huntingdonshire.gov.uk or via our social media via Facebook - @Huntingdonshire Recycles, or on Twitter - @HDC Recycles or on Instagram - @Recycle For Huntingdonshire.

Cycling - what might have been if elected . . .

CAM CYCLE



The Riverporter has been speaking with councillors about cycling initiatives, following the letter from Beccy Chapman about the loss of a cycle rack (see letters RP103).

We were sent a link to the non-partisan body, Camcycle, which issued a series of questions to all County Council candidates during last May's elections. It is interesting to note their responses to some of the questions.

Question 1: CAM CYCLE's view is that traffic policing, of all groups of road users (cyclists, drivers, etc.), should become a greater police priority. What are your thoughts?

Cath GLEADOW (Labour) - It is important to ensure that users of the highway adhere to traffic regulations for the safety of all.

John PARKIN (Green) - I firmly agree that traffic policing needs to be given a greater priority in Cambridgeshire.

Kevin REYNOLDS (Conservative) - The candidate has not responded to the survey.
Nic WELLS (Liberal Democrat) - I support the decriminalisation of parking offences, and if parking is managed by traffic wardens then this should give additional police time for other types of traffic related work, as well as making the (civil) prosecution of parking offences far more effective. A reduction in illegal parking will improve road safety overall.

Question 4: There is no reasonably direct cycle route from St Ives to Huntingdon. How would you improve the cycling link along the key transport corridor between St Ives and Huntingdon, particularly along the A1123 opposite Wyton garden centre?

Cath GLEADOW (Labour) - The gap from

Houghton to Hartford is a particularly busy road with no dedicated cycle path/lane and this needs to be addressed.

John PARKIN (Green) The best solution would be to create a dedicated cycle lane between St Ives and Huntingdon.

Kevin REYNOLDS (Conservative) - The candidate has not responded to the survey.

Nic WELLS (Liberal Democrat) - There should be a through end-to-end cycling link from the Thicket path via Wyton village to Huntingdon on the south side of the A1123.

Question 6: How would you improve the cycling links to the villages to the east of St Ives; Bluntisham and Earith?

Cath GLEADOW (Labour) - There is currently a pathway from S Ives to Needingworth and then onto Bluntisham however, work would be needed to upgrade the pathway to Earith in order to comply with the LTN1/20 guidance

John PARKIN (Green) - To promote healthy living and to reduce congestion, it is vital we have adequate and safe cycle lanes not only between St Ives and Bluntisham and Earith, but across our county.

Kevin REYNOLDS (Conservative) - The candidate has not responded to the survey.

Nic WELLS (Liberal Democrat) - I would support the creation of a cycleway between the villages and St Ives.

Whilst three of the four candidates seem to agree to support improvements for cyclists one candidate, the Conservative, Kevin Reynolds did not respond to the survey, which is a shame as he was elected.

Local business calls for parking reduction

The Riverporter has been contacted by Maria of Bread Bowl Broths who would like to see a reduction in parking fees for local business people who are struggling to keep open during these difficult times. She said 'I pay £4.00 a day for parking which soon adds-up over the week. I wondered if the council would help local business owners during these very uncertain times? There are many shops empty in St Ives and implementing a discount for business owners would certainly help keep costs down whilst trying to pay shop rents, business fees and earn a living.'

Is this something The Riverporter could publicise?

Dear Maria, Although we are happy to publicise your suggestion it is Huntingdonshire District Council that is responsible for the charges in the main car parks and you need to make your request to them.

In the past there have been suggestions for charges to be amended to help the town centre businesses compete with the out-of-town stores, such as an initial period free. Sadly this has fallen on deaf ears. One good thing is that the Leader of HDC is a St Ives councillor and will, no doubt, be anxious to support St Ives shops. You can email him on Ryan.Fuller@huntingdonshire.gov.uk. **Ed.**

An invitation from the Chairman . . .

and Directors of the Corn Exchange who are inviting members, volunteers and interested members of the public to their AGM in the Tony Burgess room and afterwards in the new Riverport Café Bar.

Learn how St Ives Corn Exchange has fared during the Covid period and their plans for the future.

7PM MONDAY 11TH APRIL



Give notice of holding our

AGM

Annual General Meeting

St Ives Corn Exchange Community Interest Company

Company Reg. No. 07107: 43





Erik doesn't want to play ball!



having your say ...

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

'PATS ON THE BACK!'

Dear Erik,

Thank you for the wonderful article your paper compiled in support of our new business. The article was amazing and so many people came by to visit us confirming it was *The Riverporter* that bought them to us.

Please stop by anytime (with your owner if you wish) to say hi. Kindest regards, **Maria**

Hi Erik,

Just now I got a phone call from my dentist (see letter RP104). I have been given an appointment after all.

I wonder what changed their mind?

They agreed that they had cancelled the original one. Thank you Riverporter.

Glyn

Dear Erik, In recent years, much has been done to make St Ives a welcoming and interesting town - the beautifully illustrated historical displays dotted around the town for example. All help to create the impression that the town is proud of its past and well cared for.

However, there is one place where the town continues to fail miserably by leaving in place posters/notices that are way out of date and still displayed in a very prominent place. I refer to the posters in the attached photograph on the wall of the former PoundStretcher retail outlet, vacated three months ago. The very first thing that visitors see on leaving the town's central car park/bus station are these ten very



large posters promoting Christmas gifts from 2021 - four months old!! There can be nothing to stop either our Town or District Councils from demanding that these are removed immediately? If there is no swift response, then our Councils surely have every right to remove them as soon as possible.

Better still, why not replace some of them with welcoming messages to our town? **Stewart**



Left: The CBT Jazz Quartet playing to a packed house at February's Chapel Arts concert. CBT's wonderful instrumentalists provided a fitting backing for the superb voice of Lizz Taylor. Fans can see them again on Friday 16th September when they will appear in this year's Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival.

COUNCIL NEWS

Climate Conversation 2022 - Have your say

Huntingdonshire District Council is calling on residents, businesses and other organisations to take part in a 'Climate Conversation' that will help shape the District Council's Environment and Climate Strategy. The engagement activity, which runs until Friday 25 March, follows on from a Full Council meeting in December where councillors adopted the aspiration of a net carbon zero Huntingdonshire by 2040 - centred on achieving an environmentally-friendly recovery and future for the district.

The findings from this initial climate conversation will help the council set the priorities for the new strategy and is just the first in a series of engagement activities taking places to understand the views of local people.

For further information about the development of the Strategy and how to get involved please use their website <https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/environment>

HDC would be most grateful if you could complete the online survey at https://englandmarketing.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cDaeLFLzPK834lo

SAVE THE DATE SAVE THE DATE SAVE THE DATE

St Ives Mayor Making Ceremony 18th May

Mayor Making this year will be taking place in The Corn Exchange St Ives on Wednesday 18th May at 19:30 Refreshments will be available. More details in due course.

St Ives to be better signed

Thanks to a campaign waged by the Town Team and, in particular Chris Morgan, people should be able to find St Ives much more easily in future. Following the opening of the new A14 road St Ives almost disappeared from the map, or rather from the road signs.

Before 2021 it was pretty easy for travellers to access St Ives, just 2 miles from the A14 junction. Although the road was re-routed only a mile further away St Ives all but disappeared from view. In fact, as there was no access to the B1040 from Hilton, there was no sign at all. A14 travellers from the West would have to go through Godmanchester, over 7 miles from St Ives and from the East it is over 6 miles from the Swavesey junction. Although St Ives was sign posted at both of these junctions the local sign posts were not updated so visitors could be easily confused which way to go after leaving the A14.

We are glad to report that, after a lengthy correspondence with the authorities, National Highways will be installing new signage, which should soon make it easier to find St Ives.

Choral Society excited to be performing live again!

St Ives Choral Society is proud to present Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle* though there is nothing small about it!

This masterpiece shows the composer at his most inventive and lyrical. It is generally regarded as one of the finest examples of oratorio with its mix of the grandiose and the intimate. SICS presents it with the original accompaniment of harmonium and piano, with a soloist line-up of stars from the classical music world!

Tickets: Adults £15/£12 (concessions), accompanied children under 16 free, available from the Fair Trade shop in the Free Church or online at: ticketsource.co.uk/st-ives-choral-society

Saying farewell after 13 years

The RSPCA charity shop on Market hill is saying goodbye to two of its long term volunteers.

After 13 years of service, Sue Dott and Anna Alders are retiring. Erik went to have a word with them and see what they are going to do with their time from now. Sue says she is going to spend more time travelling and to start she's off to see family in Seattle USA. Anna, who is an excellent pianist, is going to spend more time on her music and has all sorts of plans.

During their time in the shop, they have had regular visits from Quayside ducks that attempt to get away from the pack to hatch their eggs in the privacy of the RSPCA stores back yard, which has often required Anna and Sue to run rescue missions to the Godmanchester wildfowl centre when the new babies get trapped before they can fly.

They both speak of their happiness in working there these past 13 years. Sue and Anna wanted to say thank you to all those that have given their support for the shop and went on to ask that people continue to support the new team when they arrive.



The COURTYARD

St Ives

Open-air boutique market, run by independents



In the Centre of St Ives at Hyperion Salerooms is the Courtyard with a vast range of gifts and crafts ranging from Studio pottery to bespoke dog treats.



With our new coffee pod doing a range of delicious ground coffees, Teas, Hot Chocolates, Jacket Potatoes with lots of toppings and of course Sweet Treats!



The Courtyard, The Salerooms, Station Road, St Ives PE27 5BH
www.hyperionauctions.co.uk/the-courtyard-shopping
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ADVERTORIAL

POSITIVE SIGNS FOR HOME MOVERS



There are positive signs for home movers as we continue to see more properties launched for sale, up 15% on the same period last year.

A common concern heard throughout 2021 surrounded the lack of stock available with homeowners uncertain as to whether a suitable home will become available.

In 2022 that concern seems to have gone away, with homeowners confident that the right home will come along. Incidentally, this has helped stock levels further as we return to what feels like a more typical property market.

A more typical market will be welcomed by all, however, it's important to stress it is still extremely competitive out there for buyers.

To put yourself in the best possible position when competing against other buyers, whether buying through Ellis Winters or another agent, talk to our team about our financially & legally prepared service, FLP.

211 sales were agreed in the towns and villages we cover, more than in January and we expect sales to continue to grow further this month.

Regional houses prices are up 10.9% year on year, having risen 1.9% over the past month.

Due to property prices rising so quickly over the past 18 months, many clients we speak to are pleasantly surprised by the valuation of their homes.

If you're looking to sell a property in 2022, we highly recommend taking advantage of the heightened demand and competitive bidding that is taking place between buyers.

If you're considering a move, book a free, no-obligation valuation of your home.

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