

The Riverporter

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS

COVERING THE NEWS FOR ST IVES AND AROUND

Issue I26: 13 January 2023

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

2023 starts with good news

Despite the doom and gloom of national news there has been some good news for several community groups in St Ives, which you can read about in this issue of *The Riverporter*, the first for the year.

The Town Council awarded substantial grants to several groups at last weeks extraordinary meeting (see page 3). Planning permission has eventually come through on the Bandstand (see below).

There was also two successful fundraising events (see Letters to Erik). This along with a great New Year's Eve party at the Corn Exchange, a successful litter picking campaign and details of more Chapel Arts @ the Corn Exchange concerts (right), there are several reasons to be cheerful.

Political upheaval

Of course we at *The Riverporter* love nothing more than a good political story and like buses,

you wait for ages and then two come along at once. The first concerns St Ives North and Wyton County Councillor, Ryan Fuller, who seems to attract controversy, even when he's not in the country. (see page 2).

The other concerns County and District Councillor Doug Dew (see below).

Another councillor resigns

Town Councillor Mathew Setchell has left the Council, just 6 months after being adopted (see RP 113), for personal reasons. It used to be rare for councillors to resign between elections, but at least 7 councillors have been adopted to the Town Council recently, mostly as a result of resignations.

Dew's defection draws mixed comments



Ex St Ives Town Councillor and current County and District Councillor for

Hemingford Grey, Doug Dew, has defected to the Liberal Democrats claiming that Liz Truss was 'the last straw'. Of course the County and District Lib Dems have welcomed him with open arms, as this makes it even more difficult for Tories to regain control of either council.

Pictured, above, with HDC Leader Sarah Conboy, Councillor Dew drew a mixed response from his former Tory colleagues.

While Cllr Gray, leader of HDC's conservatives, said 'I wish him well in the lush pastures of Liberal Democracy', Cllr Count, leader of the CCC Tory group, thought that residents in Hemingford and Fenstanton would feel betrayed. He also said that 'If he felt strongly enough about joining the Lib Dems he should have resigned his seat and stood for re-election'. One reason Cllr Dew gave for changing party was that while he has stayed in the centre of politics the Tories have moved to the right. Time will tell if it works out.

Although an experienced councillor he will not get any Special Responsibility Allowance and will have to earn his place in his new party.

Death announced of former Mayor, Brian Luter

The Riverporter is sad to announce that the Town's longest serving, current councillor, Brian Luter, died on Thursday 29th December. Brian had returned to the Council last May, having served as a Town Councillor from 1996 until May 2020.

Brian, who was 86, moved to St Ives in 1977 and after retiring from the RAF was elected to the Town Council in 1996.

Brian was Mayor on three occasions in 2004, 2009 and 2014. Originally elected as a Conservative, but following the row over the future of the Corn Exchange in 2006, he stood as an independent. He thought full and open debate was best achieved in a non-political chamber with clear opportunities for the public to make statements and ask questions. Much of his time was spent in volunteering at the Corn Exchange and helping to get it reopened. As a councillor he always put the well-being of the people and the economy of St Ives as a priority.

An Oxford University graduate Brian was awarded a 'Blue' for Bridge, which he continued to play throughout his life. He was also a keen snooker player and a popular councillor. Brian's



knowledge and experience will be missed in the council chamber, especially his forensic examination of the accounts.



Friday 27th January - The Lightwaves

The Lightwaves are: Ranjan, guitar, and Lee, ukulele, and they will amaze you with their renditions of Life On Mars, Killer Queen and other sensational songs. Be prepared for a fun start to 2023 with a good old-fashioned sing-a-long.



Friday 24th February - Mark Burton

Many people will know Mark, who accompanies Neil Richardson and Opera singer Karen England. Mark is not just a pianist, he is a multi-keyboard player, an organist and synthesiser player. Be prepared to be amazed by the mixture of classical, rock and jazz music.



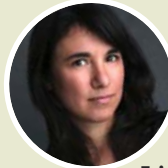
Friday 31st March - The Musical Amigos

Featuring Stella Hensley, vocals, Myke Clifford on sax, flute and vocals and Chris Newman on guitar. Three of our finest local musicians who will entertain you with an evening of blues and jazz numbers, some well known and some original compositions.



Friday 28th April - Daniela Rossi

Despite being in great demand around the world, and having several pieces written especially for her by renowned guitar composers, Daniela has agreed once again to entertain us. This might be the last time we can enjoy her sublime guitar playing in such an intimate venue.



Friday 26th May - Johnny Wright & Chris Newman

A welcome return for these two great guitarists. Anyone who attended last October's concert will know just how good they are. Be sure to book early to get a seat.



All concerts start at 7.30pm in the Riverport Café Bar and tickets are just £10 from the Riverport Café Bar or from www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents.

BANDSTAND UPDATE

WHOOPEE! Bandstand to go ahead

In our last issue before Christmas we explained that the Town Team were awaiting planning approval, so that they could go ahead with the project. We are pleased to say that the Planning Officer at HDC has indicated that he will issue a determination, in favour of the Bandstand being installed on The Waits, after January 17th.

Sheila Stones, Chair of the Town Team said 'Although planning consent will have taken 7 months to come through it is more good news for the start of 2023 and should mean that we will be able to enjoy using the bandstand this summer.'

Pledges to be sought

Over 100 groups and families have pledged money for the project and now, with planning approval, the Town Team will be giving everyone who has pledged funds, details of how to send their contribution in. Everyone's contribution will be acknowledged on the bandstand (unless they wish to remain anonymous) and this will provide recognition, not only of the support and generosity of our community, but as a lasting legacy of the life and work of Queen Elizabeth II. Pledges totalling £38,330 have been received and with the funds recently approved by St Ives Town Council the bandstand has been ordered. Several local companies have offered to help with the installation, so the total support now exceeds £45,000.

However we will still need to raise a bit more and it isn't too late to add your name to the bandstand, so please make a pledge if you can. It is easy to do - all contributions are welcome. You can make a pledge (from £25 upwards) by sending your contact details (address, email and telephone number) to: townteam@stivescambridgeshire.co.uk, stating the amount you wish to pledge. Alternatively you can give details at The Town Hall between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday. Your pledges and donations will be recognised. Every person or company that donates to the bandstand will be inscribed on a panel (unless they wish to remain anonymous) so that future generations will see all of the people who contributed.

Please note: Any contact details you send us will remain confidential.

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

You can contact The Riverporter by telephone on: 07900 112635. The publishers, Ron Westrip and John Souter, reserve the right to determine the content of the publication. © copyright reserved

They seek him here they seek in there?

Following an article by John Elworthy on the the CambsNews website, questioning if St Ives County Councillor Ryan Fuller had left the country for good... the reply when it came was 'I'll be home again soon'.

The article pointed out that Councillor Ryan Fuller had done an usual thing, which really isn't that surprising for those who know him. He often courts controversy.

What he has done in this case is remove his address and employment details from his 'Register of Interests Declaration', that all councillors must make when taking up their posts. He has also replace his signature with his name typed on the form.

Now this, it turns out, is compliant with the law, assuming he has no home or employment. And this led the author to try and contact Mr Fuller, which as *The Riverporter* knows is not easy. Speaking to Cllr Fuller's Tory colleagues, they said that he could be in Thailand and so the suggestion was he might have moved there permanently, as no one had seen him for a while and he hadn't attended a recent County Council meeting.

In fact his attendance at County Council meetings has been poor since he lost his District Council seat by 26 votes to Julie Kerr in last May's elections.

Ryan responds

Within 24 hours of John's article appearing Ryan responded to say he was just visiting friends and relatives abroad, something he does regularly at this time of year.

In typical Ryan mode he went on the offensive claiming that John had 'chosen to amplify and embellish a smear concocted by my political opponents prior to last year's elections, where residents were repeatedly falsely told that I no longer lived locally. I've heard variations of that smear ever since'.

This comment, about his opponents made us find out if there was any truth in them. So we asked Councillor Kerr about these allegations. Her reply was succinct. 'These allegations are lies', she said and went on to explained that quite the opposite had happened, with Ryan putting out letters making false claims about her and her policies. Ryan had also tried to undermine her by making false complaints to District Council officers. (Something we wrote about in issue RP109).



From lots of roles to none

Prior to the elections Mr Fuller was doing very well at tax payer's expense. Not only did he work as Senior Parliamentary Researcher for MP Jonathan Djanogly, he was Leader of HDC and a full member of the Combined Authority Board and a County Councillor. All important paid roles earning him much more than average pay, with lots of responsibility. All that is now left is his St Ives North and Wyton County Council role, which doesn't seem to appeal much to him, if his attendance is anything to go by.

County Councillors often attend Town Council meetings to keep them informed of CC matters. It is part of their role. Unlike the town's other County Councillor, Kevin Reynolds, who often attends, Ryan has not seen.

He's coming home

So he is coming home, but where is home? We know he has left his town centre flat that he was renting and someone said he might be moving to Cambourne, which, if true, should appear on his Register of Interests.

John Elworthy's article also said that Mr Fuller had been one of the 'gang of five' who had called for the Combined Authority Mayor Nik Johnson to resign and that he had fled the count as soon as he had lost to Mrs Kerr and wasn't there to hear MP Jonathan Djanogly praise him as a 'remarkable leader'. He showed in that instance that leadership wasn't one of his strengths.

As a County Councillor for St Ives he will still be entitled to receive £10,500 p.a. for attending six meetings a year, which poses the question what value is he to St Ives North and Wyton?

St Ives ecoaction News

Our superb team of caterers at our first Repair Café (see right), will be in operation again in February. The tea loaf was to die for, and there is already talk of collating the recipes! See the advert on the back page.

CAMCYCLE Magazine – Pick up your free copy!

In 2022 we benefited from free copies of the rather splendid CAMCYCLE magazine. You can pick up a copy from: • The Commute Café • Broadway Cycles • Richardson's Cycles • St Ives Town Hall • Tom's Cakes or St Ives Library (next to Waitrose).

Just before Christmas additional cycle racks were installed in the town centre a collaborative effort, between respective local authorities and local community groups and representatives.

And last but by no means least, news of Huntingdonshire District Council's long awaited Climate Strategy and Climate Action plan... but does it go far enough...?

The draft Climate Strategy and Climate Action Plan was published just before Christmas and discussed at a committee meeting on 5 January. Follow us on Facebook: [stivesecoaction](https://www.facebook.com/stivesecoaction)



New Year starts with community action to keep St Ives Litter Free

A microwave, a toilet, a pair of jeans and a sleeping bag were just some of the items removed as 31 bags of rubbish were collected by 30 volunteers in just one hour!

On Saturday, 7th January community volunteers equipped with grabbers, bags, hoops and high visibility vests turned up for the New Year's Litter Pick at the St Ives Park and Ride site to pick the car park, busway cycle path, Meadow Lane and the area around Waitrose.

The pick marked the start of the third year of the St Ives Against Rubbish campaign which has aims to continue to tackle 'waste in the wrong place' and to encourage others to notice and take action against the rubbish blighting our local environment. A big thank you to everyone involved including organisers St Ives in Bloom, and to St Ives Rotary Club, St Ives EcoAction and a particularly warm welcome to new community volunteers who joined the pick on the wet and windy January morning.

In just one hour, 30 volunteers collected 27 bags for landfill and four bags of clean recycling, which included beer and soft drink cans and bottles. The 50 metre stretch of Meadow Lane revealed the following pickings: a microwave, toilet, a pair of jeans, a sleeping bag and a variety of detritus that you might imagine would be left by lorry drivers parking up. The new refuse sack hoops that were bought with a grant from the Town Council were a winner, and on such a windy day definitely made it easier to pick up litter. If you would like to help to keep our town litter free, you can join one of the regular picks organised by St Ives in Bloom, see www.stivesinbloom.co.uk



Two of the 30 enthusiastic volunteers. Comments from those new to litter picking included, 'We really enjoyed our first litter pick!'

If you wish to join an organised pick in 2023, please see the details below for where to meet.

- Sat 28th Jan 10:30am: Co-op Car park.
- Wed 1st Feb 10am: Westwood Rd cemetery.
- Sat 25th Feb 10:30am: Co-op Car park.
- Wed 1st March 10am: Park and Ride.

While grabbers, bags and high visibility vests will be provided for organised picks, you are asked to please wrap up warm, bring your own gloves and wear sturdy shoes.

For further information, please email: siibinfo@gmail.com or follow STAR on [facebook.com/groups/stivesagainstrubbish/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/stivesagainstrubbish/)

Mayor features in a Genie-us of a pantomime

Popular St Ives Mayor Phil Pope, is appearing in Aladdin, currently on at The Burgess Hall from 11th to 15th January.

Aladdin is one of the most well known and loved fairy stories of all time and remains one of the most popular pantomimes performed by both amateur and professional groups.

The Centre Players have been providing the town with seasonal entertainment for the past forty seven years and have built up a fine reputation for their standard of performance winning several awards for best Pantomime in the District.





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

Town Council's generous support

The Town Council held a special meeting on 4 January to set the budget for the year 23/24, which included awarding grants to local community groups. The meeting didn't start well as a member of the public said that not enough detail had been given in advance and he queried whether the meeting could go ahead. In the end it did go ahead, although the point raised had merit, as quite clearly everyone was a little in the dark about who had made grant applications and for how much and how the Council would assess them. In the end the Council praised the work of the groups and gave in total £14,871 additional money to the six groups present, which included the Christmas Lights and Carnival committees, FES, St Ives In Bloom, the Huntingdonshire Volunteer Centre and the Town Team. This will add just under 2% to the precept.

Officers assaulted at illegal rave

Multiple police officers were assaulted at an illegal New Year's Eve rave, including one who needed hospital treatment for a head injury. Officers came across the rave at an industrial unit in Edison Road, St Ives, at about 9.30pm on Saturday 31 December. There were already about 200 people at the event with further people trying to get in. Eleven officers, trying to prevent further people from attending, were assaulted. Two suffered cuts to the head caused by thrown glass bottles and one needed hospital treatment. Other were hit by missiles, pushed to the ground, and kicked.

A police car was also vandalised, along with other parked vehicles on the estate and a 27-year-old man from Wattisfield, Suffolk, was arrested on suspicion of assaulting an emergency worker, possession of an offensive weapon and obstructing a police officer. Anyone who has information or CCTV footage should report it through the force website reference 35/163/23.

New Year boost for the Macmillan



New years day brought the year in with the now familiar 'Hangover Party' held at the Nelson's head and organised by our local singer songwriter Paul 'The Pianoman' Dodson.

The year was another amazing success, The afternoon saw performances of Paul himself brilliantly supported by Reggae Ray and an amazing new local band 'X Rated' who had crowds dancing in the street to a performance of 70's Punk tracks.

The focus of the day was on fund raising for the Macmillan charity and this past Sunday Paul returned to the Nellie to give the figures. Paul had written a special Christmas song and the downloads of the single brought in donations of £375, The New Year's Day Hangover Party collected donations of £663 Plus Government Gift Aid of £223. Making a Grand total raised an amazing £1,261!!

Amazing award for retailer

Just before Christmas this year Cloud Nine gems on Market Hill, a jewellery business in St Ives was recently been honoured at a national awards ceremony. Cloud Nine Gems was crowned **England's best gift shop** at the England Business Awards 2022. The shop was nominated for the award anonymously and was then visited by secret shoppers before going forward to the finals in Birmingham in December following a public vote.

Owners Sarah and Stacia said they couldn't quite believe it when they found they had won. The shop situated on Market hill sells a range of jewellery, handbags, scarves and many other accessories, their new certificate is on proud display in their shop window.



Dear Erik,
Subject: Good luck with the campaign to get the barrier on The Waits repaired.



In Fairfield's we have been waiting over 3 years for a Pedestrian barrier to be replaced. Perhaps the people of St Ives can report to you how other barriers are damaged and not repaired.
Fairfields Mick.

Dear Erik,
Subject: St Ives markets

I refer to your recent article - use it or lose it - St Ives markets.

I agree the markets were to me a very appealing aspect of our town and I used them every week until my mobility reduced and now I find access to them very difficult.

I have already spoken to Nic Wells about getting round St Ives on a mobility scooter/wheelchair/trike, I suggested the town council (or whoever) try for themselves in getting about using one of the above modes of transport. Issues include - few drop down zones, parking over drop down zones, pavements in poor condition, barriers across pavement, narrow pavements.

I for one have always been proud of our markets & emphasised their virtues to visitors. I would be sorry to see them go.

Mrs Elizabeth Deighton

Dear Erik,
Subject: Christmas Sing-A-Long with The Riverport Singers

Will you print my thanks for a super evening the, Christmas Sing-A-Long, held in The Corn Exchange, the wonderful band, carol singing, loads of humour and delightful performances from the Emily and Hetty playing percussion (I also learned a little bit about the instruments?)

Thank you so much to all of you who gave us a really joyful evening, what a smashing start to Christmas. **Chris a St Ives resident**

Dear Erik,
The British Heart Foundation shone a light again in the Bridge Chapel

St Ives people again showed their fondness for the Bridge Chapel and for lighting a candle there before Christmas. The St Ives BHF group would like to thank all those who came along and lit a candle. Some said they wanted to light a candle for family members, for the Queen or for people suffering in Ukraine. Donations to local BHF fundraising were gratefully received, and BHF Christmas cards sold out too. **£1,400 was raised in total!**

The St Ives BHF group would very much welcome new helpers (**Call Jean on 469557**). Happy New Year!
Jean, Ann & Helen

Dear Erik,
Subject: 904 bus service

Sheila pointed out in RP124 that the 904 bus no longer runs from St Ives to Huntingdon but this is not the only St Ives casualty of Stagecoach's recent reorganisation. All the Villager buses, V1, 2, 3, and 4 have also been cancelled, though this isn't too much of a surprise as the company rarely bothered to run them anyway. Clearly Stagecoach's view was that they didn't run them because the passengers didn't use them but the reason passengers didn't use them was because in many cases they weren't given the opportunity.

So all we are left with are the guided buses as part of their new 'sustainable' network. Unfortunately the evidence so far, judging by the cancellations, late running and buses terminating at St Ives Park and Ride rather than completing their journeys, is that it is no more reliable than the old, unsustainable, network. Apparently Stagecoach has recently been sold to DWS Group which, according to Wikipedia, is a German Asset Management Company but it is clear that the new, German, owners are no more concerned about providing a reliable, comprehensive bus service in Cambridgeshire than were the previous, Scottish, ones.
John Lee

Dear Erik,
Subject: 2 Waveney Road Car in Front Garden - AGAIN !!



I believe the small snowfall recently contributed to the latest incident outside 2 Waveney Road.
Colin

Dear Erik,
Subject: Hemingford Ladies Choir
Please could you include the following:
LADIES WHO LOVE SINGING!

Why not give Hemingford Ladies' Choir a try? You will make new friends and have a lot of fun. Pop in to one of our rehearsals or, for more information, give Viv Oxley a ring on **01480 417925**

Rehearsals start from Wednesday, 25th January, from 10am - 11.30am in The Free Church, St Ives

Thank you
Carol Jennings

Dear Erik, Subject: St Ives markets

I refer to your recent article - use it or lose it - St Ives markets. I agree the markets were to me a very appealing aspect of our town and I used them every week until my mobility reduced and now I find access to them very difficult.

I have already spoken to Nic Wells about getting round St Ives on a mobility scooter/wheelchair/trike. I suggested the Town Council (or whoever) try for themselves in getting about using one of the above modes of transport.

Issues include - few drop down zones, parking over drop down zones, pavements in poor condition, barriers across pavement and narrow pavements. I for one have always been proud of our markets & emphasised their virtues to visitors. I would be sorry to see them go.
Mrs Elizabeth Deighton

Dear Erik,

Subject: Danger on The Waits'

The wall at the end of The Waits near the WW2 pillbox seems to be getting worse and is in danger of collapsing. When will the council do something about it or do we have to wait for somebody to get injured or worse?

Gordon Walker



HYPERION

Entries Invited for Our Next Antiques & Interiors Sale on Saturday 21st January



Sold In Our Last Interiors Sale

Large collection of Royal Albert Old
Country Roses
Sold £300



Fine Ladies Square Cut Columbian Emerald
claw set ring with Trilliant Cut shoulders.
Central Emerald estimated at 1.2ct. Size O.
6.8g total weight
Sold £650



Interesting Asian Bronze of Dancing Krishna
Sold £300

Hyperion Auctions, The Salerooms, Station Road, St Ives PE27 5BH
www.hyperionauctions.co.uk 01480 464140



Repair Café

Sat 18th February

1pm – 4pm

St Ives Methodist
Church Hall

We welcome:

- Sewing repairs
- Jewellery
- Ceramics
- Computers
- Tablets
- Mobile phones
- Small household appliances

Repairs are **FREE**
but we welcome
CASH donations!

To book a slot for repair on
the day, please email:

stivesrepaircafe@gmail.com

Or bring your broken items on
the day for assessment ready
for repair at a later date, and
check out the repair café vibe.



Learn from
our repairers,
gain new skills
and enjoy
drinks and
homemade
cake.

Yes, repairs can be fun
AND reduce waste!

St Ives Repair Café is an initiative of St Ives

CUT OUT AND KEEP



Supported by

BOONGATE KIA

Home of the 7 year warranty

Peterborough PE1 5UA, Tel: 01733 344344

THE WORST PERSON IN THE WORLD

Thursday 19 January 2023 at 7:30pm

Director: Joachim Trier, 2h 8m, Cert: 15, Norwegian with subtitles

The chronicles of four years in the life of Julie, a young woman who navigates the troubled waters of her love life and struggles to find her career path, leading her to take a realistic look at who she really is. From the outset you think that this might be a snarky anti-romantic comedy that's drenched in smug irony but as it goes along the movie reveals itself to be a deeply emotional examination of how people fall in and out of love and the regrets that haunt us.

THE BANSHEES OF INISHERIN

Thursday 2 February 2023 at 7:30pm

Director: Martin McDonagh, 1h 49m, Cert: 15

On a remote island off the coast of Ireland, Pádraic is devastated when his buddy Colm suddenly puts an end to their lifelong friendship. With help from his sister and a troubled young islander, Pádraic sets out to repair the damaged relationship by any means necessary. However, as Colm's resolve only strengthens, he soon delivers an ultimatum that leads to shocking consequences.



Tickets **£5** from screenstives.org.uk or in the Corn Exchange. Doors open 1 hour before screening.