

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

## Are new homeowners Second Class Citizens?

**W**e have been told for years that we need more housing and it remains an aim of Government to increase the housing stock. However residents of some of these new estates are often treated as second class citizens.

St Ives has seen new developments, including those on the old golf course, the Garner Road estate and the YES development off London Road. They have one thing in common - their roads are unadopted and they pay maintenance charges to private companies. They are also still obliged to pay their council taxes as well.

Perhaps more importantly there is little democratic accountability from private maintenance companies or the services involved. If maintenance is carried out by a council the residents can hold that council and the councillors to account.

HDC acknowledge that most medium and large scale developments use this practice, recently described as 'Fleecehold'.

S106 agreements (the money paid to local authorities towards infrastructure etc.) are structured where the areas for adoption can be offered to Councils but in the current climate they are rarely taken up because of high costs. As if to highlight this situation the directors of the YES Estate recently wrote to all their residents seeking to change their management company because the current one, Firstport, was unresponsive to work requests and 'reluctant to supply details of the Estate's finances' according to the letter.

Although Parliament has discussed this issue and a private members bill was proposed, these Freeholders do not currently have the right to challenge unreasonable charges so they currently remain second class citizens.

Last weekend saw the annual Christmas Lights Switch-On performed by the Mayor Cllr Phil Pope with a little help from Father Christmas. Oliver was amused!



**The Mayor will meet Santa & the Chief Snowman as they arrive by boat 1pm The Quay Sat 3rd December**

Santa will then be in his Grotto at St Ives Corn Exchange Sat 3rd and Sun 4th December Sat 10th and Sun 11th December Sat 17th and Sun 18th December From 2 pm to 4.30 pm



## Calendar of events 2022/3

There are lots of events planned this festive season. If your community group wish to let us know what you are planning, please email: [editor@theriverporter.uk](mailto:editor@theriverporter.uk)

### NOVEMBER

**Friday 25th COSI Luchtime concert - Ermine Streets Winds** - a French programme at 1pm in St Ives Free Church.

**Friday 25th Saturday 26th - Huntingdonshire Art Group Annual Exhibition** 10am to 4pm in St Ives Free Church.

**Friday 25th - Chapel Arts @ The Corn Exchange** - Featuring Four Winds Saxophone Quartet. Tickets from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives) or from The Riverport Café Bar.

**Saturday 26th - Saints Crafters Christmas Fair** - St Ives Corn Exchange 9.30am -3.30pm.

**Sunday 27th - Hemingford Ladies Choir - Music for an Autumn Afternoon** 3pm in St Ives Free Church.

### DECEMBER

**Saturday 3 - Santa & Chief Snowman arrive at The Quay** 1 pm. Santa will then be in his Grotto at St Ives Corn Exchange from 2 pm to 4.30 pm. Also on Sat 3rd, Sun 4th, Sat 10th, Sun 11th, Sat 17th and Sun 18th. It's FREE and every child receives a gift.

**Saturday 3rd - Art & Craft Fair** - Free Church Hall, 9.30am - 3.30pm Free Admission. Buy original & handmade direct from the maker... Textiles, greeting cards, jewellery, bead & button work, bound books, and much more... Tombola in aid of Hunts Society for the Blind

**Sat 3rd Sun 4th - Nativity Sets from Around the World Exhibition** 10am to 4pm (Saturday) 12:30pm to 3pm (Sunday) in the Free Church.

**Wednesday 7 December - Lecture: Adventures & Mishaps in Museums** at St Ives Corn Exchange, 2:30pm. Guests £5.00. The Arts Society, Huntingdonshire. ([huntsarts.org](http://huntsarts.org))

**Thursday 15th December - Christmas Cracker Concert** with Neil Richardson and Mark Burton at 2 - 4.15pm at the Corn Exchange. A festive afternoon of Christmas entertainment and laughter. Tickets cost £10 and are now available at the Corn Exchange.

**Saturday 17th - Snowman Trail Maps to be handed in** by 4pm to participating shops.

**Monday 19th - Snowman Festival Trail Draw** takes place along with the awards for the best Snowman Displays.

### JANUARY 2023

**Wednesday 11 January - Lecture: A Highland Thing?** 18th-20th Century Scottish Art at St Ives Corn Exchange, 2:30pm. Guests £5.00. The Arts Society, Huntingdonshire. [huntsarts.org](http://huntsarts.org).

# Star Crafters raise £489 for Mayor's charity

Many thanks to everyone who supported us at the Christmas Lights Switch On. With the raffle and stall sales we raised £489 for the Mayor's Charities so thank you so much.

**RAFFLE RESULTS** - Pink Ticket 82

Sue Limentani WON THE CROWN, Congratulations!

Nine other tickets were drawn, the winners of which win other yarn bombing items.

**Will winners please collect prizes from Star Dancewear & Crafts.**



# ST IVES SNOWMAN FESTIVAL 2022

Once more, it's great to say, snowmen are back in town again, and so is the snowman trail for children!

It's fun, with prizes to be won!

The snowman trail for children up to the age of 12, started on 19th November. Trail maps will be distributed by schools or can be collected from The Library, La Muse in the Broadway, the café upstairs in the Corn Exchange and Janet Church Interiors in Bridge Street. Also, it can be downloaded at [www.stivescambridgeshire.co.uk](http://www.stivescambridgeshire.co.uk).

Children need to collect at least 20 different stickers from the outlets on the map. Completed entries will be entered into a draw, with the **first four out of the hat to win a £50 voucher** generously donated by Townrow to spend at their store in Bridge Street. Completed maps should be handed in by 4pm Saturday 17th December at either La Muse or Janet Church Interiors.

Also: **A best shop window display** prize of £200 has been generously donated by Ellis Winters & Co.

**All awards will be made on 19th December.**

The organisers, the Old Riverport Retail Group, would like to thank Ellis Winters, Townrow, and the Town Team for their amazing support once again.

Follow on [www.facebook.com/snowmanfestivalstives](http://www.facebook.com/snowmanfestivalstives).



With thanks to NOW magazine for the artwork.

# Will Travel Zone tackle congestion?

A consultation on ambitious proposals to transform the way people travel in, out and around Greater Cambridge opened in October.



The Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) is asking people to have their say on changes which would create faster, cheaper, more reliable bus services running from earlier in the day to later at night, as well as more investment in walking and cycling routes.

From as early as 2023, the GCP is proposing to transform the bus network through more services to more locations, with cheaper fares at £1 or £2 per journey.

These changes would be paid for upfront by the GCP and phased in over four years before the proposed introduction of a Sustainable Travel Zone with a road user charge.

The zone would fund the bus network in the future and deliver the space needed for ambitious walking and cycling improvements.

**Key features of the bus network and active travel improvements are:**

- New bus routes, additional orbital and express services to key sites across the city, and a huge increase in services for villages and towns across the travel to work area.
- Buses supported by flexible services known as Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) – which you can book that picks you up from near your home, such as the Ting service currently being trialled in West Hunts.
- Longer operating hours from 5am to 1am and more frequent services – 6-8 buses every hour in the city and from market towns, and hourly rural buses.
- Flat fares to make public transport cheap and accessible for all; with passengers paying £1 to travel in the city and £2 in the travel to work area.
- Improvements to public spaces to make Cambridge more 'people-centric'.

- Options for new cycling routes in the city and connections between villages and the wider active travel network, including the 12 Greenways routes.
- All vehicle movements into, out of and within the proposed Sustainable Travel Zone (STZ) would pay a flat daily charge (around £5 per day) between 7am and 7pm on weekdays.
- There would be discounts, exemptions and reimbursements for some, including those on low incomes and blue badge holders.
- The money generated by the zone would be ringfenced to provide better buses and other improvements to the transport network.

The Zone would be fully operational in 2027/28 but only once the first bus improvements are introduced.

Cllr Elisa Meschini, Chair of the GCP's Executive Board, said: *'This would change all our lives. We would cut car journeys in half, double bus services, create space for cyclists and walking. Cambridge would also have cleaner air and safer spaces. With the City Deal in place to pay for these improvements up front, we have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to transform how we travel around Greater Cambridge. I encourage everyone to engage with the proposals online, in print, or through public or online events and have your say.'*

Dr Nik Johnson, Mayor of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, said: *'We are at a turning point when it comes to transport in the Greater Cambridge area. With rising fuel costs, a growing population and congested roads, and bus services being cut, we need to transform our transport system and give people better travel options.'*

*'A shift away from cars can only happen if we have fast, reliable, affordable and frequent buses. That's why these proposals from the GCP set out a bus system which aims to be world class, which is the ambition needed to make the positive change we all want.'*

The package, developed following extensive public consultation over many years, would result in 20,000 extra journeys made by bus. An additional 60,000 trips would be made by active travel every day to create a greener city region for all. The scheme would also cut the number of car trips in Cambridge by 50% and reduce carbon emissions from transport by about 5%.

The City Access package plans to provide 10,000 additional Park and Ride spaces around the city region. **To view the proposals and have your say visit the Consult Cambs webpage. The ten-week consultation closes at midday on 23 December 2022.**



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Erik's getting in party mood.



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

### Anti-congestion charge rally organised

The idea of the congestion charge (see cover article) has not only prompted a petition but also a protest that is set to take place this Sunday 27th November.

The proposed congestion charge put forward by the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) has sparked plenty of controversy among Cambridgeshire residents. The 'Sustainable Travel Zone' road user charge would see a £5 per day charge for private vehicles outside the city centre which could rise to £15 in the centre between 7am and 7pm on weekdays. Large commercial vehicles could be charged as much as £50.

Cambridgeshire Residents Group alongside Mill Road Traders Association have organised for the protest which will culminate with a rally at Parkers piece at 1pm.

### Dr Nik Johnson has surgery

Following our report in the last issue 'Dr Nik off for major heart surgery' The Riverporter is pleased to report that Nik sent us a message saying that he has had surgery and is looking forward to returning home, which is good news for him and his family.



### More changes at the Town Hall ?

This weeks Extraordinary Council Meeting, called to discuss the recruitment of a Town Clerk, was held behind closed doors and, as the agenda stated, was to give consideration to recommendations of the Personnel Committee Meeting of 16 November.

That meeting, also an Extraordinary Meeting discussed the roles of the Civic and Burials Officer and the Town Clerk. The Riverporter understands that the council is looking at various issues following the departure of the Town Clerk, Alison Benfield and imminent departure of Linda Scales, the Civic and Burial Officer. With Emma due to take maternity leave in March and Matthew Price, the Amenities Manager, assuming the role of Locum Clerk, the Council is taking the opportunity to do a review of staffing roles.

### Regarding the Draft Masterplan . . .

Along with other groups, the Town Council has submitted its comments on the Masterplan. The general view is that the plans are not likely to resurface because there is no funding for the schemes. Questions remain as to why so much was spent on the plans (£100,000) and whether the previous administration at HDC, who commissioned the work, wanted to sell off the Cattle Market.

### You can help shape policing priorities

Residents have until Monday (5 December) to help shape the policing priorities in Huntingdon for the next three months. Those wishing to take part are asked to fill out an online survey so the Neighbourhood Policing Team can understand what crime is happening in your area.

You are then invited to attend an online meeting on 6 December at 7pm where there will be a presentation on recent policing activity from the team. They will listen to concerns, present the results of the survey and allow you to have an influence. You will need to register if you wish to attend the meeting at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/huntingdon-community-engagement-meeting-december-2022-tickets-315325114907>

After the meeting, your neighbourhood team will work on the matters agreed and update you with the progress over the coming weeks and months. Their very genuine desire is to focus the team on the things that are of the highest risk and concern for residents. They are also really keen to tell you more about those things you might not realise or see them doing.

### AS SEEN ON THE BBC WEBSITE

#### River Great Ouse cause of sickness

Photographer Alexander Ward (below) had no idea he was putting himself at risk when he entered the River Great Ouse in Cambridgeshire last September.

Picture courtesy BBC



He was taking photos of wild swimmers for a project and didn't realise he had a cut on his leg. After developing flu symptoms, the 38-year-old, from Tattingsstone, Suffolk, phoned NHS 111, who told him to go to hospital urgently.

Doctors said he had suspected leptospirosis, also called Weil's disease. They put him in isolation and gave him antibiotics for two days.

*The unhealthy state of the river in St Ives was commented on during the consultation of the Draft Masterplan proposals which proposed a pontoon on The Quay to swim from!*

### Dear Erik,

You may already have covered this? But how is the Park and Ride Car Park Solar Panel works coming along. It must be a year of work already. Is it 'On Budget /On Time' or is there any back story? As it must involve public money it is of interest.

### All the best Richard

Dear Richard, we believe that the work was due to be finished about now and the County Council website doesn't currently mention any delays or additional costs. Ed.

## BREAKING NEWS A Riverporter Exclusive

We can confirm that the vacant Poundstretcher /Budgen Store on The Sheepmarket will shortly be occupied by YMCA until such time as a permanent letting is secured.

The owners have been doing refurbishment works to improve the property and attract a good Tenant. If anyone is interested in renting the premises they should contact:

Ratcliffes Chartered Surveyors, 55 South Audley Street, Mayfair, London W1K 2QH  
Tel 020 7629 4036 [www.ratcliffes.com](http://www.ratcliffes.com)



## Nativity Sets From Around The World

A wonderful exhibition of over 120  
Nativity cribs from around the world  
will be on display at

### St Ives Free Church

Saturday 3rd December 10am to 4pm  
Sunday 4th December 12:30 to 3pm

Free  
Admission



Children's  
Craft  
Activities

and then join us at 6pm on Sunday 4th December  
for a Candlelight Service of Readings and Carols.



## ARTSFEST 2022

Saturday 10th December

The Corn Exchange St Ives • 10 am to 4 pm

Artists will be exhibiting their work in various media.  
Their work will be on sale, or they will be available for  
commissions.

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[www.stivesfest.org.uk](http://www.stivesfest.org.uk)

FES+ is a not-for-profit volunteer group who organise  
and run events for residents and visitors of St Ives.  
[www.stivesfest.org.uk](http://www.stivesfest.org.uk)

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# The COURTYARD

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**Late Night Christmas shopping**  
Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December  
Live Music from 5 until 8 with Mulled wine, Coffee, Cakes, and Hot Nuts



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**Looking forward to seeing you there!**



Open 9.00am - 5pm Monday to Saturday  
Sunday 10.00am - 4.00pm

We are inviting New Dealers for our expanding Courtyard, please call 01480 464140 or [@hyperioncourtyard](https://www.facebook.com/hyperioncourtyard)

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## Your last chance to order this 490+ page book of the decade

Well book of the last 5 years anyway

### What the critics say:

*In the not too distant future this book will be the main source of knowledge about life in a small market town in England before, during and after Brexit, the Pandemic, Trump, Boris Johnson, Liz Truss, the death of Queen Elizabeth II, King Charles and climate change. Glad Tidings*

*St Ives' 'Private Eye' – sneering, smug, funny, vicious and parochial.*

Sir Knott Garran-Teed

*The lessons learned from reading The Riverporter over the past five years are no laughing matter!*

Patty O'Furniture

I can't believe that so many people have written to a dog for so long! Virginia Woof

ST IVES AWARD WINNING NEWSPAPER

Issue 125: 16 December 2022

# The Riverporter

COVERING THE NEWS FOR ST IVES AND AROUND

## The History of St Ives

Five years that shook the world ...  
a Riverporter Special

every issue from  
January 2018 to December 2022

Read all the previous issue on-line at [www.theriverporter.uk](http://www.theriverporter.uk) or see our Facebook page. Email: [editor@theriverporter.uk](mailto:editor@theriverporter.uk)

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A limited edition, this is bound to become a collectors item. Something your children and grandchildren will find incredible and amusing in years to come ...

To order your copy, email your details to: [editor@theriverporter.uk](mailto:editor@theriverporter.uk). Copies cost £15 and will be available from 16 December.

John and Ron would like to take this opportunity to thank our readers for their support over the past five years and wish you all a Merry Christmas and Prosperous new Year.

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### THE OUTFIT

Thursday 1 December 2022 at 7:30pm, Tickets £5

Director: Graham Moore, 1h 45m, Cert: 15

Leonard (Mark Rylance), a master English tailor who's ended up in Chicago, operates a corner tailor shop with his assistant (Zoey Deutch) where he makes beautiful clothes for the only people around who can afford them: a family of vicious gangsters. One night, two killers (Dylan O'Brien, Johnny Flynn) knock on his door in need of a favour, thrusting Leonard onto the board in a deadly game of deception and murder.



### THE RAILWAY CHILDREN RETURN

Thursday 15 December 2022 at 7:30pm, Tickets £5

Director: Morgan Matthews, 1h 39m, Cert: PG

An enchanting and heart-warming adventure set in 1944, where three evacuee children are sent to the Yorkshire village of Oakworth and are met by Bobbie Waterbury (Jenny Agutter), her daughter, and grandson. Having settled into their new life the evacuees discover an injured American soldier, Abe, hiding out in the Oakworth's rail yard. They are then thrust into a dangerous quest to assist their new friend who, like them, is a long way from home.



### MRS HARRIS GOES TO PARIS

Thursday 5 January 2023 at 7:30pm, Tickets £5

Director: Anthony Fabian, 1h 55m, Cert: PG

In 1950s London, a widowed cleaning lady falls madly in love with a couture Dior dress, deciding she must have one of her own. After working to raise the funds to pursue her dream, she embarks on an adventure to Paris that will change not only her own outlook, but the very future of the House of Dior.

Tickets from [screenstives.org.uk](http://screenstives.org.uk) or in the Corn Exchange. Doors open 1 hour before screening.