

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

Is this a no brainer? Solar power for the Corn Exchange

Following the news that Kings College Chapel has permission to put nearly 500 solar panels on the roof (see RP128), St Ives Town Council's Property Committee discussed including panels on the Corn Exchange during roof renovations.

On Wednesday the committee, chaired by Councillor Smith, was due to discuss the possibility of including solar panels on the Corn Exchange roof, before repair work commences.

The Kings College success has made the council think again and St Ives' Corn Exchange management committee are taking the opportunity to press for a similar outcome.

They have strong evidence that the benefit is much greater than that Kings College will get. Cambridge councillors were told that the panels would contribute a 1.4% reduction in their estates carbon consumption. This pales into insignificance compared to the Corn Exchange, whose carbon emissions could see a 25% reduction not to mention a potential saving of £15,000 p.a. on electricity bills.

Representation

The Town Council Properties Committee meeting was attended by Corn Exchange representatives who stated the importance of taking action now. They asked if the Town Council could risk being seen not to be in favour of helping reduce the UK's use and reliance on fossil fuels, reducing the energy costs of the Corn Exchange, and potentially, contributing surplus clean electricity to the national grid?

An email sent by Louise Brown, Conservation and Environment Team Leader, of HDC was not entirely negative to the use of solar panels.

It said: '... Whilst it is acknowledged that renewable energy is in the public benefit it can be delivered sensitively in a number of ways in relation to historic buildings, pv panels, which sit within the profile of the roof would be more sympathetic and should be considered.'

However *The Riverporter* is aware that there had also been conversations with planners who suggested panels could not be included. Helen Dye, Chair of St Ives EcoAction, sent the following message:

'Although I may not be able to attend the Property Committee meeting, you do have my 100% support in endeavours to get PV panels on the Corn Exchange Roof, and the support of St Ives EcoAction.'

Those attending the meeting said 'Finally, in our view it is virtually unthinkable that the new roof of the Corn Exchange would not be fitted with solar panels. And if they are fitted, considerable credit will accrue to the Council'.

HOT OFF THE PRESS • HOT OFF THE PRESS

Finally it was agreed at the meeting that the P&A Committee would submit a report to full council on 8th March to defer the fitting of the new Corn Exchange roof until all avenues for gaining planning approval for installing PV panels at the same time were exhausted.

They also said they wanted to take input from all the community groups connected to the Corn Exchange.

Calling all St Ives Groups . . . to join The Coronation Big Picnic

Plans for a giant picnic in the town centre are well under way and the Town Team, working with FESt and the Town Council are calling out to all town groups who would like to get involved in this historic event.



A letter inviting groups to take part is going out to as many town organisations as possible. It states: 'Following the coronation ceremony in Westminster Abbey on Saturday 6th May we believe that the following day, Sunday 7th May, will be an ideal time for the town's people to get together for a giant picnic to celebrate our great community. The planning is in the early stages and not everything has been confirmed yet, but the following has been agreed:

The event will take place in the town centre from noon until 5pm and will include tables that can be used for the Big Picnic lunch. There will be some live music and various activities, creating an 'old fashioned style' fair with a variety of stalls. These could include fun and games, such as hobby horse jousting, hoopla, lucky dips and human fruit machines, indeed any fun game that your group might wish to organise.

It will be free to attend'.

As the pictures show this has happened before.

On 22 June 1911 the coronation of George V was marked by a giant tea party in Market Hill (see above courtesy of St Ives 100 years ago). Pictured below is the tea party held at the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in June 1953.

The organisers are also intending to give every primary school child a coronation mug (pictured), and will be on sale as well.



The organisers are keen to hear from any group wishing to take part. A meeting will be held for all who wish to be involved to agree what everyone's contribution will be.

If you or your organisation wish to take part please email Gilly James at the Town Hall at: civic@stivestowncouncil.gov.uk



BANDSTAND UPDATE

The manufacturers, Leander Architectural, based in Dove Holes near Buxton, are busy preparing our Bandstand for delivery.

Here are a few pictures of parts of the bandstand as the work to paint it black and gold continues. It should look very elegant and fit in nicely alongside the current street furniture, which also uses the same colours. As yet we do not have a date when the work will be finished, but we are delighted that fund raising has continued well with more people sending in contributions and the majority of pledges having been honoured.



There's quite a lot going on . . .

The number of activities planned is gradually returning to normal after the hiatus of the past few years, with concerts, street parties and the annual Town meeting happening in a weeks time.

Each year we encourage residents to attend the town meeting to ensure their views are heard by our elected representatives. This can be a bit frustrating as usually the same things crop up each year and not least among the issues are traffic and policing matters. Although things are unlikely to have changed massively yet, this is the very first time that the Council is made up, almost entirely, of independent councillors and the District is governed by a coalition of Independents, Lib Dems and Labour councillors. This will be the first opportunity to assess their performance.

The Town Meeting will take place on Friday 3rd March in St Ives Corn Exchange at 6pm.

From 10am there will be a whole range of local information and community groups available to help with a wide variety of issues, ranging from the cost of living crisis to health and lifestyle advice.

This is followed by a Youth Zone from 3pm to 5pm, where you can find out what activities St Ives has to offer young people.

Later in March on Sunday 26th is the **Civic Parade**, when the Mayor, Councillor Phil Pope, will lead councillors and guests at a church service in All Saints Parish Church, followed by a parade to Market Hill.

In May the Coronation Big Picnic (see cover) is planned and later on will be the official opening of the Queen Elizabeth II Bandstand, once an installation date is known.

Between now and then there are lots of concerts in the Corn Exchange (see www.thecornexchange.org.uk), a season of Chapel Arts concerts (see below) as well as Picnic in The Park, Carnival, Sunday afternoon concerts on The Waits, The Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival and in October the Old Riverport Ukulele Festival, followed by the biannual Illuminated Boat Parade.



Could this be the best concert of the year?

On Friday 28th April there will be a very special Chapel Arts concert featuring two of the very best classical guitarists around. Daniela Rossi and Cristiano Poli Cappelli will perform in the beautiful setting of St Ives Free Church.

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.

Cristiano will start the concert with a programme likely to include:

J. S. Bach, Suite BWV997, Valses Venezolanos 3 and 4 by Antonio Lauro, 3 Preludes by H. Villa-Lobos and La Catedral by A. Barrios



After a break Daniela will play a programme that may include: Sonatina Lirica op.48 and Sua Cosa op. 52, both by John Duarte. The latter is an homage to the American jazz guitarist

Wes Montgomery, plus pieces written especially for her by Dusan Bogdanovic, including: Sonatina (Homage to Joseph Haydn) in 3 parts, Folia Variations and God Bless the Child by Billie Holiday arranged for Daniela by Dusan Bogdanovic.

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



Don't miss TONIGHT 7.30pm in the Riverport Café Bar Mark Burton - be prepared to be amazed by the mixture of classical, rock and jazz from this multi-talented keyboard player.

Civic Society donates to the bandstand



The Civic Society of St Ives is pleased to donate £750 to the town's Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Bandstand and will also be sponsoring one of FEST's Music on the Waits concerts this summer.

Christine Phillpotts, the Society's new Chair (picture with the cheque), told *The Riverporter* she was honoured to appear in the paper and hoped it would help to raise her profile.

She also wanted to let people know that the Society will be at the St Ives Community Fair and Annual Town Meeting in the Corn Exchange on 3rd March.

'We'll be polling residents about what interesting or historic sites in their neighbourhood they'd like preserved for the future so please come along.' She said.

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etsy.com/uk/shop/ShopQuirki

Website (reopens 08/03)

shopquirki.com



New signs not welcomed by St Ives residents

The Hunts Post recently reported the following:

HDC have installed new 'Welcome to Huntingdonshire' signage . . .

Executive Councillor for leisure, waste and street scene, Cllr Simone Taylor, right in the picture, said: 'We hope that the installation of this new signage will help residents to identify with Huntingdonshire and feel a deepened sense of pride for the district [in which] that they live and work.'

Shadow Cabinet Member for waste, street scene and open spaces, Cllr Marge Beuttell, left in picture, said: 'It is great to see this initiative, started under the previous administration, completed.'

When this appeared on a St Ives Facebook page it received over 100 adverse comments, mostly suggesting it was a total waste of money for a non-existent county.

What the article didn't say is this is the same Marge Beuttell who promoted a non-existent Market Traders scheme that *The Riverporter* exposed as fake in March 2019 (see RP31&36). HDC said that research has shown that the **synchronicity of signage** is linked with **unity and solidarity** in an area. Something Erik seemed to understand!

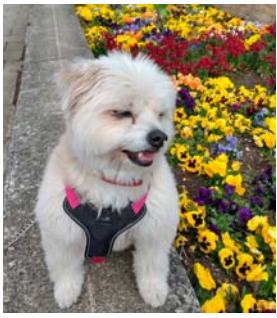


Ukraine hosts required

The council have a shortage of host families or sponsors both for new applications and for those who are already here and have completed 6 months with their existing host and both parties are looking for a change. For those people it's a quick paper exercise to transfer to a new host family.

For new arrivals the council will assist with all the relevant paperwork.

For taking in a Ukraine person you will get £350 as a thankyou per month for 6 months, in addition you'll get £50 per person. So one person = £400, 3 people = £500 (per month) It is rarely more than 3 in a house. Contact HDC for details.



Erik likes The Waits



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

It's not too late to be a councillor

So far, three candidates have come forward for co-option to St Ives Town Council for the two seats available. Applications are being accepted up until 1 March so if you would like to apply you still have time.

Working their magic at The Waits

St Ives in Bloom volunteers are pictured working on the flower beds, which will brighten our town once again.



Why not go along and join them at the various sites around town they maintain? Here is a list of times and places to join them.

WEDNESDAY 1st March, 10am-12: Meet at the entrance area by the gates of BROAD LEAS CEMETERY to tend the wildlife garden and tidy the Victorian graves.

TUESDAY 7th March, 10am-12: (Venue to be confirmed)

SATURDAY 11th March, 10am-12: Meet us in the second car park at the RAMSEY ROAD CEMETERY to tidy, weed and plant the flowerbeds.

TUESDAY 14th March, 2-4pm: Meet at the corner of THE WAITS and Ramsey Road to weed the 'postbox' garden and along the riverside beds if we have enough volunteers.

WEDNESDAY 22nd March, 10am-12: Meet at STATION ROAD behind Waitrose to weed along the verge between Harrison Way and Hyperion.

SATURDAY 25th March, 10.30am: Litter pick, starting from outside the Coop.

TUESDAY 28th March, 10am-12: (Venue to be confirmed)

TUESDAY 4th April, 10am-12: Meet outside the entrance to BROAD LEAS CARE HOME to help the residents with their garden there.

THURSDAY 13th April, 10am-12: Meet us in the second car park at the RAMSEY ROAD CEMETERY to weed and plant the flowerbeds.

TUESDAY 18th April, 2-4pm: Meet at the corner of THE WAITS and Ramsey Road to weed and plant the 'postbox' garden.

Pancakes a bit of a flop for the Deputy

St Ives Deputy Mayor, Nic Wells, (pictured 3rd from the left courtesy of the Hunts Post) took part in the annual Mayor's Pancake Race in Huntingdon last Tuesday, but failed to make the winners enclosure.



When *The Riverporter's* Assistant Sports Editor, Milly Dog, asked Nic why he had fared so poorly, Nic's reply was 'It was probably something to do with an hours notice and not having practiced!' When asked if he had come last, Nic said 'I'm not sure.'

HDC announce date to take on Parking

Back in March 2020 (RP54) we reported that Huntingdonshire District Council had set aside money in its budget to take over the role of civil parking enforcement in the District from the Police. This was later confirmed by Councillor Fuller in April 2020, something the public had sought for quite a while. Since then there has been little news about traffic wardens returning and some have feared they may never, but we can now announce that at Wednesday's District Council meeting a start date of October 2024 was set for civil parking enforcement. So Park where you like until then?

Dear Erik,
Subject: A lecture
Wednesday 8th March at 2:30pm.
The Arts Society at The Corn Exchange, St Ives.

Creating an Imaginary World, Theatre Design from Temple to Playhouse.

£5.00 guest fee. All welcome.
Information: www.huntsarts.org
Many thanks.
Robert Woodham Arts Society

Dear Erik,
I enjoyed your Editor's wordplays on the last issue's front page, headline:

The MP and his (M)aid? and lower down your piece:
Finding Councillor Ryan.

(M)aide-de-camp would be a further extension and Finding Private Ryan would have worked too.
Doberman

Dear Erik,
Nearly 3 weeks ago a small swarm [of police] arrived in Beech Drive where a lorry, stolen in Godmanchester I think, had been stopped. The driver had tried to escape and hide in the small copcice behind the childrens play park. Then there was another kerfuffle last week, with several police vehicles in attendance at the bus station toilets and fingerprints were taken from the male toilets. A phone call late the previous night insisted that there should not be any cleaning until the forensic team had finished.

Sorry I do not have any further details.
Pro Bono but not very publico

Dear Pro Bono
We contacted Cambs Police who sent us this reply to our query about the incident.
We were called with reports of a sexual assault in Station Road, St Ives last week (15 February). A 17-year-old boy from London was arrested in connection and has since been released on bail. Investigations continue and specially trained officers are supporting the victim's family.

HIGHLIGHTING THE BANDS playing at this year's Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival



The Shufflepack "Never Play the Same Thing Once"

The Shufflepack began life as the house band at The Blues Bar in Tring in 2010 and have gone on to become one of the hottest blues bands around - last year winning the Band Of The Festival at The Birmingham Jazz Festival. Bandleader, singer and harmonica Whiz, Stuart Maxwell has been fronting bands since 1986,

recording four albums with Storm Warning and touring in the band of Mick Ralphs. When Stuart met guitarist Joe Nethercoat, the chemistry was immediate. They quickly recruited tenor sax man Tom Domagala and former Larry Miller, Bernie Marsden, and Gary Fletcher sideman, bassist Derek White. Wolverhampton-based drummer Chris Lloyd completed the pack. The repertoire draws on Howlin' Wolf, Freddie King, both Sonny Boys, T-Bone and Charley Patton as well as some great originals from Stuart who has authored several books on harmonica and also delivers workshops on the subject.

There's no more entertaining, all-out blues band than The Shufflepack, another new band for our Festival. See them on Friday 15th September at 9pm in the Ivy Leaf Club.



The COURTYARD

St Ives

Open-air boutique market, run by independents

The Courtyard is now stocking hand made soap, bespoke embroidered baby items and leather goods.



Mothers Day is nearly upon us, we have something for everyone!

With Spring just around the corner it's time to get out in the garden, we stock bulbs, topiary, garden ornaments, rope animals, various sized pots and garden stools in beautiful wood and much more!



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

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Phoenix Quintet

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Welcome in the Spring

A concert of popular classics from composers such as Allegri, Handel, Mozart and Weber.

Sunday 12th March 3pm

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Entry free with a retiring collection

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MOONAGE DAYDREAM

Thursday 2 March 2023
 at 7:30pm, doors open 6:30pm
 Tickets: £5

Director: Brett Morgen
 2h 15m, Cert: 15



SEE HOW THEY RUN

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

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

Special ROH Screening of MADAM BUTTERFLY



Sunday 16 April 2023
 at 2:30pm, doors open 1:30pm.
 Tickets £10

Tickets from screenstives.org.uk or in the Corn Exchange