

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

## That's a bit worrying!

According to James Watt, the CEO of the Brew Dog Company, a pint of his IPA beer would cost £27.50 if prices were put up in line with soaring energy bills and with a name like that he should know!

He also claimed that a burger and fries would set back diners about £48.75 if prices matched those of rising energy costs. Posting on LinkedIn, Mr Watt warned that chancellor Jeremy Hunt would only 'make the situation worse when he rows back support for business energy bills from April'.

He said: 'Businesses all over the UK are facing the crippling combination of the worst cost inflation for decades and squeezed consumer spending power'.

St Ives has a really marvellous night-time economy a great range of pubs, restaurants and venues. But a quick check on a few of our local friends reveals a staggering rise in overheads that cannot be sustained long term. In one case *The Riverporter* understands that an energy bill has risen from £1,200 per month to £3,000 per month and all this is happening at a time of food price inflation and increasing wage costs.

James Watt is calling on the government to give similar support to that given during covid, however as someone that has worked closely with the hospitality sector for many years, the survival of many of these businesses may be entirely in our hands.



If the public start to hold back it could create the perfect storm for many of our local businesses. Rising costs and falling income could force more closures.

As we write this we hear that the UK economy is shrinking more. Government income is dropping and it seems unlikely that Government help can continue its support at the same level for much longer.

Now is the time to support our St Ives businesses as much as we can and also our secure our wonderful night life.

## Musicians very keen to play here

It seems that St Ives reputation for being a 'musical town' is spreading worldwide as musicians from around the world have been asking to play here. Last October visitors to the Old Riverport Ukulele Festival were stunned by Italian, Danilo Vignola, who asked to play at the Festival and will be returning again this year in October.

This April you will be able to hear the wonderful classical guitarist, another Italian, Cristiano Poli Cappelli (left) who will join Daniela Rossi for a very special Chapel Arts Concert in the Free Church on Friday evening 28 April (see page 2 for details).



This looks likely to be followed by several visitors from the 'Good Ole USA' playing at this year's Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival, which is from 14th to 17th September, and at future Chapel Arts concerts. Details of these exciting and world renowned artists will appear in *The Riverporter* soon.

## The Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Bandstand



Following the planning approval for the bandstand, pledges totalling over £42,000 are now being paid by the people and businesses of St Ives.

The Town Team has ordered the bandstand from Leander Architectural, the manufacturers, and hopes to have it in place around April/May for use this coming summer. The Team has also been contacting everyone who pledged funds, giving them details of how to send their contribution in. Nearly £4,000 has already come in but the Team ask that anyone who pledged funds, and hasn't received an email or phone call about this, please check you emails to see if you have a message.

'It is possible that a message has gone into your spam box' said Town Team Chair, Sheila Stones, 'So please check that first. If it's not there then call us on 07900112635 or email: [townteam@stivescambridgeshire.co.uk](mailto:townteam@stivescambridgeshire.co.uk) and we will give you details of how to pay'.

Everyone's contribution will be acknowledged on the bandstand (unless they wish to remain anonymous) providing 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. It is not too late to contribute and add your name to the bandstand. It is easy to make a contribution by sending your contact details (address, email and telephone number) to: [townteam@stivescambridgeshire.co.uk](mailto:townteam@stivescambridgeshire.co.uk), stating the amount you wish to give. Alternatively you can make a donation at The Town Hall between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday. Please note: Any contact details you send us will remain confidential.

## Oliver Cromwell returns to St Ives

March 2023 sees the first performance of a new musical work commissioned by St Ives Choral Society (see back page). The world premiere of Cromwell – an oratorio composed by Tom Randle, with libretto by Nikki Racklin traces the life and death of one of Cambridgeshire's most famous and controversial sons, performed in collaboration with the Cromwell Museum, Huntingdon.

After the devastating effects of the pandemic St Ives Choral Society aims to play its part in getting people (young and old) back singing – performing to a public eager to enjoy live music again. One of its main objects as a charity is to involve itself into the wider local community and this special project sees it collaborating with the local St Ivo School, whose children's choir is joining them in the performance. The accompaniment will be provided by an intimate chamber orchestra that will showcase the very best musicians from our region. Charne Rochford, Musical Director of SICS, says 'This is a truly exciting project for the Society and one that everyone can be a part of. A once-in-a-lifetime performance such as this is a big financial undertaking and we have set up a crowdfunding site (<https://gofund.me/6905392f>) where we welcome donations from the public'.

# A Very Special Concert is coming



In our last issue we reported on this year's series of concerts including on Friday 28th April an evening with the wonderful classical guitarist - Daniela Rossi. Since then we were contacted by an Italian guitarist Cristiano Poli Cappelli who asked if he might arrange to play around that time. He included some examples of his playing and we were blown away by what we saw.

Normally these concerts take place in quite small locations and we have wanted for some time to be able put on a concert with Daniela, where more people can enjoy her incredible talent.



So we spoke with Daniela, who agreed that Cristiano looked a fine player and she is delighted to move her concert to St Ives Free Church where many more people will be able to enjoy both her and Cristiano in an evening of virtuoso classical guitar playing never before seen here in St Ives.

Both Daniela and Cristiano have achieved great acclaim and their musical careers seem very similar although sometimes continents apart.

Cristiano graduated from the Conservatory of Pescara, Italy and Daniela from Conservatory of Bahía Blanca, Argentina. Both have won awards in prestigious competitions and both teach guitar.

They are much sought after on the international classical guitar circuit and have had compositions dedicated to them by renowned composers.

**A concert not to be missed Friday 28th April at 7.30pm St Ives Free Church.**

**Tickets are £10 and can be purchased online at:**

**www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents or in person from the Riverport Café Bar**

**Other performers already booked include . . .**

**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 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.



**Friday 28th July -**

**Max de Bernardi & Veronica Sbergia**

Another special concert. This time with American Country & Weston stars Max De Bernardi & Veronica Sbergia. Playing an irresistible blend of blues, ragtime, vaudeville and hillbilly music, using strictly acoustic instruments such ukuleles, washboard, kazoo, double bass and guitars they will be dropping

in to St Ives during their British tour in July.

**All concerts start at 7.30pm in the Riverport Café Bar (unless otherwise advertised)**

**and tickets are just £10 from the Bar or from www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents.**

**It is advisable to book in advance as places are limited.**

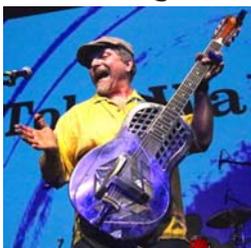
**It's not too late to see - The Lightwaves**

**do their renditions of Life On Mars, Killer Queen and other sensational songs.**

**TONIGHT @ 7.30PM IN THE RIVERPORT CAFÉ BAR.**



## Another great line-up for Jazz & Blues Festival



The 9th Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival, which is on from 14th to 17th September this year, is likely to have at least seven new acts including international artists. The programme, which has still to be confirmed, includes appearances from Americans Toby Walker and Brooks Williams and Kiwi Ian Goodsman all great acoustic blues and roots guitarists. With four new bands and the return of several favourites, the Festival is shaping up to be another four days of great music. We hope to print the full line-up in the next edition of *The Riverporter* on 10th Feb.



**THE BURLEIGH HILL CENTRE  
ST IVES**

**Tuesdays 9.30am**

**Fridays 8.00am & 9.30am**

**Saturdays 8.00am & 9.30am**

**For details of our joining offers**

**Call Kathie 07772 868472**

slimmingworld.co.uk

## Amazon and Ebay - a cautionary tale

**N**ow the editor of this paper is no mug when it comes to our on-line world, after all he did develop one of the first digital print companies in the UK. But just lately he has come a cropper whilst using Ebay and Amazon.

Now I am quite happy to buy things on t'internet if I can't buy locally. So we decided to sell a couple of old leather sofas on Ebay. Both made by Laura Ashley, a 2 seater in poor condition and a 3 seater in okay condition.

I easily opened an account, where you had to register a bank account to receive the payment, and soon listed the two items describing them appropriately, taking two pictures that clearly showed their condition.

Knowing that they were well used we priced them accordingly at £75 for the 2 seater and £200 for the 3 seater, but indicated that we would accept a lower offer if necessary.

Within an hour of being listed they sold, the buyer paying immediately. Shortly after, the buyer, who was listed as an upholsterer, called to ask if some marks he could see on the picture were cat scratches, which they weren't as we didn't have a cat. He asked to collect them on a certain day, which was fine, and we were pleased that an upholsterer wanted them, knowing that someone would get use of them rather than them ending up in the dump.

The night before he was due to collect, a courier company called to say they were picking them up. We assumed the buyer was knowledgeable and therefore happy to take them unseen.

A couple of days later the buyer posted on Ebay that he wanted to return them as we had misled him about their condition. In fact he wanted us to pay his courier fees and collect them at our expense as well as reimburse him. He declined our offer of a reduced price. We spoke with Ebay about the situation or rather a user assistant. You cannot speak to Ebay direct.

### The Sting

It seemed that the buyer had more rights than us, because once he had triggered a request for the goods to be returned it was down to us to pay for that. We had to also refund the

payment from our Ebay account and Ebay took their fee automatically from our bank.

We then had to decide whether to pay over £80 to get the sofas back. We decided reluctantly to let him keep them.

Our weakness was that we didn't photograph every blemish and point them out, although I maintained that these were noticeable on the pictures I took. Some of the blemishes they pointed out, such as an old repair to a seam, made before we had bought the sofa, was so minor and not unexpected on an old second hand sofa.

It was clear that they were not in perfect condition from the price we set and ultimately these 'professional' users of Ebay knew how to 'work the system' to their advantage. They ended up with two sofas for £80 and we ended up losing them both at a cost of £36.

The lesson learned is be careful on Ebay and insist a buyer comes and looks first at anything large that will cost a lot to move.

Or don't use Ebay at all!

### Be careful with Amazon

Shortly after the above, this happened . . .

In trying to close my Prime subscription, as I hadn't used it for some months, I inadvertently deleted my Amazon account. I was warned my details would be lost if I proceeded, but 'hey I thought' I wouldn't miss buying on Amazon.

What I didn't realise was that this would delete access to all of my Kindle books. My wife was not happy as she had bought hundreds of over the last decade on my account.

They disappeared and according to Amazon cannot be reinstated!

I thought these books were mine to keep forever, like my printed copies, but apparently not. We only had access to them while I had an Amazon account, that's how they control us. **Ed**



Erik - gone fishing ...



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 seeks two new councillors

Following the resignation of Councillor Mathew Setchell and the death of Councillor Brian Luter, St Ives Town Council will be seeking to co-opt 2 councillors.

#### VACANCIES FOR ST IVES TOWN COUNCILLORS

If you wish to apply for the positions you should submit a written statement to the Town Clerk (no more than 300 words) detailing why you believe yourself suitable to be a Member of the Council. Completed applications should be returned to the above address, or sent via email, no later than noon on **Wednesday 1st March 2023** and will be considered at a subsequent full Meeting of the Town Council.

#### ELIGIBILITY

In order to be eligible for co-option you must be a British subject or a citizen of the Commonwealth or European Union and be 18 years of age or over.

**You should also meet one of the following qualifications:**

- (a) be registered as a local government elector for the Parish of St Ives, or
- (b) have, during the whole of the twelve months preceding the date of co-option occupied, as owner or tenant, land or other premises in the Parish, or
- (c) have your principal place of work located within the Parish, or
- (d) during the whole of twelve months resided in the Parish or within three miles of it.

#### DISQUALIFICATIONS

Under Section 80 of the Local Government Act 1972 a person is disqualified from being elected as a local Councillor or being a Member of a Local Council if he/she:

- (a) holds any paid office or employment with St Ives Town Council
- (b) has been adjudged bankrupt or has made an arrangement with his/her creditors
- (c) has, within five years before the day of co-option, been convicted of any offence and has been sentenced to imprisonment (whether suspended or not) for not less than 3 months without the option of a fine
- (d) is disqualified under Part III of the Representation of the People Act 1983 for corrupt or illegal practices.

Your letter of application should clearly confirm your eligibility and that you are subject to no disqualification as set out above. **Town Clerk - Matthew Price**

### Girl Guides to meet in St Ives

On Saturday 22 April, two to three hundred members of the Trefoil Guild will meet for their Annual Meeting, this year at the Burgess Hall in St Ives. Trefoil Guild is an adult part of Girlguiding, and members will come from the Anglia Region, from nine counties stretching from Oxfordshire to Lincolnshire.

Their programme for the day includes time to explore the town in the morning. The Town Team are supplying 300 copies of their Complimentary Guide, which contains details of walks and a map of the Town Centre.

Mayors from St Ives, Ramsey, Whittlesey, Godmanchester and St Neots (towns where our local Trefoil Guilds meet) will be invited to a formal meeting in the afternoon.



### On The Buses - Mayor's £12 p.a. tax to save Cambridgeshire's buses

Anyone following St Ives social media will be well aware of the constant complaints about our bus services. Mayor Dr Nik Johnson is proposing a £12 a year precept to fund bus services across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. In a report to Wednesday's budget setting CAPCA board meeting, Jon Alsop, Chief Finance Officer reminded members of the decision by Stagecoach to withdraw from 23 services at short notice last year when the Mayor reacted decisively to protect these services.

The cost of the new services is considerably higher than those they replace, reflecting the substantial increase in fuel, energy, and driver costs that are facing the public transport industry at large. Pressure that is expected to continue into the new year. As well as continuing to support the current services, the Mayor has a stated ambition to progress the business case for franchising the bus network in the area.

'A franchised network would enable far greater control over which routes are offered and protect residents from private operators withdrawing services unilaterally' said Mr Alsop.

### Hamish the haggis visits St Ives Day Care Centre

St Ives Day Centre had a Robert Burns themed lunch on Wednesday which was great fun. We thought your readers may like to see 'Hamish the haggis' whom we toasted before tucking in, he was delicious!

St Ives Day Centre is a great social club for the elderly, lonely or isolated people of St Ives and the surrounding villages.



This is a plea from a frustrated local resident to HDC.

#### Fly Tipping Complaint again ... STOP IGNORING ME

Good Morning,

I admit, I was hoping for an acknowledgement of my email at least. Sadly, I expected too much. I have attached the photo I took of the town centre site yesterday, which include a clear visual of a bag which has been opened by an animal, possibly a rat.



There are more bags there today, which will be collected tomorrow before the whole process starts again. Please, I beg someone at HDC to start to engage and find a solution. I bet I'd hear from you if I withheld my Council Tax one month. Yours hopefully **Ed Goodman**.

Good Morning.

I write, once again, about the issue that is completely being ignored (just as I'm being ignored too).

More rubbish was dumped on Carlisle Terrace, which wasn't there last night, but it is this morning. This is not the fault of the refuse collection team, but the fault of everyone else who is responsible for ignoring it and allowing it to keep happening. Last month, I had to spend £300 on pest control and I wouldn't be surprised if this fly-tipping site wasn't an attraction to them.

I can't complain via your website, because the link doesn't work. Therefore, I have launched a complaint via the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman website. This cannot go on. It's not a case of clearing the rubbish and moving on. Something HAS to be done to stop it for the 3 reasons I've been outlining these last 2+ years:

1. It attracts pests and vermin
2. It often has an unattractive smell
3. It's on a public footpath and illegal.

Plus, it is unsightly for residents and visitors. What should I do next? Load the car up and dump it outside Pathfinder House?

Please stop ignoring me and engage in finding a solution. **Ed**

AND AGAIN!

Good morning

As you can see, inaction has meant waking up to more rubbish left out overnight, which has been ripped apart by vermin/rats.

It's unsightly AND an environmental problem that won't go away by doing nothing.

And I won't go away by being ignored. **Ed**



Dear Erik,  
**Subject: Police Commissioner**

I understand the new Police and Crime Commissioner is visiting St Ives to be shown the crime 'hotspots'. No doubt the follow up will involve several punishing meetings as the findings make their way down the line of duty. Why not just send a couple of Constables and save all that jeopardy.

**Helenbach.**

Dear Erik,  
**Subject: Bandstand**

It is indeed Whoopee! and Yippee! as well to know the Bandstand is on the way.

However, I am worried about who will look after it, will there be security lights, is it a structure which can be insured against damage etc?

I'm sure it will be much enjoyed throughout the years, but my worries will no doubt linger.

**Steve P**

Dear Erik,  
**Subject: Brian Luter**

It was with great sadness that we noted the death of Brian Luter.

In Brian, the town has lost a great champion, which rightly honoured him with three terms as our Mayor. And with Paula, she and Brian made a formidable team in working tirelessly in countless ways to improve the town for all of us, most especially at the Corn Exchange.

Thank you Paula - and now Brian rest in peace after a job superbly done.

**Stewart and Liz Denham**

Dear Erik,  
**Subject: Arts Society  
Huntingdonshire Lecture**

Please can you advertise our meeting on  
**Wednesday 8th February 2023**  
**2:30pm in**  
**The Corn Exchange, St Ives.**  
**The Men Who Made Menswear**  
**by Russell Nash.**

**£5.00 guest fee. All welcome.**  
**Information: huntsarts.org**

Many thanks, **Clare Fox,**  
**HASChair@huntsarts.org**

### Planning application made for Landing Stage

It would appear that the developers of the HOW estate, *Stay New Homes*, have put in a planning application for a landing stage on the river, by the Thicket path.

Following our article in RP121, which reported that a fence had been installed and trees cut down without permission, it isn't surprising that an application has been made. At the time of going to press the plans were not available on HDC's planning portal but when they are residents will have a chance to comment on the plans. So keep an eye open for them.

HYPERION

## Entries Invited for Our Next Antiques & Interiors Sale on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February



Sold In Our Last Interiors Sale

A Fine 18ct Gold Ladies Ruby &  
Diamond channel set Bracelet  
**Sold £1100**



Very Large and Extensive Collection of  
Napoleon Ivy Wedgwood Tea and Dinner  
ware  
**Sold £700**

Good quality Players Navy Cut Advertising Sign of two sides  
**Sold £350**



Hyperion Auctions, The Salerooms, Station Road, St Ives PE27 5BH  
[www.hyperionauctions.co.uk](http://www.hyperionauctions.co.uk) 01480 464140



ST IVES  
CHORAL  
SOCIETY

MUSICAL DIRECTOR Charne Rochford

18 March 2023

# Cromwell

An Oratorio  
by TOM RANDLE  
Librettist Nikki Racklin

Grant Doyle *Baritone*

Julia Riley *Mezzo Soprano*

also

*Dido and Aeneas* by Purcell

Burgess Hall, St Ives

Tickets £20

Book your tickets online at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-ives-choral-society](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-ives-choral-society)

Registered Charity No. 291640

CUT OUT AND KEEP

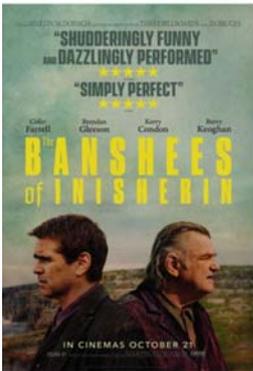


Supported by

**BOONGATE KIA**

Home of the 7 year warranty

Peterborough PE1 5UA, Tel: 01733 344344



## THE BANSHEES OF INISHERIN

Thursday 2 February 2023  
at 7:30pm, doors open 6:30pm

Director: Martin McDonagh,  
1h 49m, Cert: 15  
Tickets: £5



## MOONAGE DAYDREAM

Thursday 2 March 2023  
at 7:30pm, doors open 6:30pm

Director: Brett Morgen,  
2h 15m, Cert: 15  
Tickets: £5



## GOOD LUCK TO YOU, LEO GRANDE

Thursday 16 February 2023  
at 7:30pm, doors open 6:30pm

Director: Sophie Hyde,  
1h 37m, Cert: 15  
Tickets: £5



## SEE HOW THEY RUN

Thursday 16 March 2023  
at 7:30pm, doors open 6:30pm

Director: Morgan Matthews,  
1h 39m, Cert: PG  
Tickets: £5

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