

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

YMCA to close this month

According to staff at the YMCA the business has been given four weeks notice to leave the premises on the Sheepmarket, meaning the shop will close on Saturday 12th August.

Because the YMCA must be out of the building by Sunday 20th of August, according to the landlord, the shop will close a week before to allow all the stock to be moved.

As a result, eight members of staff have been made redundant, including the Manager Monica Mallol Wright and her assistant manager Rae Smith.

The YMCA have told *The Riverporter* that they wish to open another shop in the town centre and would reinstate the current staff. However there are no suitable premises available at an affordable price. The YMCA say that those premises that are of sufficient size have very high rents, so at present there is little likelihood of the store staying in the town centre.

The store was opened last February and, as we reported, the then Deputy Mayor, Councillor Nic Wells (pictured above) was on hand to welcome Monica and her team.

In the eight months that the store has been open it has been popular and one of the best performing stores of the 100 YMCA branches across England.

We understand that the YMCA would have liked to stay but they could not compete with the rent that the new tenant, Loungers, offered.

Loungers is a national café, bar and



restaurant chain which already has local branches in Huntingdon, St Neots and Peterborough.

We understand that the new St Ives Lounger will be opening on the 21st December and the company is currently advertising for staff to work at the IVO.



Will this be competition for Wetherspoons?

Loungers was founded in Bristol in 2002 by three friends who wanted to create a neighbourhood café-bar that they would want to go to.

That focus on hospitality, comfort

and familiarity remains at the core of the Company, driven by an independent culture and focus on the local community.

Their website says... *At Loungers, we are passionate about how we become engaged and embedded within our local communities.*

Well it will be interesting to see just how engaged they become. There are two distinct brands, 'Lounger' and 'Cosy Club'. Lounger is described as a neighbourhood café/bar. Cosy Club is a more formal bar/restaurant offering relaxed dining with a touch of timeless glamour.

BREAKING NEWS

Womans body found in boat moored at Noble's Field. More details page 3.

DIARY OF EVENTS

AUGUST

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.

Sunday 10th - The Ouse Valley Marathon. Through the town centre.

Thursday 14th - Sunday 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

Saturday 16th - Huntingdon and District RAFA Branch Band Concert with the Huntingdonshire Concert Band. Free Church 7.30pm. Tickets £12 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents or from the Corn Exchange.

Saturday 16th - Heritage Open Day. There is fun on Holt Island, Gin & Jazz in the Parish Church and the opening of The Muddy Hoard, a new exhibition at the Norris Museum. Civic Regalia on display at the Town Hall and interesting buildings open to explore.

Sunday 17th - The Best of Broadway and The West End. Neil Richardson and Mark Burton at 2pm in St Ives Corn Exchange.

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.

Monday 9th - Wednesday 11th - Michaelmas Fair. In the town centre.

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

Friday 27th - Chapel Arts concert with Lexie Green and Johnny 'Magic Boy' Wright. The Corn Exchange 7.30pm. Tickets £10 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents or from the Riverport Café Bar.



Veronica and Max enthralled the audience at last Friday's Chapel Arts concert in the Riverport Café Bar with their brilliant musicianship and repertoire of Country and Ragtime music. They are set to return in September next year, hopefully at The Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival, which will be a special 10th Anniversary one.

St Ives & Music -

FRIDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER
Tapestry Singers

This mixed choir will feature eight wonderful singers performing contemporary and period music in a wide variety of genres a cappella style.



Tapestry have been performing locally for over 20 years and have gained an excellent reputation. Their full choir consists of 16 voices and has raised thousands of pounds for local charities.

7.30pm the Riverport Café Bar
Tickets: £10 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents or can be purchased from the Riverport Café Bar.

EcoAction works towards Sustainable Fashion

The drop in garment prices over the last 20 years has allowed us to buy more and more clothes. We now have 5 times more clothes than our grandparents had. This felt great until we found out what was hiding behind this trend.

In reality, this continuous accumulation of cheap garments is only possible because of a constant reduction of production costs. This, in turn, has serious consequences on our health, our planet, and on garment workers' lives.

Climate Café

On 15th July 2023 St Ives EcoAction held a Climate Café at St Ives Methodist Church to explore the subject of Sustainable Fashion.

Those gathered explored what the issues are, what the concept of sustainable fashion might mean for us personally.

What we might do collectively as a town to tackle reducing carbon emissions in relation to what we wear, where we source our clothes from, and what we do with them when they're worn out.



Members of St Ives EcoAction discussing practical things we can all do to live a good life while being sensitive to the impact on our planet.

The fashion industry is thought to contribute to between 5-10% of global greenhouse gas emissions, one the largest polluting sectors of the planet after the oil industry, aviation and transportation.

At the Café, people chatted over coffee, tackling questions such as: What is my oldest garment? Have I clothes which I never wear but hold onto 'just in case'? Are my clothes

biodegradable?

A 'Transform Trade' quiz revealed startling facts about water used to make cotton, the number of people working in the garment industry, and how we dispose of unwanted clothes. Fill at Forty, one of our local refill businesses brought their pop-up shop to the Café to raise awareness of their service.

The group came to the conclusion that if we work together, we can tackle this issue bit by bit. Maybe by starting with a couple of things people in our town and surrounding parishes can do.

The discussion will continue at the next Climate Café at St Ives Methodist Church on Saturday 9th September, 10am to 12 noon where the group will develop ideas and take practical action. All are welcome.

Raise the Roof Party raises much needed funds

The Corn Exchange team are busy putting their plans in place to try and mitigate the impact of the work of roof repairs due to start this Monday when the Riverport café will operate from the downstairs bars. The highly successful Friday evening music lounge events will go ahead as planned and the events team ask all our regular supporters to keep an eye on our web site and newsletter.

Its proving a very tough year for the Corn Exchange, as it faces a perfect storm of unexpected, extraordinary high costs and forced partial closures due to the repair works. However, one bright spot came last Saturday with the 'All Day Raise the Roof Party'.

The event helped raise funds and awareness. Ever since the building was saved in 2010 it has been a true community hub. Following the Covid pandemic the Corn Exchange has also emerged as a lively centre for music, art and community support as well as providing the town's most comfortable coffee shop.

During Covid there was some financial support but that is no longer available so the disruption caused by the works is causing a severe financial strain on the centre. Saturday's event saw a number of musicians and comedians and all the Corn Exchange staff and directors give up their time completely free to entertain visitors from 11am to midnight.

Chairman Rob Jackson said 'It was great fun and wonderful to have such community support, but we need to do much more through the rest of this year. We will be continuing our raffle through August, and we would be very grateful for any donations, and anyone interested can find us on our 'Facebook Just Giving page.'

The evening was attended by Mayor Phil Pope who praised the work of the Corn Exchange for its support for the community. The final sum raised won't be known until later this month. The evening was finished by the 'X Rated' band that left the crowd smiling. Earlier musicians included Paul (Pianoman) Dodson, The Tomb raiders and Poke and others, including Phil Christie. Phil (above) is a regular at the highly successful open mic nights every month.



THE VERY BEST OF
PUNK ROCK AND NEW WAVE

SEX PISTOLS THE DAMNED THE CLASH SHAM 69 THE RAMONES
THE STRANGLERS THE JAM BUZZCOCKS MAGAZINE THE BUTS
THE SKIDS KILLING JOKE PIL GREEN DAY MADNESS
STIFF LITTLE FINGERS AND MANY MORE...

Haywain
Constable Road,
St. Ives, Cambs.

Friday 11th August 2023 @ 8.30pm

Email: xratedpunks@gmail.co.uk Follow us on

OTHER NEWS

Huntingdonshire District Council confirmed the appointment of their new Chief Executive. Michelle Sacks, from South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership, has worked in local government for 27 years and started her career at Fenland DC. She will take over from the council's Corporate Director of People, Oliver Morley, who took on the position on an interim basis following the departure of Jo Lancaster. Michelle will also become the council's Head of Paid service, Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer.

Meanwhile refuse workers, customer services ass. and planners at HDC have voted to strike, saying that the 4% offer would leave them struggling to make ends meet.

Green Bin charges The proposed charge has been called in by the opposition. A vote will be taken at the Scrutiny Panel meeting on 10 August.

The Dolphin Lights (see RP 139 page 2) *The Riverporter* has received the following reply from HDC's Conservation and Environment Team Leader.

I am advised that the addition of the lights is not considered to be of a threshold that is classed as development and therefore that a breach has not occurred.

So it seems we must put up with them!



Local churches win a double silver environmental award



Rev. Dr. Catherine Ball of St Ives Free Church with Helen Dye of St Ives Eco Action and Rev. Nicholas Witham of St Ives Methodist Church.

St Ives Methodist Church and St Ives Free Church have both been awarded the acclaimed A Rocha Eco Church scheme Silver Award.

Many worship services at each church focus on the environment and taking care of the planet which, they see as God's creation.

Young peoples' groups and activities regularly feature ways to increase nature or recycle, repair and repurpose resources used.

The churches host St Ives Eco Action's regular Climate and Repair Cafés for the benefit of the town and help to reduce the amount of waste that goes into landfill.

The Silver Award recognises community involvement of members in gardening clubs, helping out at Holt Island and joining in St Ives in Bloom activities.

Rev. Dr. Catherine Ball said, 'As a church we have worked hard towards reducing our carbon footprint, and raising awareness of the fragility of our planet, God's creation. We care for the environment in partnership with organisations in the town in order to maintain St Ives as a pleasant and attractive town.'

Rev. Nick Witham said, 'We are delighted as a church to receive this award. We are committed to continue to base our future on sound environmental objectives. Caring for our environment and tackling climate change is just one part of our mission and outreach, but of course an important one.'

Helen Dye of St Ives Eco Action said 'By working together we can achieve so much more as a community to address the climate crisis and tackle biodiversity loss.'

Yes – St Ives football season starts Saturday



The curtain goes up on the 2023/24 Southern League season for St Ives Town on Saturday when they host Mickleover at the Quattro-Tech Westwood Road.

The Ives flirted with relegation in the final weeks of last season but finished in 16th position, 11 points clear of the drop zone.

Ives manager Ricky Marheineke has kept the nucleus of his side with key defender and supporter's player of the year, Jordan Williams signing again for another season. He is joined by other key players such as Jonny Herd, Michael Richens and leading goalscorer from last season, Jonny Edwards. Much will depend on the prolific striker as the Ives will look to him to repeat his scoring exploits from last season.

Marheineke has made some new signings with striker Brandon Njuko and midfielder Dan Barton joining on loan from Cambridge United. At the weekend, goalkeeper Eddie Brearey also joined on loan from Oxford United and the defensive options

have been bolstered with Aaron Smith arriving from St Neots. Also joining are winger Tiago Nassunculo, from Barwell and Fernando Bell-Toxtle, from Royston to strengthen the midfield options. Interest in the club is certainly on the up with attendances increasing during the second half of the last campaign, and the club has also sold a record number of season tickets ahead of the big kick-off. So, with excitement mounting for the start of a new season, make sure you get down to the Quattro-Tech Westwood Road on Saturday and cheer the Ives on to a winning start. Kick-off is at 3:00pm.

Admission Prices are:

- Adults£11
- Concessions (Over 65) £8
- Military Discount (with ID Card) . .£5
- Students (with ID Card)£5
- U16's to 12£2
- U12'sFree (Accompanied with an adult).



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 refuse church's application

St Ives Town Council's Planning Committee has recommended refusal of the Parish Church's plans to convert the existing church parish hall into residential units. The Committee's grounds for refusal lists the lack of consultation with the local community, and lack of evidence that sufficient efforts were put into finding alternative funding sources. Committee members expressed their conflicted nature on this application; they understand the church's need to raise funds to maintain their primary building but were concerned about the loss of a community resource. As the Church is a Grade 1 listed building, members stated there are many funding streams available for maintaining historical buildings. Public consultation on the future of the parish hall would be encouraged by the committee.



Better news about the railings

County Councillor, Kevin Reynolds has been busy chivvying up the County Council's Bridges and Structures team to get the railings on The Waits repaired in time for the official opening of the bandstand on 10th September. The railings should be delivered on 5th September and installation is due to take place the following day, 6th September. Fingers crossed then!

Players support Breast Cancer Now

The Centre Theatre Players are busy preparing for their forthcoming annual charity Cabaret 'MAKE THIS A NIGHT TO REMEMBER' (see ad on page 4), which they are staging in the Burgess Hall of One Leisure St Ives on Friday and Saturday the 8th and 9th September, the show commencing at 7.30pm. The show is a variety of music comedy and dance featuring several of the Players regular performers, some surprise guests and as always, the Vicky Grant dancers. This year the Players have nominated Breast Cancer Now as their chosen charity. This charity helps people effected by breast cancer with support for today and hope for the future. To date the Players have raised over £90,000 from their charity work with forty different charities benefitting from their efforts.

HCR104FM at Jazz & Blues Festival?

Known as HCR104fm, Huntingdon Community Radio has its roots in hospital broadcasting and we've been around for over 25 years. Community radio relies solely on volunteers who give their time to the many stations across the UK.

Here at HCR104fm, we have dedicated members whose talents cover a range of skills. But we are always on the lookout for more to join us!

Volunteering isn't a way to make money - if that is your objective, you will be disappointed! But we know there are many people who have a passion for helping the many charities in our area and if you have an interest in radio, whether it be research, production, presenting or fund raising, you can get in touch by checking out our website www.hcrfm.co.uk/joinus or contact our station manager at bill.hensley@hcrfm.co.uk There's no upper age limit but you do need to be over the age of 18. We look forward to hearing from you!

HCR104fm welcomes local businesses to advertise with us. If you own a local business have you considered the benefits of local radio advertising? It can cost as little as £99!

Email sales@hcrfm.co.uk for more information.

This year we hope to broadcast from the popular Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival.

We might be 'local', but we not only broadcast on FM in Huntingdon & St Ives, but also on DAB in Cambridge, online and your smart speaker.

If you've not listened to us yet, give us a try - and tell your friends!

Dear Erik, Parish Hall to be converted into flats? Echoes of the Corn Exchange?

I have registered an Objection to HDC Planning Application 23/01212/FUL, 'Proposal: Conversion of existing church parish hall into residential units at The Church Hall, Ramsey Road, St Ives.'

Comments are needed by Huntingdonshire District Council by 7th August.

I am pleased that some of my objections are very similar to the views of St Ives Town Council.

I believe that this application should be refused and the applicants should be urged to engage in fund-raising and grant applications to raise the £150,000 needed to restore this historic building as a flourishing church hall and community asset.

At no point have the congregation of All Saints' and the wider community of St Ives been consulted whether they are willing to lose their much-valued Parish Hall.

There is no vision or understanding on the part of the applicants for the potential of the substantial size Parish Hall in these changing times of greater social need, for example for a continuing Food Bank there, a non-church community meeting place or as a 'warm space'. By its own admission All Saints' has shown neglect for its Parish Hall for the past thirty years and now wants to dispose of it, without committing any effort to save and restore it. Numerous people within and outside the congregation believe that the considerable neglect of the past ten years has been deliberate and that the real intention is to secure change-of-use and then demolish the building. Demolition was the purpose of the original planning application.

Contrary to the shocking assertions of the applicants, since 1869 the Parish Hall has had a rich history and has had the closest ties with All Saints' Church. Protection and renovation of the Parish Hall ticks the boxes of all of the elements of the Heritage Strategy of Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC), as contained in its Local Plan to 2036.

Ian Dobson

Breaking News

Cambs Police have confirmed that at 2pm on Wednesday 2nd August they were called to a boat moored at Noble's Field in St Ives, where the body of a woman was found there. Several emergency vehicles attended and the field was cordoned off.

The Police have told *The Riverporter* that there appeared to be no suspicious circumstances and the matter has been handed over to the Coroner.

Speaking with a Noble's Field committee member we understand that the boat, called Edna May, had broken down and been moored there for some time in excess of the 48 hours allowed. It was in the process of having its gear box repaired.

The boat has been inhabited by a man thought to be in his 40's and a woman in her 30's.

Dear Erik,

I was walking along The Broadway last Wednesday evening and suddenly ... there it was ... gone!

Were we consulted? Is it on the scrap heap or sold to someone rich to have as a feature in their garden?

I used it as a beacon to explain to my friends where The Local Cafe is ... roughly half way between the Wool Shop and the Telephone Box. I suppose I could say 'square of tarmac' instead.

Thus it was I approached Market Road early on Thursday morning fearful that I might see an empty space behind the postbox. Thankfully all was well.

Red telephone boxes may belong to a bygone age, but they are history and are part of the town. I know they get rubbish left in them, but if they are not used, can't they be sealed up and left in situ?

Steve Puttick

LICENSING ACT 2003

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE

Notice is given that I, James Powley have on the 14th July 2023 applied to Huntingdonshire District Council as the Licensing Authority for a Premises Licence for The Commute Café of 33 The Broadway, St.Ives, Cambs, PE27 5BX for the sale of alcohol for the above premises for the following licensable activity.

The sale of alcohol during the hours below for consumption on and off the premises.

Monday to Friday: 10:00 to 16:00

Saturdays: 10:00 to 17:00

Sundays: 10:00 to 16:00

Anyone wishing to make representations concerning this application should do so in writing to: Huntingdonshire District Council, Licensing Section, Pathfinder House, St.Mary's Street, Huntingdon, Cambs PE29 3TN

Representations in respect of this application must reach the Licensing Authority by 17th August 2023. Persons wishing to inspect the register or the record of this application may do so by attending the office of the Licensing Section, during office hours, Monday to Friday inclusive.

It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which on summary conviction is £5000.



The COURTYARD

St Ives
Open-air boutique market, run by independents

Looking for activities for the children this summer?

Look no further!



Pop down to The Courtyard for a browse and a craft.

We have new traders and some beautiful artisan items for sale.

Our coffee shop is having a revamp so please come on down to sample our cakes and coffee, opening very soon.

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



THE CENTRE THÉÂTRE PLAYERS PRESENT A GRAND CHARITY CABARET

SUPPORTING
BREAST CANCER NOW

MAKE THIS A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

8-9 SEPTEMBER 23

**BURGESS HALL | ONE LEISURE | ST IVES
SHOW COMMENCING 7.30PM | TICKETS £10**

TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE FROM
WWW.STARLITERROADSHOW.COM

or by TELEPHONE 07555 394697 BETWEEN 6pm and 9pm. WEEKDAYS.

TABLE SETTING ★ LICENCED BAR ★ GRAND RAFFLE

ST IVES CORN EXCHANGE

COUNTRY Night

SATURDAY
26TH AUGUST 2023
ST IVES CORN EXCHANGE
DOORS OPEN AT: 7:15PM
MUSIC BEGINS AT: 8:00PM

FEATURING
COUNTRY BOUND 5 PIECE BAND

TICKETS: £18
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE VENUE OR ONLINE

Buy tickets at www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents
or call 01480496955
www.thecornexchange.org.uk

TWO
GREAT
NIGHTS
OUT
AT
ST
IVES
CORN
EX
CHANGE

ST IVES CORN EXCHANGE

Mexican Night

SEPTEMBER 09, 2023

LIVE MARIACHI BAND, FOOD & COCKTAILS

Doors Open at 7:00 PM | Ticket Price £26
Ticket price includes themed meal and welcome cocktail.

LOS SONEROS
Live Latin-American Music

MY MEXICAN

WWW.THECORNEXCHANGE.ORG.UK