

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

## The Town Team's bandstand nears completion . . .

**O**n the agenda at Tuesday's Town Team meeting was setting the date for the bandstand to be officially opened, with construction due to be completed in the next 3 weeks.

KA Page Groundworks have been working on the installation over the past fortnight and with the concrete now set, on which the posts can be fitted Kevin and his team have installed them (see below).

The roof, due to be delivered on Tuesday 30th May just after this bank holiday weekend, will be assembled on the ground before being lifted on to the posts by crane.



Of course this critical part of the operation will not be easy and all those involved will be hoping that everything fits so that the main structure will be completed on that day. The next phase of the operation will involve finishing the laying of the slabs and installing the electricity. The final touches will include adding the names of all those who contributed to the project and of course the dedication to Queen Elizabeth II. Also on the outside will appear images associated with St Ives and it's history, which is not only interesting but unique.

It is expected that the bandstand will be completed in June, in time for this summers 'Music on the Waits' concerts organised by FEST.

**See the list of concerts right.** The Town Team has decided that due to the crowded programme for events over the next few weeks that the official opening of the bandstand and celebration for all those who contributed will be in early September, allowing sufficient time to organise it well.

### Music on the Waits July

- 2nd – James Schouten
- 9th – Reggie Ray
- 16th – Somersham Town Band
- 23rd – The Lightwaves
- 30th – Stamford Stompers

### August

- 6th – Manea Silver Band
- 13th – Upwood Ukuleles
- 20th – Musical Amigos
- 27th – Accoustics Anonymous

**All concerts are Sundays from 2.30pm until 4pm. Chairs are provided.**

**ST IVES FRINGE FESTIVAL 2023**

THE FIRST EVER ST IVES FRINGE!  
THEATRE. COMEDY. ARTS. MUSIC

23RD - 25TH JUNE ST IVES CORN EXCHANGE

COMPLETELY FREE EVENT!  
FEATURING EXCLUSIVE GUESTS :

FLABBERGAST JUBADO'S SIYI

stivesfringefestival@gmail.com  
www.thecornexchange.org.uk

## Fringe Event set to light up town

A new and exciting venture for our increasingly busy calendar of events this summer, will be **The St Ives Fringe**. Featuring an amazing collection of local talent from many different groups including poets, theatre groups, choirs and comedians - it will be celebrating the arts!

Based at the St Ives Corn Exchange the Festival will take place over the weekend of June the 23rd to the 25th finishing on the Sunday morning, just in time for you to attend FEST's annual Picnic in the Park!

We will be looking for volunteers and we can still accommodate acts. So, if you would like to get involved please contact Kate at [stivesfringefestival@gmail.com](mailto:stivesfringefestival@gmail.com) and keep your eyes peeled for more information.

Plans are already being made for 2023 to use the whole town including outside stages. If Edinburgh can do it so can we!

Also on at the Corn Exchange next Friday 2nd June a little bit of badness.

**BADNESS**

THE UK'S MOST ENTERTAINING SKA REVIVAL SHOW

TICKETS £20

ST IVES CORN EXCHANGE

FRIDAY JUNE 2ND 2023 ST IVES CORN EXCHANGE THE PAVEMENT, ST IVES, PE275AD

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT VENUE OR AT [WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/CEEVENTS](http://WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/CEEVENTS) [WWW.THECORNEXCHANGE.ORG.UK](http://WWW.THECORNEXCHANGE.ORG.UK)

# Awareness Day pledges to do more for those affected by dementia

The St Ives Dementia Friendly Community Group held an Awareness Day event in the St Ives Corn Exchange on Friday (19th May). The aim was to renew our pledge as a community to do more to help those whose lives are affected by dementia.

Stalls were set out around the Charter Hall with Companies related to the field of caring for those living with dementia providing much information and support on the subject. In the separate Tony Burgess room, rolling taster sessions of activities which the group provides went on during the day including Reminiscing, Cafe games and puzzles, Riverport Singers, Love to Move, and Memory Lane Singing Cafe.

The keynote talk was a full "Dementia Awareness" session given by our Alzheimer's Ambassador, Chantal Bradley. Around fifty people listened to three quarters of an hour of information on dementia and finding out how easy it is to become a Dementia Friend.

The day was rounded off by an uplifting speech given by the Town Mayor, Phil Pope, expressing his gratitude for the work done, not only by the Dementia Group, but also by all the other voluntary organisations in Town.

Below: The Love to Move demonstration in full swing.



He also led a rousing finale to the day by joining a demonstration from the Memory Lane Singing Cafe.



# St Ives Rangers win U10 Cup



Last Saturday, 20th May, The Cambs League U10 Football Cup Final was won by St Ives Rangers (Black Sox) in fine style against Saffron Walden.

With the teams tied 2-2 at full time, Rangers went on to score three great goals in extra-time to win 5-2.

The Rangers Team was: Chris Andrews, Calen Blackman, Zach Dobson (captain) 1 goal, Hayden Robson 2 goals, Henry Rogers (GK), Fynn Smythers, Charlie Taylor 1 goal, Sonny Venditti, Connor White 1 goal and Freddie Wood. The Manager is Dean Blackman and his assistant is Steve Robson.

# Fire Up Your Confidence!

Huntingdonshire Speakers Club, who meet at the The Old Ferry Boat Inn, in Needingworth are having an open evening on Tuesday 20th June, from 6:30pm for a 7pm start.

They would love to see you there and show you how you can improve your public speaking, people, and leadership skills.

Their monthly meetings are friendly, diverse, and fun and provide everyone who comes along with a safe space to build up their confidence.

For more details go to: [www.huntingdonshirespeakers.co.uk](http://www.huntingdonshirespeakers.co.uk)



## Huntingdonshire Speakers Club

### Open Evening

Do you want to become more **confident** and strengthen your **interpersonal interactions**? Do you want to improve your **public speaking and leadership skills**?



Visit us during our **Open Evening** and see how the club can help you achieve all this!

We practice the **Toastmasters** internationally proven educational programme within a safe, supportive and fun environment.

**Come join us!**

**Date:** Tuesday 20th June 2023  
**Time:** 6:30pm for a 7:00pm start  
**Location:** The Old Ferry Boat Inn, Holywell St Ives PE27 4TG

Entrance is free and includes a buffet for all our guests!

Visit our website for more information on what the Huntingdonshire Speakers Club has to offer  
[www.huntingdonshirespeakers.co.uk](http://www.huntingdonshirespeakers.co.uk)



# DIARY OF EVENTS

**MAY**  
**Saturday 27th - Madison Avenue Motown Night.** The Corn Exchange 7pm. Tickets from the venue or from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents).

**JUNE**  
**Friday 2nd - Badness** at the Corn Exchange see cover.  
**Friday 24th and Saturday 25th - St Ives Fringe.** See cover.  
**Sunday 25th - Picnic in The Park.** Warners Park. A free event featuring live music, beer tent and food stalls. From Noon to 6pm.  
**Thursday 29th - Chapel Arts concert with Dickie de Vere & The Dorchester Mavericks.** The Riverport Café Bar 7.30pm. Tickets £10 from the bar or on-line from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents).

**JULY**  
**Throughout July and August - Music on The Waits.** Every Sunday from 2.30pm until 4pm see front page for details.  
**Friday 7th to Sunday 9th - St Ives Carnival & Music Festival.** At Hill Rise Park.  
**Friday 28th - Max de Bernardi & Veronica Sbergia** (left) Fresh from the USA featuring Country & Western, folk and swing music. The Corn Exchange 7.30pm. Tickets £10 from the bar or on-line from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents).



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- ♦ Rewires and more.



# Plaque unveiled in memory of Michael Champion



On 20th May the family and friends of the late Michael Champion gathered with museum staff and volunteers to unveil a plaque in the museum garden, on what would have been Michael's 43rd birthday.

The plaque is in recognition of Michael's interest in the Norris Museum over many years. A regular volunteer he helped catalogue and package the library book collection during the expansion project and actively promoted the Museum's collection of photographs and publications during lockdown with his posts on social media comparing old photos with new ones he had taken.

The plaque has a delightful depiction of St Ives Bridge and Chapel and is the work of Ruth Martindale. [www.ruth-martindale-letter-carving.co.uk](http://www.ruth-martindale-letter-carving.co.uk)



Erik is on a break, somewhere near Edinburgh, so Milly is now in charge!



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

### Flower Festival celebrates 60th year

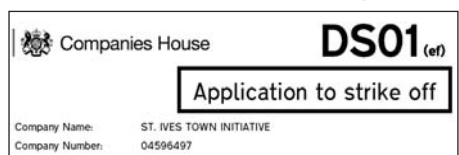


Hemingford Abbots Flower Festival will be celebrating its 60th year on Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th June from midday until 6pm. The village comes together to open over 20 gardens, whilst offering tea and cakes in wonderful surroundings. Choose to drink your tea seated in the grounds of the Old Rectory, listening to a concert band, watch Morris dancers in front of the Axe and Compass or relax along the bank of the river listening to singers.

The money raised goes towards the conservation and repair of the Grade 1 listed church in the village, St Margaret's, which is also the oldest building in the village, dating back to 1300. The church will be decorated with spectacular flower displays and there will be a full programme of services, bell-ringing, singing, and live harp music. For more information visit [www.hemingfordabbots.org.uk](http://www.hemingfordabbots.org.uk)

### St Ives Town Initiative shuts shop

According to Companies House St Ives Town Initiative, the group set up by HDC in the 1990s, which has run the Christmas Market and published the *SuggeStives* magazine has requested to be dissolved. *The Riverporter*



contacted Directors Michael Burke and Angela Dickinson to seek confirmation, but have not yet received a response. The form states that any assets remaining will go to The Crown.

### Just how long will we have to Waites?

Back in October a driver tried to confirm that the river by The Waites was the place to do a U-Turn (RP121). He was only following the instructions on the notice, see below.

It didn't go well and he ended up in the drink having smashed through the railings and leapt the flood wall.

Over 6 months later and the railings are still not repaired. We have been trying to find out who is responsible for them because *The Riverporter* thinks it's about time they were repaired.



Dear Erik, Subject: St Ives EcoAction Climate Cafe

Could you print the following please. Climate Cafes, which have proved very popular, are normally held on 3rd Saturday of each month at the **Free Church**, but for months this has not been possible. However, it is hoped that the regular pattern will be resumed, starting with a series of short talks followed by informal discussion on topics related to how we can reduce the impact of climate change. Accordingly, on **June 19th at 10am** we will have a speaker whose interest in Australian Aboriginal culture might help us to understand the importance of deep connection to nature. Andrew Clark will speak, not from an academic perspective, but from a deep concern about environmental issues. It promises to be a thought-provoking session. Many thanks **Ann Barnes**

Dear Erik, A poem about swifts which are here now. WHY DO YOU SCREAM, LITTLE BIRD?

Why do you scream, little swift? Why do you fly so high above the world? Why do you scream and screech and shriek all day? Are you emulating the echolocation of bats To home in on your insect snacks? At dawn, in the golden light You descend from your lofty overnight height To skim around the village, Swerving and veering like a toboggan on an ice-run. At noon, in the heat of the sun, you do not rest But rise lazily on thermals with scarcely a wing beat, Twisting and whiffing over lakes and wetlands, Swooping and whooping after insects, Floating with stylishness high in the sky, Twisting and swirling after spiders Drifting on gossamer filaments high. At eventide you return to the village, Skimming above cottage gardens and the churchyard, Forever squeaking, beak agape like an airborne Basking shark searching for sustenance. Even after dark you do not rest But roost on the wing.

You do not trill or warble, no lilt, no chant, no chirp, Only the constant screaming, screaming above our heads As you enjoy our summer skies. You live above the world, shrieking with joy While I, earthbound, shamble from one task to another Like an aimless ant on its predetermined path. You have the freedom of the air While I am grounded, fettered to convention. Scream on, little swift; I don't care why. ©Steve Puttick

### Plans for the erection of 8 flats at 26-28 The Broadway rejected

Despite having approval for this development at the rear of Murial Moore's premises in 2005, councillors unanimously rejected them after a report from HDC's Urban Design officers.

Dear Erik, Subject: Problems at the bus station

To Mr or Mrs Tether, You are hereby appointed guardians of the St Ives bus station. Your allotted time is 1800 hrs until 1915hrs. Your task is to prevent criminal damage to the toilets and benches and to safeguard the bus timetables. You will need a mobile phone that has photographic capability. In the event of problems you should contact the police on 999 and not attempt a citizens arrest but you can wave at the CCTV camera and point at the culprit(s). Your reward will be knowing you are providing a public service. You can have an alternate of your choosing for only one weekday and either Saturday or Sunday Good luck, **Pro bono publico**



## Musings from the graveyard

The Riverporter's Trainee Editor, Milly, takes the opportunity to have her say now Erik is away for the week. In this, her first article, she ponders on some of the big issues of the day.

Every evening I take my owner for a walk to stop him from sitting at his computer too long. He needs the exercise and so I take him up the road to the church, where we sit on a bench in the graveyard overlooking the village.

It's an opportunity to think about life, death and what treat I will get for doing a trick. He likes to think he is training me to look cute by shaking paws or rolling over on command! The fool.

Anyway it's an opportunity to ponder on stuff and I thought I might pass on some of my thoughts to you, the enlightened Riverporter readers.

### Is your MP worth it?

Having read about our MP's decision to not stand at the next election RP133 [most probably before he was deselected] and his comment that *'Together we have achieved a lot'*, I was at a loss to see just what had been achieved. Quite a few MPs have decided to quit recently the latest is Dominic Rabb. The reasons given seldom state that they might lose at the next election but that is clearly the case in several constituencies.

Having tried to see what benefit these MPs are, it has occurred to me that perhaps their role is much overblown.

As it happens our MP lives in my village. I have met him and he is a jolly nice chap. The thing is although he's 'jolly nice' I have no idea what he has achieved since first being elected in 2005, although he did support our County Councillor's call for the Council to unblock the drain in the road which caused flooding. Often when MPs are interviewed they say that the most important part of their work is the work they do in their constituency. This seems mostly to deal with constituent's problems, such as helping to get services from local authorities.

Clearly to the resident this help is useful as it turns out an MP's voice can carry more weight with the council than its own elected member! In this respect are they more like an Agony Aunt than an MP?

### Is Agony Aunt the role of an MP?

In my opinion that should not be the main role of an MP, after all what are Ombudsmen for? No my feeling is that MPs are elected to ensure that the country is run for the benefit of it's people. That means producing legislation that is relevant to them, that provides the best services and opportunities for the nation as a whole. But there is the dilemma. The way our society is constructed, particularly in

Westminster, is that very few MPs have a say on what will happen. There are 650 MPs but in reality only those around The Cabinet table have much power and even then that is not guaranteed.

On top of that there are hundreds of people in The Lords and thousands of civil servants helping them. We also have County, District, Town and Parish councillors, not to mention the odd Mayor or two.

Isn't that too many? I often hear humans say that we have too many layers of beaurocracy and that some of the lower ones could be culled. But I think, and I guess a lot of my canine friends would agree, we should cull it from the top.

Get rid of the most expensive, as many local authorities have done, give more power, and the money saved, to local councils and then we'd have better services and real levelling up not the levelling down we currently have.

So who would run the country? I hear you ask. Well two solutions. Reduce the number of MPs to say 317 (one for each local authority) rather than the current trend to increase them and draw lots for who is to be the PM - it couldn't get a worse result than we've recently had. Or, even better, let Erik and me have a go!

HYPERION

## Entries Invited for Our Next Antiques & Interiors Sale on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June



Sold In Our Last Interiors Sale

A Bolex Paillard Cine camera, various accessories, instructions, in fitted leather case and assorted Photographic items  
**Sold £700**



Aluminium case containing Dragonball The Tournament of Power 12 Card per Pack & Dragonball Universal Onslaught 12 Card per pack both Sealed  
**Sold £700**



1911 Sovereign on 9ct Gold chain 22g total weight  
**Sold £510**

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



# FESTIVAL EVENTS ST IVES (FEST) PRESENT SUMMER FUN

## PICNIC IN THE PARK

Warners Park St Ives  
Sunday June 25<sup>th</sup>  
12 noon to 6 pm

- Free community event
- Live music
- Beer tent
- Food stalls
- Follow us on facebook
- Activities for children



The Junos



So 80's



Reggae Ray



Sponsors



Chatteris & Manca Silver Band

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**SSI Screen St Ives** Community Cinema

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CAREY MULLIGAN ZOE KAZAN  
**SHE SAID**  
Thursday 1 June 2023  
at 7:30pm Door open 6:30pm.  
Tickets £5  
Director: Maria Schrader  
128m, Cert: 15

BLANCHETT  
**TÁR**  
Thursday 15 June 2023  
at 7:30pm. Doors open 6:30pm.  
Tickets £5  
Director: Todd Field,  
152m, Cert 15

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



Christian Aid  
fundraising coffee morning

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2023

10am - 12pm

ST IVES METHODIST CHURCH

• Bring-and-buy stall including jigsaws, books and toys

• Home-made cakes!

• Donations welcome



ALL ARE WELCOME

ORGANISED JOINTLY BY MEMBERS OF  
ST IVES FREE CHURCH AND ST IVES METHODIST CHURCH



St Ives  
**eco action**  
repairers  
Fix it. Keep it.

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

[stivesrepaircafe@gmail.com](mailto:stivesrepaircafe@gmail.com)

or voicemail : 07377 014401.

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 home-made cake.

Yes, repairs can be fun  
**AND** reduce waste!

## Repair Café

Sat 17<sup>th</sup> June

1pm – 4pm

St Ives Methodist  
Church Hall

We welcome:

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

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

St Ives Repair Café is an initiative of eco action