

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

The best I have seen . . .

So said the Lord Lieutenant, Mrs Julie Spence, following the official opening of the bandstand. In a letter to the Town Team she said 'it will forever be a local legacy to the reign of HM Queen Elizabeth II and it's the best I have seen'.



The Lord Lieutenant, Mrs Julie Spence (centre) cuts the ribbon to formally open the bandstand. Pictured with her are, left to right: St Ives Mayor, Councillor Phillip Pope; Macebearer, Phil Ganny; The High Sheriff, Bharatkumar Ketani and The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Craig Smith.

Despite temperatures reaching 30°, crowds assembled on The Waits at midday last Sunday to witness the formal opening of the Bandstand by the King's representative Mrs Julie Spence, The Lord Lieutenant. It was a great civic event as the Mayor, the High Sheriff and councillors paraded to the event in full uniform, despite the heat. Following speeches the audience was entertained by

Thorndown School Choir, the Over Community Singers and Drummers, The Lightwaves and Split Whiskers. The Bandstand had the starring role as it saw almost all types of weather, including rain, and did what it was supposed to, namely keeping the band dry who were able to play on until 5.30pm.

For more pictures and comments See page 2.

Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival takes off in style



Lexie Green & The Indigo Blue will be performing at the bandstand on Sunday afternoon, another chance to see the brilliant guitarist, Johnny Magic Boy Wright, who played there last Sunday!

On Thursday the 9th Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival got off to a great start with the wonderful American singer songwriter and guitarist, Brooks Williams, in the Oliver Cromwell. Three other concerts followed and the Festival continues over the weekend with a further 21 FREE concerts (below). **PLUS** added new feature - at 12.30pm on Saturday the **Illumination Dance Troop** will be holding a FREE Blues dance workshop in the Corn Exchange.

FRIDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER

6pm	The Haywain	Dark Horse	Swing, Rock and Soul
6pm	Floods Tavern	Gravy Train Trio	Funk, Soul and Jazz
7pm	The Corn Exchange	The Umbrella Big Band	Big-band dance music
7.30pm	All Saints Church	Kim & Lee	'Gin & Jazz' Pop
8pm	Golden Lion Hotel	Spiral G's	Jazz, Funk, Fusion
9pm	Ivy leaf Club	The Shufflepack	Shuffling Blues
10pm	The Corn Exchange	Disco with Marco & David Hayden	Soul & Motown

SATURDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER

11am	The Quayside	The Scoundrels	Rocking Boogie & Blues
Noon	Bandstand	Stamford Stompers and Helen	Trad Jazz
12.30pm	The Chapel	Ian Goodsmen	Acoustic Roots, Blues & Ragtime
2pm	The Quayside	Rhythm & Blues Band	Rhythm and Blues with Soul
3pm	All Saints Church	Ian Goodsmen	'Gin & Jazz' Ragtime
4pm	The Oliver Cromwell	Rich Young	Americana Blues 'n roots
5.30pm	Floods Tavern	Toby Walker	American Blues guitarist
7.30pm	Golden Lion Hotel	Dickie de Vere & The Dorchester Mavericks	Tunes of the 20s and 30s
9.30pm	Ivy leaf Club	The Reavey Brothers	Soul, Rock, Blues, Funk & Ska

SUNDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER

Noon	Golden Lion Hotel	Claudio Citarella and Friends	Jazz, Funk, Fusion
2pm	The Quayside	Dr Ika's Pharmacy	Rock Jazz and Blues
3pm	Bandstand	Lexie Green & The Indigo Blue	Americana Blues, R'n'R
4pm	Nelson's Head	Jamie Williams & the Roots Collective	Rocking roots
6pm	The Lounge	The 29th Funktion	Blues, Funk, R&B

Programme may be subject to change www.stivescambridgeshire.co.uk



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

FRIDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER

The Tapestry Singers



A chance to hear the wonderful harmonies of this accomplished choir. Singing a capella style in the intimate surroundings of the Riverport Bar their repertoire of secular, sacred and contemporary music will delight you.

ALSO

FRIDAY 6TH OCTOBER

Danilo Vignola

Flamenco music played on a Ukulele by this passionate Italian.



7.30pm in the Riverport Café Bar

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

Invisible chips raise £££s



Dominic Bird of The Golden Lion points to the invisible chips item on the menu which has helped the Coaching Inn Group raise thousands of pounds for Hospitality Action. The group owns thirty-three hotels and inns in market towns, including St Ives, across the country, and this year's invisible chips donations by big-hearted diners has reached a record £13,000. *Image: The Golden Lion.*

Wildlife event in Needingworth

Why we must conserve water, use it to help nature's recovery and manage flooding, is the topic of the Great Ouse Valley Trust's next event on Friday 13 October, 7.30pm at Needingworth Village Hall.

Chris Gerrard, Catchment and Biodiversity Officer from Anglian Water will talk about this very topical subject. For details: www.greatousevalleytrust.org.uk.

Teachers to not strike?!

Teachers at the Ivo planned to walk out last Tuesday as part of the early stages of their strike action. Members of the NASUWT teaching union at St Ivo Academy will be participating in action short of strike action, when employees continue to work but withdraw some of their labour running up to next month's full strike action.

Waits fencing-still waiting!

As feared, the manufacturer did not supply the fencing in time for the Council to repair the railings before the Bandstand opening ceremony, despite great efforts by Councillor Reynolds. However the good news is that it will be installed as soon as the posts arrive, but at the moment we do not know when that will be.

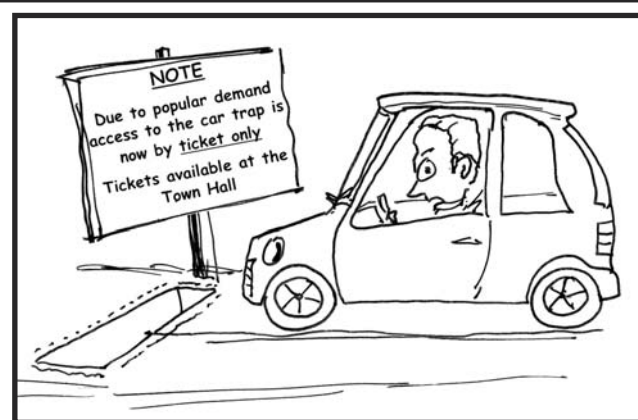
3 masked men break into Coop

The burglary happened at about 1.20am on Thursday September 7 by 3 suspects in balaclavas, driving a dark Audi. They used an angle grinder to break into the store. Detectives said that they know there were people at the Burleigh Hill Centre at the time of the incident and are appealing for anyone with information to come forward.

Digital screens for town centre

St Ives Town Council and Huntingdonshire District Council are working on a project to install two digital information screens in St Ives Town Centre.

They will supply up-to-date information on events and other interesting items about St Ives. Their locations have yet to be decided.





Screen St Ives Community Cinema

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THE FABELMANS

Thursday 5 October 2023 at 7:30pm Doors open 6:30pm. Tickets £7
Director: Steven Spielberg, 150m, Cert: 12

The Fabelmans is a coming-of-age drama directed by Steven Spielberg. The film is a semi- autobiographical story loosely based on Spielberg's adolescence and first years as a filmmaker. The plot is told through an original story of the fictional Sammy Fabelman, a young aspiring filmmaker who explores how the power of films can help him see the truth about his dysfunctional family and those around him.



BARBIE

Thursday 2 November 2023 at 7:30pm Doors open 6:30pm. Tickets £7
Director: Greta Gerwig, 114m, Cert: 12A

Barbie is an American fantasy comedy film directed by Greta Gerwig, from a screenplay she wrote with Noah Baumbach. Based on the Barbie fashion dolls by Mattel, it is the first live-action Barbie film after numerous computer-animated films and specials. The film stars Margot Robbie as Barbie and Ryan Gosling as Ken, and follows the pair on a journey of self-discovery following an existential crisis.

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

The Riverporter

Voted Best local newspaper of the year 2019/20 in the Cambridge Building Society's Community Magazine Awards



Erik loves your letters.



having your say ...

**Get it off your chest,
email Erik at:
editor@theriverporter.uk**

OTHER NEWS

Council behind closed doors?

The Town Council has been criticised for lack of clarity of its agenda items and for failing to discuss important matters. Residents asked why there was no report on the Corn Exchange roof repairs that are behind schedule, when the agenda stated no report had been received.

Another agenda item simply said 'Questions to Council' with no details attached, making it difficult for residents to know what it might be about. (This item was later deferred).

The Council was also questioned why an item originally discussed in open session about the Burleigh Hill Centre was now being discussed behind closed doors and that the public had the right to know the outcome of the review into the running of the Centre. The Mayor said it was because financial information would be discussed, but *The Riverporter* understands no financial details were discussed during the closed meeting.

It was also pointed out to Councillors that the Burleigh Hill Community Centre Charity now has only one Trustee, the Town Council, and yet there is no evidence that the Council voted to become a Trustee and it is clear that some councillors were unaware of this development.

BREAKING NEWS Following the meeting the Deputy Mayor, Craig Smith resigned from the council. The Riverporter was unable to contact Mr Smith before going to press.

William Roberts does it again

St Ives Swimming Club's William Roberts has been successful again, winning an incredible three medals at the Downs Syndrome European Championships, helping Team GB become European champions.



Neighbourhood Plan consultation questioned

At Wednesday's Town Council meeting concern was raised by the Civic Society that the planned consultation was not adequate. The consultation is due to run for 7 weeks from 18th Sept., however councillors weren't entirely happy with the contents and a meeting is being arranged between councillors and the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) team to ensure the document is ready to go out to the public. The meeting, as the saying goes 'will ensure that councillors and the NP team are singing off the same hymn sheet'. The Consultation will provide the opportunity for the public and businesses to have their say on the proposals before it is finalised and put to a local referendum. At the moment the Public are invited to talk to the Chair and members of the NP Group at the **Farmer's Market on October 7th, from 9am-2pm**. Copies of the NP will be on the Council's web-site with copies available at the Town Hall and Library.

Developers hope this will be the future!



St Ives Town Council received a briefing from Bellway Homes about a potential development of the land, north of Houghton Road, opposite the research centre site, now being constructed.

The land running alongside the outdoor recreation centre could see 400 dwellings should permission be granted. The land is in the Wyton on The Hill parish but borders Houghton and St Ives parishes. Such development would therefore remove any green space between the villages and town. Bellway hope the new local plan being drawn up by HDC will need to find more housing and that this site might then become available.

Dear Erik,

Thank you for letting us know about the proposed Green Bin Charge from April 24. How will this charge work, do you know if it is an annual charge or a charge for only when the green bin is collected and emptied and what happens if you don't want to pay this is the green bin taken back from you.

We have more or less decided we will just go back to doing what we did before we ever had a Green Bin as we have a small garden and will not be paying the charge. We pay our Council Tax and live on Waveney Road, which has not been resurfaced for over 20 years. Most of the

other roads have been resurfaced in St Ives except this road it has just been patched up time and time again. So we will not be paying Green Bin charges.

Mrs V. Ritch

Dear Mrs Ritch, Cath Gleadow, District Councillor for St Ives told us that bins will be collected and taken back to the local depot from households that decide not to use the service. She also said that residents are welcome to share bins which will reduce the cost but only one household will be invoiced and responsible for payment and the bin will be allocated to the property that pays.

Dear Erik,

Be careful - you might be sucked up! I came across this giant Hoover today being used in the street to remove huge chunks of rubble as big as a small dog. Whoosh and they're gone.



But sometimes they got stuck and had to be jabbed. A man told me they were cutting trenches to replace the old sewers. Keep a lookout if you are looking for a lamppost down that way ... **Luka That**

Dear Erik,

Please can I point out a basic error in your last issue ... 'Ironically that weekend vehicles seemed to cue up to enter the trap, with.....' Tsk, tsk, that should of course be 'queue' instead of 'cue'.

On a serious note, even for an experienced driver, but new to St Ives, the road signage (especially heading towards the Park & Ride) is potentially confusing & needs augmenting; there may also be pre-conditioned expectations to have rising bollards (as in some other cities, etc) as a blocking safety system. The traps would also benefit from a sloped internal section, so at least there would be a chance for a motorist to reverse with minimal damage to their vehicle. This would also stop the road being blocked to buses for a lengthy period whilst waiting for a vehicle to be extracted from the existing trap(s).

Kind regards, **Mr M D Jenvey**

Dear Mr Jenvey Thanks for pointing out the error. I have fired the proof reader! **Erik.**

Dear Erik, Ref: The Car Trap/bus station

Adding to the debate around the guided bus trap, why is the bus station still in the town whilst the guided bus station is not!

If the bus station were relocated then there would be no need for the trap!

Station Rd, with cars parked on both sides is very difficult for buses to navigate. In fact today I saw one bus having to back up in order to let another through.

Also, if the bus station was relocated, the traffic lights on the by-pass wouldn't be constantly turning red leading to tail backs and pollution which it is meant to reduce!

In fact, you wonder, who actually plans these schemes? I could get onto illegal parking around Tom's and in Priory Rd and New Rd on market days and on the farmers's market. But I won't. Yet. Great newspaper, by the way. The town needs it. **John Wheeler**

Dear Erik, Ref: The Car Trap

I fear that a rising bollard would prove useless for bus-tailgating drivers. Indeed, they would probably get impaled on it as it rose when the bus moved off and hoisted into the air which would be far more ignominious than the present alternative. Cheers & jeers, or commiserations? **Steve Puttick**

Dear Erik, Subject: Fascination with fools

Reading your main (again) story about idiots who can't read signs it seems St Ives is just one story. What about the empty shops, dissatisfied bank customers Yobs driving Audis and BMW's through The Broadway. I suppose if they hit the Ninth Wonder of the world 'The Bandstand' you might be interested. **Michael Smith**

Dear Michael We have covered most of those topics over the past 142 issues, but for some reason the car trap is the most popular at the moment, plus we are proud of The Bandstand. **Erik.**

Dear Erik, Ref: The Car Trap

Just picture - the many money spending visitors caught and the many more who have witnessed the calamity. When they get home (how?) and their friends and family ask about their visit, do you think they will say 'go to lovely St Ives and see the new bandstand' or 'avoid the place like the plague'? **Chris Martin** Fenstanton

Dear Erik, Ref: Closure of Sorting Office

The closure of the Royal Mail offices could provide a suitable office for banks to provide a shared facility. Barclays already use the Tony Burgess room [in the Corn Exchange] so local customers can discuss various things. Letting out the upstairs part could provide some income. **Colin**

Dear Colin We were told this will happen in February. No future arrangements have been disclosed, but staff are upset by the decision.

Dear Erik, Ref: The Car Trap

The issue of 'car traps' seem to be a regular topic in your newspaper. [Following email correspondence with Town, District and County Councillors on the subject] I fear it is the standard response Cllr Reynolds has sent everybody - cut and paste etc. This probably reflects the number of complaints this individual has received over this topic. An interesting freedom of information request might reveal how many cars have entered the 'car-traps' since its existence and any related death /injury. Another request might reveal how many complaints the Council have actually received over this subject. regards, **Dr Gordon Mills**

Dear Erik, Ref: Town Centre Map

It would be so nice if you could do a printed map layout of St Ives town centre of where the shops, churches, cafes, takeaways are etc. to help people that struggle to get around. **Linda**
Dear Linda, The Complimentary Guide produced by the Town Team has a map and you can pick one up from the Town Hall or Library. **Erik.**

The voices sang and the music played through sun and rain!



Above: Thorndown School Choir delighted the audience with their singing, following speeches from, Town Mayor, Phil Pope (right) and Sheila Stones, Chair of The Town Team (below right). Sheila thanked the people of St Ives whose incredible support raised the funds and specifically SEC St Ives, that fitted all the electrics free of charge and Kevin Page, whose team installed the bandstand.

Below: The Lord Lieutenant and civic party, that endured the heat in full robes, in the Norris Museum garden prior to the ceremony. Photos by Alan Bennett, Media Imaging Solutions.



Above: Split Whiskers played on while some of the audience danced in the rain.

Fortunately the gazebos, put up to offer shade earlier on, kept the non-dancing audience dry.



Left: Over Community

Singers and Drummers, led by the effervescent Agi Peach, provided an 'African Beat' in conditions not dissimilar to those found on that continent!

In her letter of thanks to the Town Team Julie Spence, the Lord Lieutenant praised the bandstand as 'the best I have seen'. She continued - 'I am sure it will rival the national memorial [to HMQ] when it's unveiled in 2026'.

The Town Team wish to thank Peter Townsend, who prepared the plans and dealt with the planning application for free. Without his work the bandstand might still be a dream.

The Town Team, which organised the project, starting with a public meeting in January 2022, are now giving the bandstand to the Town Council, which will be responsible for its upkeep and coordinating its use. There have been ten concerts there already and it is good to see classes of children meeting under the shade it offers. The Team hope that many people and groups will use it.

If you wish to book a slot for a performance please contact the Town Hall in Market Hill or call them on 01480 388929.

The COURTYARD St Ives

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Repair Café

Sat 30th Sept

1pm - 4pm

St Ives Methodist
Church Hall

We welcome:

- Bikes
- Sewing repairs
- Jewellery
- Ceramics
- Computers
- Tablets
- Tool sharpening
- Mobile phones
- Small household Appliances

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

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

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!**

St Ives Repair Café is an initiative of ecoaction