

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

Did paper stoke discontent?

Did last week's Hunts Post article headed *Conservative Group say Green Bin charge plan is 'madness' present all the facts? Or is this an issue that the paper has highlighted, knowing it's readers will be equally outraged?*

Presumably it is bad form to criticise another newspaper, but as readers of *The Riverporter* know, we go where other papers fear to tread.

That article announced the District's intention to charge a fee to collect green bins and later the paper printed readers comments, which unsurprisingly, were mostly against the idea.

This week the Hunts Post reports that a petition to stop this charge has nearly 2,500 signatures.

So did the Hunts Post's first article, which majored on the criticism by the Conservative opposition, give a fair and balanced view of the situation?

Speaking with a St Ives District Councillor they say not. They also said that in an ideal world the council would want to continue the

green bin collection as it is now and that Conservative councillors and the Hunts Post didn't give *all* the facts.

So here is the other point of view from those in charge at HDC.

Due to inflation and cuts in grants from the Government and because the Council cannot increase its charges by more than 3% it now needs to find £millions of savings to balance the budget.

They blame the previous Tory controlled Council for failing to increase the precept over many years for the current situation.

Green collections are not a mandatory service. Throughout the country 65% of local authorities charge for collecting garden waste and new legislation says all food waste must be separated into a different bin anyway.

The proposals will go before Cabinet on July 18 and if agreed, the free green bin collection will end next March and a £57.50 annual charge will be introduced in April. Residents are already charged £30 for a second bin and as our joint Editor pointed out not everyone can have even one. Living in the centre of town, with a small garden, he and some of his neighbours have been refused a green bin from HDC.

So did the Hunts Post jump on the bandwagon too soon?

We think so. Yes the piece did give a comment from HDC at the end of the article but readers views were probably already formed by then.

The real question is will charging for green bin collection help reduce the budget deficit and is it a less painful cut than other solutions?

St Ives & Music - Don't miss this weekend . . .

St Ives Carnival & Music Festival at Hill Rise Park from Friday to Sunday.

Charity concert in aid of Amnesty International on Saturday 8 July at Noon in the Free Church. A free to attend concert featuring Argentinian guitarist Sebastian Pompilio, joined by Justin Hyer to perform a selection of South American music, including the tangos of Astor Piazzolla.

The COSI Summer Concert on Sunday 9 July at 6pm in The Free Church, featuring the music of Vaughen Williams, Parry, Britten and Butterworth.

DIARY OF EVENTS

JULY

9th – 30th - Music on The Waits. Every Sunday 2.30pm until 4pm. Free. 9th - Reggie Ray, 16th - Somersham Town Band, 23rd - The Lightwaves and 30th - Stamford Stompers.

Wednesday 19th to Saturday 22 July - Imaginary A new musical from St Ives Youth Theatre at the Burgess Hall. Tickets www.siyt.co.uk.

Friday 28th - Chapel Arts concert with Max de Bernardi & Veronica Sbergia. Fresh from the USA featuring Country & Western, folk and swing music. The Corn Exchange 7.30pm. Tickets £10 from the bar or from www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents.

AUGUST

6th - 27th - Music on The Waits. Every Sunday 2.30pm until 4pm. Free. 6th - Manea Silver Band, 13th - Upwood Ukuleles, 20th - Musical Amigos, 27th - Accoustics Anonymous.

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 10th - The official opening of the bandstand. Free entertainment with Split Whiskers and The Lightwaves.

14th – 17th - The Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival. 25 Free concerts over four days in a variety of venues. See the programme at: www.stivescambridgeshire.co.uk

Friday 29th - Chapel Arts concert with the Tapestry Singers. The Corn Exchange 7.30pm. Tickets £10 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents or from the Riverport Café Bar.

OCTOBER

Friday 6th - Chapel Arts concert with Danilo Vignola. A chance to experience incredible Flamenco music played on a Ukulele by this passionate Italian. The Corn Exchange 7.30pm. Tickets £10 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents or from the Riverport Café Bar.

Saturday 7th - The Old Riverport Ukulele Festival. The Corn Exchange 9.30am. An all-day Festival with workshops and performances by visiting groups ending with a concert featuring the A D Cooke Girls. Tickets £10 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives. Hurry this event is nearly sold out.

American duo to visit St Ives during UK Tour

Max DeBernardi & Veronica Sbergia are well-known musicians in the international music scene, respected individually, together, Max and Veronica are something special.

At 7.30pm on Friday 28th July, Max and Veronica will be playing at the Riverport Café Bar in St Ives Corn Exchange, part of their tour.

With just their voices and a few acoustic instruments, this delightful duo has assembled an extraordinary repertoire of American Roots music, from Country and Folk, to Ragtime and Swing and from Gospel to Blues.

Your senses will be captivated as they take you on an unforgettable journey through the musical history of the southern states of America during the 1920s and 1930s.

If you wish to catch them sooner their tour includes these July dates:

- 7th The Green Note, London
- 15th Sandwell & Westside Jazz Festival
- 22th Upton Blues Festival
- 26th Dusty's Blues Club, High Wycombe
- 28th St Ives Corn Exchange
- 30th Uckfield Blues and Roots Festival.

Tickets £10 from the bar or from www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents.



Some of the crowd that enjoyed Picnic In The Park on 25th June, one of the hottest days this summer.

Oh Dear!

Following the comment in our last issue that *It is truly amazing how our little town has become a 'hot bed' of live music and most of it is free to hear*, we were surprised to see this rebuff on-line from Ian Ison.

That's not true about St Ives and live music, its one of the worst places in East Anglia for live music. I as a promoter have tried for years to improve it but no one is interested.

We did thank Ian for reading *The Riverporter* but pointed out that over 10 bands were performing live over the following week, ranging from solo singers to full orchestras.



Saturday 14th - The Illuminated Boat Parade. Another Free event to enjoy from The Town Team and FES. Watch the 'parade' of boats illuminate the river with a theme of 'Musicals'. Picture from 2021 Festival.

Houghton Mill can hold 15 events a year and sell alcohol



Huntingdonshire District Council's has agreed an alcohol licence for Houghton Mill and Waterclose Meadows and to allow 15 larger events over the course of a calendar year, which could last up until 9pm. The original plans for outdoor cinema events and a cocktail bar open until 11.30pm have been dropped due to public concerns. A representative of the National Trust told councillors at a meeting of Huntingdonshire District Council's licensing sub-committee that residents concerns had been listened to.

What is happening with . . .

Here is an update on some items.

Repairing The Waits railings

The Town Team have been calling for the railings, destroyed by Regan Payne in October, to be repaired in time for the formal opening of the bandstand on 10 September.

County Councillor, Kevin Reynolds has been trying to find out who is responsible for them and just as we were going to press he informed us that a CC 'Bridges and Structures dept.' officer said 'barring a disaster' they should be repaired in time, which is great news.

The mooring platform by the Thicket path

Having been assured by HDC's enforcement officer in March that, action was being taken to deal with the breach of planning control and replace the trees removed, there has now been a retrospective planning application by The How developers. This means that nothing is likely to happen to restore the riverbank and should the application succeed there could be a landing stage and ugly green fence to look at when walking the Thicket path.

Now is the time for the public to register any objections by going to the District's Public Access planning portal. The application reference is 23/00123/FUL.

Return of the Masterplan

There has been concern about how the Masterplan will be amended in view of the criticism it received last year. The revised plan was due to be back this week but even our District

Councillors are in the dark about when it will come back and what it might contain. One thing is sure, it will attract much scrutiny when it sees the light of day.

The Burleigh Hill Centre

There good news about the Centre as the Town Council told us:

'The Burleigh Hill Community Centre operations are ongoing and all hirers are continuing to enjoy the facility. Hire requests can go to our new email address at: bhcc@stivestowncouncil.gov.uk. Over the coming weeks our new Admin Officer (starting 10th July) will be managing bookings via email, in person and on our website which we estimated will go live in August.'

It is good that the centre is open and running efficiently.

Last month's Town Council meeting (see RP137) passed a motion to 'conduct an internal audit'.

The Riverporter has been told by the Town Clerk that the internal audit is taking slightly longer than expected as the BHCC has a lot of transactions and costs associated to running the building. He confirmed he is happy with the report so far and that both the past Chair and Trustee of the BHCC have been very supportive over this time forwarding his team any information required.

The Clerk also said that when the accounts are fully reconciled, he will produce a report for full council, but at the moment could not give any time scales.

First concert under the Bandstand



Tenor James Schouten entertained a large audience at the first of a series of Sunday afternoon 'Music on The Waits' concerts last Sunday.

On a much cooler day than the previous Sunday the audience enjoyed the show, the first at the Bandstand.

The formal opening of the bandstand will be on 10 September, with the King's representative, Cambridgeshire's Lord Lieutenant, doing the honours.

The Town Team are delighted that the project has been able to be completed in time for this year's summer concerts and would like to particularly thank those businesses who gave support.

Many families and businesses donated money but three businesses in particular helped by giving services free and ensuring the installation was a success.

Kevin Page and his team at **KA Page Groundworks** worked tirelessly to do the installation. This included collecting all but the roof from Leander Architects, near Buxton and doing the very complex work to make it fit together. This was critical as the roof, when delivered by lorry, had to fit exactly and they only had two hours to assemble it.

As you can see from the result they did an excellent job, however Kevin did say that he wasn't likely to specialise in bandstand installations!

As well as a bandstand, an electric supply has been installed and two companies helped on this work, both donating their time and materials.

St Ives Electrical Contractors Limited did all the installation work and the Team's thanks go to James Eagle and Robin Bates for this generous gesture.

Matt Bradley of **QVS Electrical Supplies** also helped by supplying all the cables and plugs and these gestures not only saved considerable expense but ensured the bandstand could be completed in time and within budget.

The names of all those who donated will be inscribed inside the bandstand for the official opening.

Not me guv . . .

Once upon a time we lived opposite a golf course bordered by a hedge.

Then came development of a Barratt estate and a haul road for HGVs that provided a different outlook for five years. Nowadays, homes are built, haul road returned to a footpath and hedging struggling to peer above uncut grass and weeds.

Moreover, it's no longer anything to do with Huntingdonshire District Council, who originally gave permission for the development and agreed terms with developers for hedging reinstatement.

The land doesn't belong to them (so Operations won't get their gardeners to maintain it) and Planning are sorry they can take no further action even though planners failed to specify a hedging height.

It wasn't always the case. In its previous developer regulations HDC committed itself to enforcing developers to restore any tree or shrub that dies within five years of reinstatement 'to ensure that the landscape scheme is properly maintained in accordance with Policies En20 and En25 of the Local Plan.' No such commitment now.

They've washed their hands of it - by passing responsibility to the maintenance company for the new The Spires estate (minus Berman Park which is to be maintained by HDC). The maintenance company is

FirstPort. Any readers who have had dealings with FirstPort will read my mind.

Compare pictures of The Spires hedge planting (top) with hedge reinstatement at the Shelbourne Estate development (below), a few yards up the road.

We invited HDC planners, operations and the acting CEO, as well as FirstPort, to spot the difference. But to no avail.

All that said, in HDC's Local Plan to 2036, under LP3 (Green Infrastructure) the council state (not terribly clearly) that development proposals will be expected to demonstrate 'replacement provision where the proposal would result in harm to or loss of existing green infrastructure, where the replacement provides a net benefit, judged in terms of the factors set out in the Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy (2011): Not so clear deliberately, maybe.

Peter



Dickie de Vere and his Dorchester Mavericks enjoying another Chapel Arts Concert in The Riverport Café Bar last week.

New Town website planned

Grant money has been sourced to provide a one stop community website that will provide St Ives residents with all information about what is going on and available in the town. with a complete rolling **What's on Diary** with a search engine to look for specific events such as 'free music'. There will be a full directory of businesses and community groups, news feeds etc. even a job page. There will be information for visitors and links to groups and business groups. This should be ready for autumn. More details will follow.



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

A challenging year for Corn Exchange

The Covid period saw St Ives Corn Exchange effectively mothballed, but once re-opened our lovely venue has flourished into a superb and lively community hub full of events, music and comedy. The comfortable new Riverport café bar has become a regular meeting place for hundreds of people each week and our 'Ticket source' phone line has never been busier.



The 'community hall' in 1901

However just as the Corn Exchange starts to regain its way after Covid it is faced with a new challenge that was unexpected until a few months ago. While the Corn Exchange is run by a Community interest company the building is owned by the Town Council and this year the landlord must plan the extensive works that will see the use of the building greatly curtailed. At the end of July town visitors will see the scaffolding going up to renew the roof.

Coming at the same time as huge rises in the cost of utilities is a big challenge. To offset these setbacks a full events calendar has been planned to raise money to support the facility, starting at the end of the month with the **Raise the Roof Party** day. A series of musicians, comedians and bands will be playing free through the afternoon and into the evening getting more rocky as the day goes on. The Corn Exchange is hoping that many of our regular visitors will drop in and help us raise funds. Speaking with Rob Jackson Chairman of the Corn Exchange Board says *'At this time we need all the help we can get. The Corn Exchange is run on a not for profit basis to support the community but this set back comes at a bad time. Please check out our web site to see how you can help support our venue.'*



Nuts for breakfast?

The Hunts Post recently asked their readers to suggest the best places for breakfast in the Huntingdonshire area. A cafe in Pidley won but *The Riverporter* wanted to give a shout out to St Ives' Nuts Bistro who came in 4th place. So well done to them ... Erik will be round there checking out the sausages straight away.

Why students avoid going to the loo

Cambs Live reported that students at St Ivo academy are not drinking water to avoid going to the loo because older kids are vaping in the school toilets, so parents claim. The article also says that children who regularly need the loo during lessons are made to use a 'toilet pass' - which parents say is embarrassing for youngsters.

A parents' survey found half of students at St Ivo school do not feel safe in the toilets - while more than 60 per cent said they have trouble accessing the facilities. Parents of students at the school have previously described the school's behaviour and disciplinary policy as 'draconian'.

Seven Wives up for sale?!

A traditional Cambridgeshire pub known for its family friendly atmosphere has been listed as looking for new tenants. The Seven Wives, in St Ives, is a popular hotspot among locals says an article in Cambridge News. It continues ... The venue is being marketed by pub company Stonegate Group, who say the pub is well-supported by the local community. They add that it has become renowned in recent years for its live music offerings as well as its charity events.

This last comment may come as a surprise to nearby residents as they have frequently complained about the pub and in particular the noise from bands playing and the last we heard was that live music has been stopped.

HDC's plan to smarten up our high street

HDC has launched a new scheme which provides grants of up to £10,000 to local businesses in Huntingdon and St Ives town centres, something we briefly mention in our last issue. The scheme, funded by the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority and is being delivered jointly by BID Huntingdon First and HDC.



This shop needs attention but sadly remains empty.

The grants can be used to support local businesses to repair and improve their shop fronts and the scheme aims to improve the aesthetics of our high streets, encouraging residents to shop locally and attract more local businesses to the area.

Applications will be reviewed monthly, and examples of improvements include, but are not limited to, repairs, repainting, signage, external lighting, repair of external stonework and brickwork, repair and reinstatement of guttering and down-pipes, window display equipment and lighting and professional fees. All proposals will be subject to the planning approval process, and applicants are encouraged to use the council's pre-application advice service.

Dear Erik,

Subject: Climate Café

At our last Climate Café Andrew Clark gave a very interesting and informative talk about some of the ways the indigenous Aboriginal people of Australia managed to live in harmony with nature and the countryside for many thousands of years before the arrival of European explorers.

The next Climate Cafe will be on Saturday, 15th July, at the Free Church, starting at 10am. This time there will be no speaker, but the opportunity for all to contribute ideas and thoughts about the fashion industry, and the ways in which it impacts on climate change, and how we can shop more sustainably. Do join us for an interesting, and hopefully useful discussion - all are very welcome!

Many thanks, **Ann Barnes**

for EcoFaiths Group, part of St Ives EcoAction,
01480 716810 / 07986596352

Dear Erik,

Subject: Gossip from a COSI groupie

I have been hanging out with the COSI orchestra, and their cadre of British Composers in preparation for their forthcoming concert (July 9, Free Church 6pm). I just want to share the inside 'goss' with you.

Hubert Parry, like many musicians, struggled with a career as a Lloyds underwriter, to pay the bills and please the family.

Both Britten and Vaughan Williams had a love of Church music but were agnostic, so it is entirely appropriate that COSI rehearse and perform their music in a church, but do not have a religious affiliation. Both Vaughan-Williams and Butterworth used Folk Music as inspiration, we know how you love dancing ... speaking of which, the slightly inappropriately named Edward German - (who was as English as they come). wrote some catchy dance numbers for the play Henry VIII in 1911.

I know you are an ardent feminist so I would like you to know that when COSI play the Doreen Carwithen pieces it will be the first time they have showcased a female composer. We'll be heading deeper into East Anglia for the gorgeous lyrical Suffolk Suite.

Kind Regards **Teddy Barker**

Dear Erik

Subject: The How

Thankyou for keeping us up to date on The How. Our hitherto communicative enforcement officer at HDC seems to have lost his voice, poor thing. **Peter Law**

Dear Peter see the update on page 2. **Ed**

This comment appeared online about the Burleigh Hill Community Centre.

As a previous hirer, it seems to me that the Burleigh Hill Community Centre has been under-appreciated by the council for many years. Reluctance to pay for cleaning and for keeping maintenance up-to-date turns groups (and their money) away from this dowdy gem when it's too cold in winter or otherwise not functioning well.

If you only pay the caretaker for 10hrs a week, as was the case when I last used the hall, how can you expect everything to be done thoroughly and effectively?

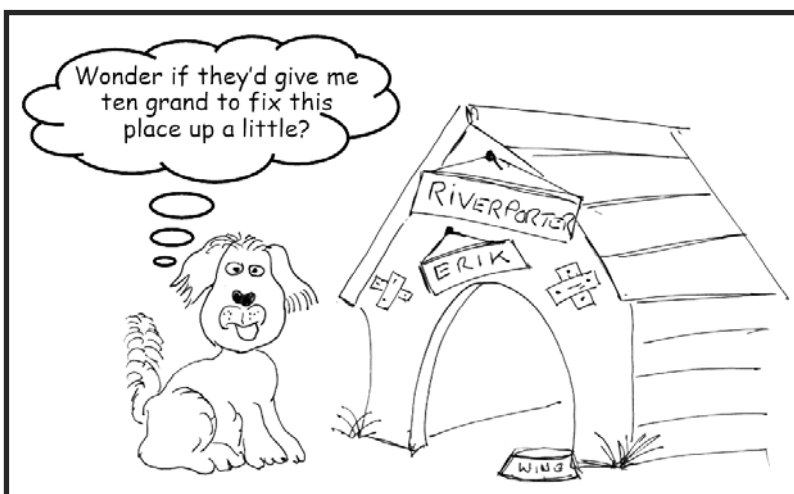
I am not talking about a transformation, I feel it should be valued exactly as it is, just looked after, though. The inference it is only too easy to make, that the tourist centre of St Ives is thought to deserve care from the council, but not the big local community living in the area surrounding the hall.

Helen

Dear Helen, until the Town Council took direct control of the Hall last month they were not responsible for how it was run. The good news (see page 2) is that it should be used more and managed well.

We understand that the Cares programme, run by Jane Jenner, which helps the older population to live healthy and fulfilled lives while remaining in their homes, may operate from the centre.

Part of this project is to create a neighbourhood scheme with a volunteer on every street in the town who knows their neighbours and signposts when resident need help. They do not fix the need but inform those who meet that need. Jane has built up a huge network of professionals and community groups who meet regularly to improve the lives of all residents. **Ed.**



HYPERION

**Entries Invited for Our
Antiques & Interiors Sale
on 22nd July**

Previous Results:

19thC Century French Napoleon III Cave a Liqueur Mother
of Pearl Decor Sold £1000



1ct Diamond Set Solitaire Ring
Sold £1500



A Graham Sutherland 1903-1980 Ceramic and Tile
brass mounted coffee table Sold £2250



Fine Ruby & Diamond Bracelet
Sold £5500

Darwin (Charles). On the Origin of
Species Sold £1500



Garrard (George, 1760-1826). Woburn Sheepshearing,
published G. Garrard, 1811, original 1811 aquatint Sold
£1000



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

Friends of
Holt Island
Nature Reserve

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 19th July 2023 7.30pm
The Free Church St Ives

With guest speaker Keith Grimwade on
the topic of "Holt Island's landscape
history: how it got there - lumps, bumps
and all".

Holt Island has an intriguing history; indeed,
it might not have been an island at all. The
clues are in the landscape and some remarkable
old maps. Keith Grimwade, a local historical
geographer, will unravel the island's past and
suggest what this might mean for the future.

Also featuring:

Hidden secrets of Holt Island –
highlights from our trail cameras
compiled and presented by Nigel Sprowell

Refreshments provided

All welcome. Non members £3

www.holtisland.org
also on Facebook

photo: HC



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EMPIRE of LIGHT

Thursday 20 July 2023
at 7:30pm, doors open 6:30pm
Director: Sam Mendes
115m, Cert: 15



EMPIRE of LIGHT

Empire of Light is a 2022 romantic drama film
directed, written, and co-produced by Sam
Mendes. Set in an English coastal town in the early
1980s, the film is about the power of human
connection during turbulent times. It stars Olivia
Colman, Micheal Ward, Monica Dolan, Tom
Brooke, Tanya Moodie, Hannah Onslow, Crystal
Clarke, Toby Jones, and Colin Firth.

Screen St Ives News

Screen St Ives will be taking a break over the
summer holiday period. As a result, there will
be no screenings during the months of August
and September. However, we will be returning
on Thursday October 5th.

For further information and details of future
screenings, please visit our web site
screenstives.org.uk and sign up to our
newsletter.



Tickets £5 from screenstives.org.uk or in the Corn Exchange