

The Riverporter

ST IVES AWARD WINNING NEWSPAPER

COVERING THE NEWS FOR ST IVES AND AROUND

Issue II9: 30 September 2022

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

Town Clerk Leaves Council

St Ives Town Council have issued the following statement regarding the Town Clerk, Alison Benfield.

It is with regret that St Ives Town Council have to announce that our long serving Town Clerk Alison Benfield has left her position at the Town Council.

Mrs Benfield has been on long-term sick leave and it was our hope that she would recover and be able to return to her role. Sadly, it has now been established that her health is such, that this is no longer possible. Full Council held on the 28th September 2022 formally agreed to release her from the duty of Clerk based on health reasons with immediate effect. We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the years of commitment and service Alison has given to our town; her strength, knowledge and vast experience will be greatly missed. We wish her well in her early retirement.

Clr Philip Pope: Town Mayor Clr Julie Kerr: Chair of Personnel

This statement allows the Council to appoint a new Town Clerk, something that has caused difficulties for the Council, which *The Riverporter* has commented on in the past (see RP 113). It is hoped that the Locum Clerk, Matthew Price will be able to take on this important role.

Town Council change venue

Just after the last issue of *The Riverporter* went online, St Ives Town Council changed the venue for its meeting on the Draft Masterplan for St Ives.

Following some criticism that the original venue, a room in the Corn Exchange, would restrict attendance, the Town Council has moved the meeting to the **Hall at St Ivo Academy**, which will hold up to 300 people.

The meeting will be held on Wednesday 5 October 2022 at 7.00 pm.

The Plan for St Ives can be seen at: <https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/masterplans>. It is difficult to read on-line but the Town Team has produced a large printed copy, which can be read in the Riverport Café Bar.

Anyone who wishes to attend and comment should note that:

Residents or representatives of neighbourhood groups can speak for a maximum of 3 minutes. The meeting will have a strict 2 hour duration.

Comments should be sent in advance to: democratic@stivestowncouncil.gov.uk and will be summarised as part of the Council's submission which will be returned to HDC by 26 October 2022. Residents are also able to comment directly to HDC on their website.

The Riverporter understands from councillors that these plans are meant to stimulate discussion, rather than being seen as definite planning proposals.

In the jargon it is 'Blue Sky' thinking. Whilst this may be the case that is not the way these plans were presented, particularly as they are the result of an earlier consultation and report called a 'Prospectus For growth' (PFG) and this second stage, we were informed, would be the working up of the ideas put forward in that.

We know from a Freedom of Information request that £50,000 was the cost of the PFG and one may assume that the bill for the Draft Plan will be of a similar amount.

Therefore it is possible that £100,000 may have been spent on giving us a starter for ten!

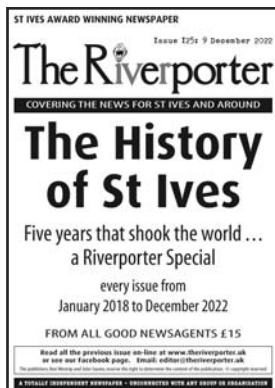
If you care about your town and how it will be over the next 30 years then you should attend this meeting. **NOTE:** As the Town Council has now organised a meeting for the whole town, The Town Team has decided to cancel its Draft Plan meeting of the 18 October.

Whatever Next?

When we started *The Riverporter* in 2018 we weren't sure if we would have enough local news to fill the paper each fortnight. We needn't have worried. The past five years have been extraordinary. Even more unexpected was that national and international news would have such an effect on our lives in St Ives. Brexit was agreed but not completed (will it ever be?) and Theresa May was PM, but we are on our third PM now (that may not last long, if the past week is anything to go by).

The Riverporter has seen the pandemic, Partygate, Ukraine war, the death of our Queen and now the chaos of Trussconomics!

All of this, and the effect it has had on our lives in St Ives has been captured in *The Riverporter* and you can relive these exciting times with a copy of **The History of St Ives** which contains a copy of every issue from January 2018 to December 2022. Please order your copy by emailing your details to: editor@theriverporter.uk. Copies cost £15 and are available from 16 December.



It's not too late to see the wonderful Harpist Ruth Holden

Tickets £10 available on the door for tonight Friday 30th September - 7.30pm The Riverport Café Bar St Ives Corn Exchange



Have a FUN FRIDAY & Test Your Trivia Knowledge
Festival Events St Ives presents the ...

FEST QUIZ

With Quiz Host Michael Lambourne

FRIDAY 7TH OCTOBER 7PM

Venue: St Ives Corn Exchange.

Teams of up to 6 people, £5 per player.

1st Prize A Chauffeured trip on the luxury Boat 'Ouse Cruise'

Tickets Available from the Corn Exchange

or from www.thecornexchange.org.uk or call 01480 496454

All Profits will Go To The Town Team

Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Bandstand Project



Follow FEST on <https://www.facebook.com/stivesfest>

Find out about more FEST events at <http://stivesfest.org.uk/>

The magnificent flower display on The Waits



Read on-line at www.theriverporter.uk or see our Facebook page. Email: editor@theriverporter.uk

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Mayor attends lying in state

St Ives Town Mayor, Councillor Phil Pope made the trip to London, with his ceremonial chain, to pay respects to the late Queen during her lying in state. Phil told *The Riverporter* 'I only took it [the chain] out when I entered Westminster Hall so that it could represent all of the people in St Ives who wanted to attend but who were not able to, and so that I could thank Her Majesty for her service on behalf of the people of St Ives. I was also keen for the chain to be part of the history of the occasion.'

Pictured left: Phil in the queue outside the Palace of Westminster.

Pilgrimage to Holywell

The last few weeks have been a time of pilgrimage for many. Some going to London and Edinburgh to view the Queen's resting places, and some to London for the Queen's funeral.

But here in St Ives that same weekend there was another pilgrimage on a different scale, but having an importance of its own. This one involved a walk to Holywell and back, to visit the holy well there. Treading in the footsteps of pilgrims who had trod that path. We remembered the heritage that has been passed on to us, with the hope that we shall have a significant heritage to pass on to succeeding generations.

We saw so many wild plants, wild apple trees, the hops growing along the path, the fish in the stream. And at the well we thought of all who had been there before us for so many reasons; for a blessing, for the well dressing that still happens every year, and for the children who have been baptised there. We read prayers and poetry in the Parish Church, (which dates back to the 900s) and celebrated with a cup of tea. The St Ives Eco-action Faiths Group who were the organisers of this special afternoon, hope to make this an annual event. We hope you may join us.

The Eco-action Faith's group - is a focus for the churches in the St Ives area. We are actively engaged, both as individuals and within our worshipping groups, in promoting more sustainable lifestyles and reducing both plastic use and our carbon footprints, and continue to support all that is being done locally to enhance our environment, reduce carbon emissions and enhance biodiversity.



A TOWN TEAM EVENT

The Old Riverport Ukulele Festival

Saturday 15th October
St Ives Corn Exchange



Our second annual Festival looks like it will be a sell-out with 200 Ukulele players descending on The Corn Exchange to learn from professional artists in workshops and take part in sessions on stage. The organisers were already delighted with the response, when out-of-the-blue they were contacted by an Italian, who would be in the country and wanted to take part.



The Italian player turned out to be Danilo Vignola, (left) who is considered one of the best Ukulele players of his generation and has travelled the world playing and teaching.

His 'Flamenco' style of playing is extraordinary and now the 'Strummers' at the Festival will be able to enjoy this surprise addition to an already entertaining evening concert.



Registration has opened for the Autumn 2022 series of Talking Together, COPE's free programme of stimulating telephone discussions about topics of shared interest. Groups are led by skilled, knowledgeable facilitators and meet over the phone each week for 45 minutes throughout the six-week series.

To Register - send an email to copetalkingtogether@hotmail.com or phone 01223 364303

This Autumn

- Chat to stem cell researchers about how their work contributes to better treatment of health conditions such as cancer and Parkinson's Disease.
- Hear fascinating stories about Cambridge's industrial past.
- Take a journey through Wicken Fen and discover the conservation work that happens there.
- Join an inspirational conversation about short forms of storytelling.
- Find out what a new exhibition in Cambridge can tell us about art, environment and migration.
- Share memories of Cambridgeshire life with the ever-popular Mike Petty.

The Barefoot Doctors entertain the crowds





Milly stands in for Erik as he is still on holiday.



having your say ...

**Get it off your chest,
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

OTHER NEWS

Can St Ives Town make history on Saturday?

A win for St Ives at home against Chasetown would mean a first FA Cup Fourth Qualifying Round appearance at their 20th attempt. The only other time that the Ives have reached the third qualifying round was in 2018 when they lost 3-0 to York City. Should they win on Saturday they will be one match away from the FA First Round proper and a TV appearance. Right: *Town v Redditch last Saturday.*



Spotted in West Street

Phew - pool! The less-than-fragrant aroma in West Street led me to new technology tackling an old problem. Collapsing brick sewers in the town can no longer cope with our increasing waste and fat. The operative of this amazing looking sludge gulper was washing through the crumbling pipes with accompanying poo cam, while his colleague was intently peering into a monitor further up West Street. The prognosis was not good and is bound to preoccupy our local councils ... it is important that this elderly and now failing infrastructure is not subjected to further pressure from development until it is fixed.



Council reject expansion of Wetherspoon

At Wednesday's Planning Committee meeting, following objections from neighbouring residents, the Town Council recommended refusal of an application to expand the Swan and Angel into the next door listed building, currently the offices of Copleys solicitors.

The reasons stated were:

- Out of keeping to have such a large licensed premise in the town center
- Concerns about additional noise and refuse
- Combining a listed building with a former warehouse property is incongruous
- Unclear on access arrangements, deliveries etc.
- That noise measurement was conducted at a time when the venue was not busy with customers sitting outside.

**Dear Erik and Milly,
Subject: Another comfort post gone**

Look! Next time you need a wee you'll have to move on from the bus station!

From Luka (That)



Dear Milly, Subject: Draft Town Plan

In order to be able to judge the validity of the claims made in the draft St Ives masterplan, it is important that the data behind them are freely available. They are not. Several readers are struggling to get access to the reports referred to in the Masterplan and its companion baseline report. It is understood that the consultants are reluctant to produce one of the reports for scrutiny. Where cost-benefit models are cited as the basis for the economic viability of the project, it seems odd that the models, their values and how they supposedly work, are all unavailable. If there was ever a time for the new HDC regime to show that it is different from the last one, now is that time. We have a sneaking feeling that although the Councillors' names may have changed, HDC still thinks it is business as usual. Providing the data and reports to the public is the chance to show this is a new slate. By dragging its feet, HDC is not encouraging optimism and belief in change that the new Council claimed in May.

Name withheld

Dear Milly, Subject: New Town Guide

Malcolm Tent is very unhappy with the latest town guide. (see letters RP 118). Fear not I am hopeful that normal service will be resumed next year. The energetic and positive thinking Amenities Manager has been promoted to Locum Clerk. To become clerk he has to obtain a qualification whose syllabus contains a lot about protocol and proceedings.

Provided he does not get worn down by a heavy workload and the difficulties of getting sensible answers from the County, the District, the Combined Authority and perhaps our less than energetic MP all should be well.

Pro Bono Publico

Dear Milly, Subject: On Your Feet

As a result of their recent Charity Cabaret show 'ON YOUR FEET' the Centre Theatre Players were able to hand over a cheque to the value of £1,750 to their nominated charity the Huntingdon Community Cancer Network. On behalf of The Centre Players and the charity we would like to thank all those who supported the event and help us raise such a splendid amount.

Dick Chalkley

Ed. Well Done!

The Quay Saturday 17th September



The COURTYARD

St Ives

Open-air boutique market, run by independents



In the heart of St Ives at Hyperion Salerooms is the Courtyard with a vast range of gifts and crafts ranging from Studio pottery, Vintage & Retro Clothing and Antiques & Collectables. There is something for everyone!



With a NEW selection of Olive Trees ranging from small stock to large Gnarled Olive trees, perfect for your patios as they are ideally suited to the English climate!



Come visit **Café Du Toit** and try out a range of delicious ground coffees, Teas, Hot Chocolates, and of course Sweet Treats!

The Courtyard, The Salerooms, Station Road, St Ives PE27 5BH
www.hyperionauctions.co.uk/the-courtyard-shopping 
 Tel: 01480 464140

Calendar of events 2022

If you are a member of a community group that wants to let us know what you are planning, please email: editor@theriverporter.uk

OCTOBER

Sat 1st and Sun 2nd - Art, Craft and Gift Fair - 10am - 4pm The Corn Exchange, Free entry.

Sunday 2nd, 2pm. Come and Sing Vivaldi's Gloria with St Ives Choral Society.

Rehearsal on the day, culminating in a performance in the evening. No experience necessary - if you have always thought about joining a choir this would be a great time to try! £10 Singers. Concert audience free of charge. Rehearsal 2pm, concert at 5pm in the Free Church, St Ives.

Friday 7th - Fund Raising Quiz for the Queen Elizabeth II Bandstand

7pm St Ives Corn Exchange. Teams up to 6 people. Tickets £5 per person. Organised by FES. www.thecornexchange.org or 01484 496454.

Saturday 8th POP UP Repair Café 1-4pm St Ives Methodist Church.

Monday 10th, 11th and 12th- Michaelmas Fair - Traditional fairground rides.

Tuesday 11th - Poetry & Folk Evening 7pm The Corn Exchange.

Wednesday 12 October 2022 - Lecture, Trannies, Taste and Teddy Bears, by Jacky Klein The Arts Society, Huntingdonshire. St Ives Corn Exchange. 2:30pm. Guest fee £5.00.

Saturday 15th - Strum Like a Viking - The Old Riverport Ukulele Festival at the Corn Exchange. Tickets are £10 at: ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives. www.stivescambridgeshire.co.uk

Friday 21st - Civic Society talk and AGM - 7.30pm The Free Church. Talk by Dr Sue Oosthuizen on the *Emergence of the English*. Non members welcome.

Saturday 22nd - Huntingdonshire Philatelic Society Stamp and Post Card Fair.

The Corn Exchange 10am -3pm. Free admission. Further information contact 01480 468037.

Saturday 22nd - Stand Up Comedy Night - 7pm The Corn Exchange. 01480 496454.

Friday 28th - COSI Lunchtime concert - COSI strings perform a programme for half term

Friday 28th - Chapel Arts @ The Corn Exchange - Featuring the amazing guitarists Johnny 'Magic Boy' Wright and Chris Newman. Tickets cost £10 and can be obtained at www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives. or from The Riverport Café Bar.

NOVEMBER

Saturday 5th Hemingford Firework Display - Gates open 5pm, Display 6pm.

Monday 14th- The Snowman Festival - Snowmen begin to appear in the shops.

Sat 19th Sun 20th - St Ives Christmas Market - Lights switch-on Saturday 5pm.

Friday 25th - COSI Lunchtime concert - Ermine Streets Winds - a French programme (1pm).

Friday 25th - Chapel Arts @ The Corn Exchange - Featuring Four Winds Saxophone Quartet performing music from Bach to Gershwin. Tickets cost £10 and can be obtained at www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives. or from The Riverport Café Bar.

CUT OUT AND KEEP 

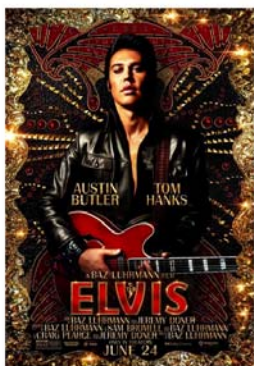


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ELVIS

7:30pm Thursday
6 October 2022

Director: Baz Luhrmann
2h 39m, Cert: 12



THE PHANTOM OF THE OPEN

7:30pm Thursday
3 November 2022

Director: Craig Roberts
1h 46m, Cert: 12



THE ROAD DANCE

7:30pm Thursday
20 October 2022

Director: Richie Adams
1h 56m, Cert: 15



TOP GUN: MAVERICK

7:30pm Thursday
17 November 2022

Director: Joseph Kosinski
2h 10m, Cert: 12

Ticket £5: screenstives.org.uk or in the Corn Exchange. All screenings start at 7:30pm. Doors open at 6:30pm