

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

## Plans are progressing well for the Coronation Big Lunch

The Town Council with members of the Town Team and FES<sup>t</sup> have been working to provide a feast fit for a King on Sunday May 7<sup>th</sup>, the day designated throughout the country as the day for a Coronation Big Lunch.

The team are providing enough tables and seating for more than 300 people to come and have their Coronation Big Lunch, or in this case, the **St Ives Coronation Big Picnic**.

As well as tables and seats there will be some food stalls, various activities and games and of course some entertainment.

Just bring your food and enjoy the day with your fellow residents on what will be an historic weekend.

### Music, poetry and games

The musical entertainment will include the brilliant keyboard player Mark Burton with the wonderful crossover classical music singer, Karen England, who rose to fame as part of the Opera Babes.

Mark can play just about anything and their performance will no-doubt include music from Santana to Elgar and from Saturday Night Fever to Land of Hope & Glory.

Mark and Karen will play from 2pm. Other musical acts are still to be confirmed, however also confirmed is the attendance of St Ives own 'Poet

Laureate', Chris Morgan and friends who will be sprinkling the day with poems and readings.

### An early start

The Coronation Big Picnic will start at midday but for those of you who wish to start a little earlier The Courtyard, just a few yards away, will be open from 10am.

They will be hosting Chip Pauly 'The Global Busker' on their out-door stage from 12 -2pm.

The Courtyard will also have Coronation themed Arts and crafts, available for all ages from 11-3pm and their very own pastry chef will be baking fruit scones, to eat in or take away, served with cream or butter and jam.

### A Coronation Mug for every primary school child

As a memento of the coronation the team have designed and ordered a special St Ives mug. Featuring the official King Charles logo the mug will be unique to St Ives.

The Mayor Phil Pope has decided to hand out the free mugs, personally

to each one of the 1,286 primary school children in the town.

This will be quite a task as the mugs will be distributed via the schools the week after the Easter holidays.

As you can see in the picture below the logo will appear on both sides of the mug, so that you can see the logo whether you are left or right handed.

### Mugs on sale

There will also be a chance for you to buy this limited edition mug. The price has yet to be set but is likely to be around £8 to £10.

They will be on sale at the Coronation Big Lunch on a first come first served basis.

### Assistance required

It will be quite a task to get Market Hill prepared for the event and we will need a large team of helpers to put out the tables, chairs and gazebo tents. If you can help between 8am and 11.30pm please contact Gilly James at the Town Hall on **01480 388929** or email: **civic@stivestowncouncil.gov.uk**

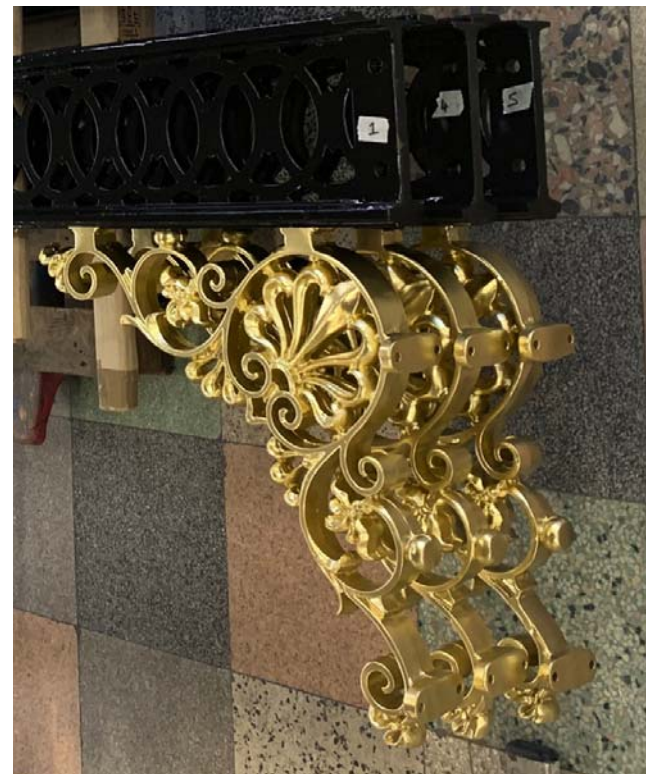


## Great news as funding is secured

This week the Town Team has been awarded a grant of £15,000 from Cambridgehire & Peterborough Combined Authority for the **Bandstand**, which is to be erected on The Waits. This brings the total raised to around £55,000 and will ensure the Town Team have enough funding to finish the project.

Nearly all the money pledged by residents has been collected and also good news is that the refurbishment of the bandstand is now in full swing and we hope to have a date when it will be available to be transported to St Ives soon.

It will take some time to do the installation and then we will be adding the names of everyone who has contributed to the project, either with a donation or by giving their services for free, which will make the bandstand unique to St Ives and a lasting memorial to the generosity of its people and its appreciation of Queen Elizabeth II, who it will be dedicated to.



Here are two pictures of the bandstand during construction. Above shows the gold detailing on the spandrels and below is the roof partway through construction.



MARK THE DATE IN YOUR DIARY  
**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May**  
 at noon in Market Hill  
 The Old Riverport, St Ives, for the  
**Coronation Big Lunch**

Read 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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# HIGHLIGHTING THE BANDS

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

## Lil' Ian Goodsman

Ian is a finger-style guitarist mainly concentrating on music from America including country blues, ragtime, old jazz, slide and country.

His performances include music by Robert Johnson, Furry Lewis, Tampa Red, Lonnie Johnson, Doc Watson, The Carter Family, Merle Travis and Chet Atkins.

### Quotes include . . .

'One of the best country blues player we have heard in years.' Gustavo Rosenberg, GoodTime Blues Review.

'Tonight was amazing with one of the very best acoustic blues players you will ever see - Lil' Ian Goodsman.' New Crawdaddy Club, Billericay, Essex, UK.

'... an excellent guitarist in the old style ... you certainly compare favourably to the American musicians like Roy Bookbinder, Paul Geremia and Jerry Ricks ...' Bruce Iglauer, CEO Alligator Records, Chicago, USA.

'You really are the real deal.' Terry Iredale, Blues Show, HotFM, Australia

'... blew his audience away with some excellent slide and finger-picking guitar.' Java Jive, Ponsonby, Auckland, New Zealand.

Ian will be playing on Saturday 16th September at 12.30pm in the Bridge Chapel and at 2pm at All Saints Parish Church.



# The Great British Spring Clean

The Great British Spring Clean - 17th March - 2nd April 2023 is upon us, as hundreds of people across Huntingdonshire prepare to take to our streets and green spaces, armed with litter pickers, gloves and bags, to remove as much litter as possible.

The first Great British Spring Clean was introduced back in 1989 with founders, Keep Britain Tidy, enlisting the assistance of children entertainers, The Wombles, alongside an estimated 2 million volunteers across the Country, to litter pick within and around their local area. With such a success, it was only suiting to continue this year upon year, not only to help in the clearance of litter but to raise awareness of the disastrous effects it has.

**2023 marks a prominent year for our waste team, with new litter picking groups forming all over our district, bringing like minded individuals together to tackle a common problem.**

Litter remains a serious issue across Huntingdonshire, not only looking unsightly, but having a dramatic effect on our local wildlife and the environment that surrounds. The Huntingdonshire District Council, continue to spend valuable time and resources to

eradicate litter, utilising their street cleaning team, although in many cases it returns as quickly as it's collected.

Huntingdonshire District Council recently commission a road clearance exercise, along the verges of the B1043 commonly known as the old A1. Thus far, a staggering 308 bags of litter have been collected over a period of 4 days, equating to an estimated 3 tonne of rubbish; a key indicator that littering is a distinct problem, with still more of that stretch to cover.

Littering is a national problem, not just localised to Huntingdonshire, and without the help of volunteer groups picking at their leisure, it would be mounting up on a scale that is uncontrollable. We therefore appeal to you to ensure that you as an individual, do your utmost to dispose of waste in a correct manner, utilising bins provided within your surroundings or alternatively taken home.

The Great British Spring Clean takes place between 17th March to 2nd April, with group picks arranged across Huntingdonshire throughout this period. To find out dates and times of your local pick as well as how to get involved please email: litterminimisation@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

## PART-TIME EXPERIENCED COOK/CATERING MANAGER

### VACANCY

A hands-on **Cook/Manager** is required to work in a busy kitchen, preparing home-cooked lunches and snacks at **Tookey's Café in the Free Church.**

Working Mon/Wed/Fri - may include extra hours for functions. Access to a vehicle would be advantageous.

You would be leading a small staff team of caterers, along with a team of volunteers. Good people skills are essential.

Call: **01480 468535** or email us at:

[office@stivesfreechurch.org](mailto:office@stivesfreechurch.org)

for an Information Pack and Application Form.



## We have a really great series of concerts coming up over the next few months.

Next **Friday, 31st March**, features **The Musical Amigos** - Stella Hensley, Chris Newman, Myke Clifford and other musicians, yet to be announced, in a new line-up. And this will be their first live gig. **There are only a few places left so book now!**

Next month on **Friday 28th April** features two great classical guitarists, **Daniela Rossi and Cristiano Poli Cappelli** (all the way from Italy) playing in the Free Church - a concert not to be missed.

On **26th May** we have a welcome return for **Johnny 'Magic Boy' Wright and Chris Newman**, whose performance last year was the pick of them all.



On **Friday 28th July** we welcome, from America, **Max de Bernardi & Veronica Sbergia** (left). They are truly something special ... with just their voices and a few acoustic instruments (washboard ukulele and guitar), this duo has assembled an extraordinary repertoire of American Roots music from Country and Folk, to Ragtime and Swing, from Gospel to Blues.

**29th September** and we have an evening of song with the a cappella choir **Tapestry Singers** and this will be followed by two concerts in October.

On **6th October** is a chance to enjoy the **Flamenco playing of Danilo Vignola**. Unlike most Flamenco guitarists, Danilo plays the Ukulele and it is an extraordinary sight to see such exciting music played this way. Danilo is visiting from Italy to play for us and at the Old Riverport Ukulele Festival in the Corn Exchange the following day (see page 4).

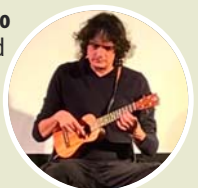
On **27th October** it is another welcome return of **Lexie Green** who will be accompanied by the ever brilliant Johnny 'Magic Boy' Wright.

This year's Chapel Arts programme will end on **Friday 24th November** with an appearance of St Ives' pop royalty, **Kimberley Rew and Lee Cave-Berry**. Our own Eurovision winning performer Kimberley (Katrina and the Waves) is a prolific writer of classic pop songs.

**All tickets cost just £10 and can be purchased online at: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/cxevents](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/cxevents) or in person from the Riverport Café Bar**

Please note the concerts are held in the Riverport Café Bar except for the April concert with Daniela Rossi and Cristiano Poli Cappelli which is in the Free Church.

A TOWN TEAM EVENT



## Phoenix Quintet

Lunchtime Concert Series  
St Ives Free Church at 1pm

Friday 31st March

Don't miss it!

Free Admission



## ARTS SOCIETY HUNTINGDONSHIRE LECTURE

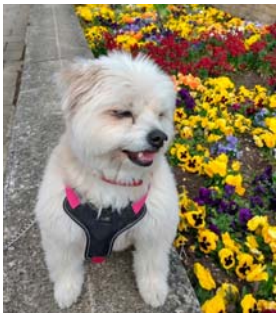
Wednesday 12th April  
2:30pm - The Corn Exchange

## The Culture of Ukraine

£5.00 guest fee  
All welcome

Information: [www.huntsarts.org](http://www.huntsarts.org)





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

### Town Council adopts two new members

Andrew Riddell and James Cantwell were adopted into the Council this month to fill the two vacancies created by the resignation of Mathew Setchell and the death of Brian Luter.



**Andrew Riddell** has lived in St Ives for the last 2 years but has lived in the surrounding area for over 15 years of his life.

Andrew is a pharmacist by trade and works locally and is a family man at heart with 2 children. They attend schools, nurseries and a church locally. He is passionate about live music, caring for others, provisions for the youth and elderly and also faith. He is a member of the Free Church in St Ives and is a regular attendee with his family.

He was born in Inverness and is proud of his Scottish heritage. He spent most of his schooling in the Huntingdon area before embarking his adult life further afield.



**James Cantwell** works in the education sector and is involved across the county in football. James has a passion for open practice in education and widening participation in sports, and has been involved in a County Football Association's Inclusion Advisory Group since 2022.

These appointments will bring the Council up to full membership which is a total of 17 councillors. We look forward to reporting on their work over the coming months.

### The Mayor elect is ...

Other council news is that the Mayor elect, who is formally appointed in May, is the current Mayor, Councillor Phil Pope. We know that Phil enjoys being Mayor, he has said so on many occasions and if his appointment is confirmed at Mayor Making this will be his third time in the role which will have covered the period when there was a Platinum Jubilee for Queen Elizabeth II, her funeral and the coronation of Charles III - auspicious times!

### Speakers comment on our report

The Riverporter produces a printed version and is available online. We also have a Facebook page and following the report on the Town Meeting in our last edition, two people commented about the article on the Facebook page. One was Mathew Setchell of St Ives Flag, who said the following:

*'You comment that I offered no conclusions. Unfortunately I was cut of by one of the councillors. As I have advised on numerous times. If anyone has questions and feel they have not been answered. Im more than happy to take calls / emails etc. With regards to West Street. I did state in reply to Mr Jackson that the drains have collapsed and that AW have done a u turn in that they last year said they was going to relay the system however they are now wanting to re line it. I also stated that we was unhappy with this. Rest assured St Ives FLAG along with residents of West Street are fighting to get this resolved. Unfortunately the circa quarter of a million pounds to resolve the issue is not helping! Also Id appreciate if your paper spelt my name right.'*

We apologised for misspelling Mr Setchell's name and are happy to direct anyone with queries on flooding to go to the **St Ives Action Support Team Facebook page** as requested.

The other comment was from Councillor Craig Smith who wrote:

*'I don't see why you felt the need to single me out in your article on the annual town meeting. All reports were scripted, I wasn't the only one with a laptop/iPad, and I wasn't the only one who was asked to slow down. I don't disagree that my public speaking needs more practice. I am working on it, but comments like this are unhelpful! I spoke to quite a few people after the meeting and they all understood me just fine. If you needed a copy of my report, I would have happily sent you one. Maybe then you could have reported something useful about the property committee instead of cheap digs! Give your heads a wobble!'*

We were a little non-plussed by this comment as we believed the article was an accurate report on what happened!

Dear Erik,

We moved into a little private street in the Old Riverport, which we know is in the conservation area, and we are shocked to see our neighbours are felling trees, installing high fences, and changing garden into off-road parking all without planning permission. It's so sad to see so much wildlife habitat being destroyed in favour of an obsession with parking.

Do you think the planning department would even care if they were alerted to the situation?  
Yours, **Concerned for Wildlife**

Dear Erik,

**Subject: Local Craft Group**

Please may i promote, through your news sheet, the talented crafters who are 'Saints Crafters'.

We came together as a group in 2009 and have continued to hold a Craft Fair on the first Saturday of the month in the Free Church Hall.

We are all enthusiastic crafters and visitors will find a wonderful variety of hand made goods from jewellery, crotchet goods, fused glass, art work, greeting cards and more.

We host The Hunts Society for the Blind who run a tombola and raise much needed funds for their valuable service to the community.

Although we had an enforced break during various lockdowns we are now going from strength to strength and look forward to welcoming visitors old and new.

Please pop along to the fair on the 1st April to meet and chat to the crafters and browse the items for sale ... and hopefully find just that right thing!!

Thank you **Maureen Brennan**  
Treasurer, Saints Crafters

Dear Erik,

Have I just spotted a deliberate mistake in Issue 122 of The Riverporter.

Page 3, the box ad for the Christmas Fair, Admission only has 1 letter d!

Very sorry to hear Jo Lancaster is retiring. She'll be missed on voting days when she does her rounds at the polling stations and brings us Poll Clerks a selection of sweets during the afternoon.

The Riverporter is a great informative newspaper and it's nice to get something free. Keep up the good work.

Kind regards **Elsie Rundle**

Dear Erik,

**Seeing 'Private' Ryan**

I have it on good authority that Ryan Fuller put in an appearance at Tuesday's Cambridgeshire County Council meeting but then disappeared before lunchtime.

The meeting went on for some time in the afternoon when someone reported on Twitter that he was spotted in the big Huntingdon Tesco at lunchtime stocking up on provisions. Well every little helps! **A watcher**

Dear Erik,

**Subject: Station Road car trap**

Mr R Pearson who complains about the car trap (letter RP130) should count himself lucky that the police did not prosecute his wife for driving without due care and attention. Generally they feel that the inattentive driver has most probably suffered enough financially. However they have done so at times.

By both sides of the left hand lane are signs indicating no entry except for guided buses.



In addition, following a nasty accident involving a cyclist our chairman lobbied for further measures to reduce the accidents involving the car trap created by County Council Highways.

As a result the last twenty metres of the road are coloured red and the words 'GUIDED BUSES ONLY' are written TWICE on this surface.



There is also white emblem indicating to cyclists that they must use the TOUCAN crossing.

However we have had another idea that might also help. Close to the exit from the car park we hope to be able to add a sign along the lines of the French 'Toutes Direction' signs.

Hopefully that will tell strangers who want to return home to turn RIGHT into Station Rd. That will cost a lot less than the £8k needed for an APN camera.

Prevention is better than a penalty!!

**Colin Saunderson**

Acting Secretary St Ives and District Road Safety Committee.

Join us for an evening of live classic and modern Blues and Soul music set in the elegant Riverport bar

The Tomb Raiders Band  
Playing modern blues from...  
Joe Bonamassa  
Eric Clapton  
JJ Cale  
Santana  
Any many more...

Friday evening 7th April

Riverport Cafe  
Friday night Blues Club

Doors open 6:30pm  
Tickets £5  
Book online or ask at the office  
www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents

**COPE**  
Cambridgeshire Older People's Enterprise

Have some exciting day trips coming up for all COPE members to enjoy:

**11th May: Bletchley Park** - £38 includes Coach and entry to the park

**13th July: Felixstowe** - £21

**3rd October: Brick Lane, London** - Musical of diva music e.g. Shirley Bassey, Judy Garland, etc. £62 includes Coach, entry to the show and afternoon tea.

If you would like to join, please contact Angie on 01480 300726.



# The COURTYARD

St Ives

Open-air boutique market, run by independents

The Courtyard will be hosting Easter activities for all ages over the school holidays.



**Easter Egg Hunt with chocolate prizes, Colouring and Crafts**

**Create your own Easter t-shirt Competition. The winner will have their design made by Lion Embroidery, collect your entry form from the pay pod.**

**Do you have a dog? Why not enter the best dressed dog competition and win £10 worth of dog treats from Fenland Fox Pet Supplies**

**Café Du Toit will be making pizza slices and juice for the children while they are busy crafting.**

**Don't forget all those perfect gifts too**



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



## The Old Riverport Ukulele Festival

The Festival returns to St Ives, Cambridgeshire for a third time this October and we have just one question to ask in this Coronation year.

**Do you strum like a King or a Viking? The choice is yours!**



We have another great day of strumming on Saturday 7th October with two workshops and performances from four different artists.

The day starts at 9.30am in St Ives Corn Exchange and the first workshop, on vocal performance takes place at 10am with the always harmonious Andie Cooke (centre right). This is followed by a workshop on how to structure a song, with the brilliant duo, The Lightwaves (below) at 11.15am.



Throughout the day the comfortable Riverport Café Bar will be open for refreshments and in the Tony Burgess room, open mike sessions are available.

At midday Hamish Currie (right) will perform, followed by slots for Uke groups to take to the main stage until 5.30pm. Uke Tok sessions can also take place in a dedicated area from 1pm and a Kids Workshop, with Mark Ferraby is planned for 3pm.



We are expecting the new town Bandstand to be open on the Waits, and we are encouraging uke players to play there at any point in the day.



The evening show begins with brilliantly versatile duo, The Lightwaves at 6pm, followed by the extraordinary playing of Danilo Vignola (left), who is travelling from his home in Italy just for this event. The concert continues with the stunning A D Cooke girls and ends with a singalong at 8pm.

This is a fun day, not to be missed for Ukulele players, and entry for the day is just £10. Workshops are available, to Day Ticket holders only, for an additional £10 each.

**Tickets can only be purchased on-line at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives) or in person on the day but . . . PLEASE NOTE:** numbers are restricted within the building and to ensure attendance you should purchase your ticket in advance.

**Finally, once again there will be a prize for the best dressed King or Viking!**

CUT OUT AND KEEP



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Peterborough PE1 5UA, Tel: 01733 344344



### EMILY

Thursday 6 April 2023  
 at 7:30pm, doors open 6:30pm

Director: Frances O'Connor  
 2h 10m Cert: 15  
 Tickets: £5



### LIVING

Thursday 20 April 2023  
 at 7:30pm, doors open 6:30pm

Director: Oliver Hermanus  
 1h 42m, Cert: 12  
 Tickets: £5



**MADAMA BUTTERFLY**  
 Opera Special Screening  
 Sunday 16 April 2023  
 at 2:30pm, doors open 1:30pm

Royal Opera House  
 1h 42m, Cert: U  
 Tickets: £10



### THE LOST KING

Thursday 4 May 2023  
 at 7:30pm, doors open 6:30pm

Director: Stephen Frears  
 1h 48m, Cert: 12  
 Tickets: £5

Tickets from [screenstives.org.uk](http://screenstives.org.uk) or in the Corn Exchange