

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

Last Chance to have your say

This month is the last opportunity for residents and businesses in St Ives to suggest ways of attracting people into the town centre. With so many shops closing it is important to hear your views so we can draft a new proposal for growth to be included in the Neighbourhood Plan.

There are two more meetings proposed which are:

1. **The Farmers' Market on Saturday 18th November from 10-3pm**
2. **The Free Church 8-9am on Tuesday 21st November 2023**

If you are unable to make a meeting you can still pick up Comment Forms from the Town Hall or the Library then return them to the Town Hall. It is possible to download a form to return later, or complete it online on the Town Hall website at: stivestowncouncil.gov.uk.

You can also email your response to: chair@stivescivic.org.uk.

The closing date is December 1st. The Draft NP can be found on the Town Council web-site: https://www.stivestowncouncil.gov.uk/Regulation_14_Consultation_Oct_2023_45793.aspx

St Ives Remembers

Pictures courtesy of Alan Bennett mediamagingsolutions.com

Last Sunday the town turned out in force to remember those people from St Ives who made the ultimate sacrifice during the two world wars.

The traditional Remembrance Sunday service was well attended as the pictures below shows with Mayor Cllr Phil Pope leading, followed by CMSgt Richard Swank, the Town Clerk, 42 Regiment's Commanding Officer Alex Mayes and Deputy Mayor Julie Kerr. The ceremony included prayers, two minutes silence, wreath laying and the reading of the names of every St Ives person who died in the first and second world wars. This has always been a moving service, which most of the town's veterans attend, including the remarkable Ed Kelly (right) who turned 100 this year and led the parade until 2020.

New Deputy Mayor

Pictured below, leaving the Town Hall, is Cllr Julie Kerr, who was unanimously elected Deputy Mayor by her colleagues at last week's council meeting. Replacing Craig Smith who suddenly resigned in September. (RP143).



THIS SATURDAY CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON



What to look out for . . .

The Christmas Market and funfair is on from 9am Saturday 18th November. Entertainment starts at 11am with Rosalie Rae, followed by 11:30am All Stars; 12pm Steel Drums; 1pm Musical Theatre Choir; 1:45pm RAW DIVAS; 2:45pm So 80's; 3:45pm Musical Theatre Choir; 4:15pm Vicky Grant plus a Very Special Guest! The lights switch-on is due to take place around 5pm and will be followed by a firework display.

DIARY OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER

Friday 24th - COSI lunchtime recital 1pm in the Free Church. Free entry

Friday 24th - Chapel Arts Concert with Kim and Lee. The Corn Exchange 7.30pm. Tickets £10 www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents.

Sunday 26th - On the Way to Christmas - an informal concert by Hemingford Ladies Choir. 3pm St Margaret's Church, Hemingford Abbots with refreshments and a retiring collection in support of the Church.

Sunday 26th - Fenstanton Christmas Market - 12-4pm, Fenstanton Church Centre, School Lane. Christmas gifts including Artisan Cheese, Spirit Distillery, Jewellery, Home Decor, Art, Floristry, Wax Melts, Cakes & Bakes plus Mulled Wine whilst you shop. Entry is free.

DECEMBER

Saturday 2nd - Mayor of St Ives Charity Concert with the RAF Wyton Band. The Free Church 7.30pm.

Saturday 9th - ArtsFest. Art, crafts and gifts for Christmas. The Corn Exchange from 10am. FREE entry

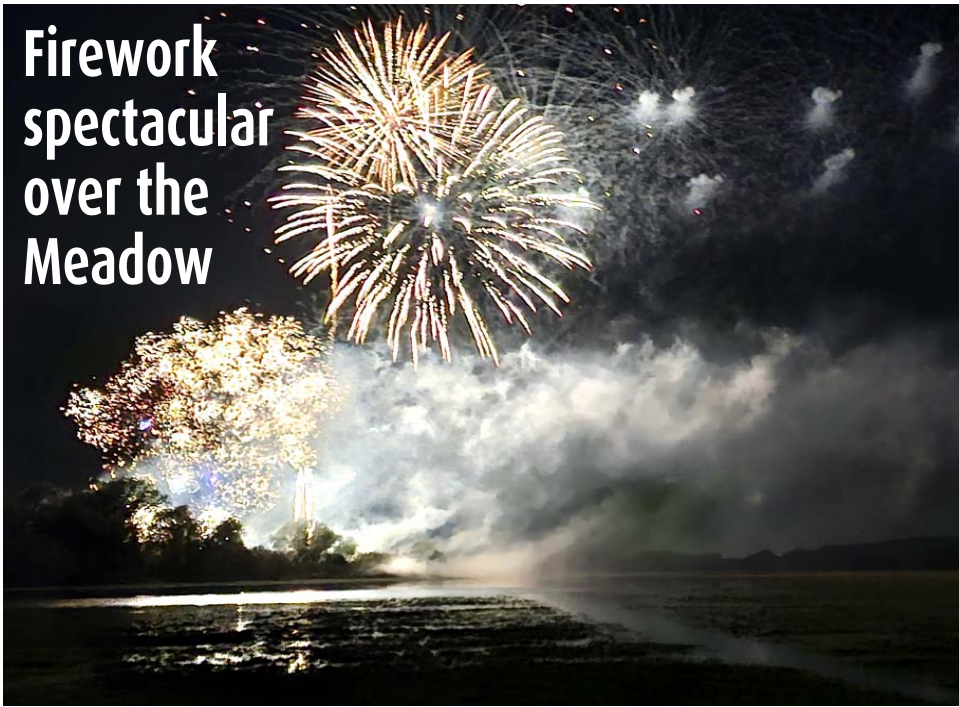
Saturday 9th - Advent Fayre at Catholic Church hall, Needingworth Rd from 10am -2pm. Games, crafts, Christmas gifts, homemade cakes and bacon baps/mince pies/ tea/coffee £2. Free entry.

Saturday 16th - St Ives Choral Society Family Christmas Concert 6.30pm, Free Church, St Ives.

Saturday 16th - Sunday 17th - Two-day Santa and Snowman Festival. Games and craft activities plus a FREE Santa's Grotto. The Corn Exchange from 10am.

Friday 22nd - Carol Concert with RAF Wyton Brass Band. The Corn Exchange from 6.45pm. Tickets £10, include a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie, from www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents.

Firework spectacular over the Meadow



One of our longest running annual events is the Hemingford Firework Display, which this year featured live music for the first time. Crowds lined the town on Saturday 4th November to watch the spectacular display over the meadow, as this picture posted on a local Facebook page by Fran McConachie shows.

Would IVO be pleased?

Last Wednesday the Ivo Lounge Café Bar on the Sheepmarket opened with free drinks and tapas all round for invited guests. *The Riverporter* also attended and took a straw poll to see what diners thought of this new venue.

Pictured below are the staff in front of the redesigned premises, which most people attending thought was done well. Following the style of other cafés in the chain it is packed with sofas chairs and pictures filling the walls. Of course the staff were very attentive and eager to promote the company's community spirit.



It seemed that most local businesses had been invited, including other cafés and bars in the town centre, so we were particularly interested in what they thought of this new competition. Most were impressed and according to some who had been to other Lounges in Peterborough, Huntingdon and St Neots, the St Ives premises were lighter and cheerful, probably due to the large front windows.

Other comments included welcoming the chain to town as it would draw more people in. Several agreed that Ivo would offer a better alternative to people who didn't like Wetherspoons. On the downside the large room was very noisy, once it filled up. The combination of loud music and people shouting to be heard was offputting to some. So would Ivo have approved? We asked someone who has studied St Ivo and he said 'Probably!'.



St Ives & Music - Last this year . . .

FRIDAY 24TH NOVEMBER

Kimberley Rew & Lee Cave-Berry

Kimberley Rew was a founder member of Katrina and the Waves, writing the hit songs *Walking on Sunshine*, the Eurovision winning *Love Shine a Light*, and the Bangles' *Going down to Liverpool*.

7.30pm in the Riverport Café Bar.

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



Star Crafters at it again . . .

Prior to Remembrance Day lots of knitted figures and poppies adorned the town thanks to the efforts of Star Crafters c/o Star Dancewear & Crafts.

A character called Bing found the soldiers and saluted their valor.

Bing pops up on a local Facebook page courtesy of Toby Wafer and has even been seen in the car trap!



Community group needs you!

One of the best things about living in St Ives, we often hear, is that it has a great community spirit and a lot going on. And that is true. Despite the difficulties with town centres throughout the country, and St Ives is no exception, there is still a lot of entertainment for people to enjoy. If you had any doubt about this just see the Diary on page 1.

This Saturday the Christmas Market and Lights Switch-on takes place and there are lots of concerts, Christmas Fayres and celebrations taking place up to Christmas Day. Also this Saturday sees the Start of the Snowman Trail, part of the **Snowman Festival**, where children can win a £50 Townrow Voucher. You can download the Trail Map at: www.stivescambridgeshire.co.uk

All of the great things that go on depend on volunteers. From helping St Ives In Bloom keep the town's flower beds looking good to enjoying the free entertainment at the Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival it is volunteers who make it possible. Most of these groups are looking for more helpers and the **Town Team** now needs some new members.

Do you want to help?

If you would like to be involved in helping promote St Ives and put on the events that make the town so special please contact the Town Team by emailing: townteam@stivescambridgeshire.co.uk

Or you can write to us c/o the Town Hall or call on **07900 112635**

The Town Team meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month (except August and December) at 7pm in the Golden Lion Hotel. Meetings are quite informal and constructive where we plan the events and projects throughout the year. Members can choose what projects to get involved in and we are very keen to include new ideas.

RELENTLESS church
CAROL SERVICE
 24TH DECEMBER
 ALL WELCOME
 6.30PM - 7.30PM
 RAMSEY ROAD, ST IVES, PE27 3TB

The Night Of Hope



Erik loves your letters.



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

Prestigious award for the Corn Exchange

In national recognition of their commitment to the Armed Forces, past, present and future, plus their families, the St Ives Corn Exchange CIC have been awarded the Bronze Award of the Armed Forces Covenant. The Corn Exchange will continue to deliver this support through the employment of veterans, working with local forces welfare support organisations and cadet youth groups, conducting Career Transition Partnership (CTP) job fairs, but also through hosting Armed Forces Presentation Teams - such as the Royal Navy in February 2024.

On Remembrance Sunday the Corn Exchange opened its doors and provided hot drinks and bacon baps to serving members and Veterans of the Armed Forces that we are so proud of.

Cambs deserves fair deal say Labour

Local Labour Leader Elisa Meschini has written to Chancellor Jeremy Hunt demanding that he delivers a fair deal for Cambridgeshire in the upcoming Autumn Statement.

The letter comes ahead of the Chancellor's Autumn Statement on 22nd November 2023, in which he will set out the government's spending priorities and has the opportunity to reverse the damaging Conservative cuts that have left many public services struggling to survive. Since 2010 the government has repeatedly cut funding to councils, leaving an increasing number of councils warning that they could effectively go bankrupt in the coming months.

The cross-party Local Government Association have warned that councils are facing a £4bn funding gap by March 2025. Commenting, Elisa Meschini, deputy leader of Cambs CC, said:

'We deserve a fair deal. Government funding cuts have been unfairly targeted at areas like Cambridgeshire. The Conservative government has cut funding to our area by £136.6m in real terms since 2010, which is equivalent to a 67% cut in funding received from Labour. 'The Chancellor must use the Autumn Statement to deliver the fair deal for Cambridgeshire that we deserve. If he cannot do that, the Conservatives should call a General Election and give the country the chance to vote in a new government.'

Will new signs stop cars going in the trap?

If comments seen on social media are anything to go by the answer is no.

They say that there is no such thing as bad publicity but it can't be good for St Ives to be known as the Car Trap capital of the world. We can't say that there aren't enough signs now!



Other council news ...

The Riverporter has been told that the new town website, designed to inform tourists and residents about everything is available in St Ives, is progressing well and although completion has been delayed it should be up and running soon. National Highways has agreed that they were not under pressure to open the A14 early, an excuse they initially claimed for the death of most of the trees planted along the road. In an article on the BBC website they apologised for the disastrous planting and have committed to replanting the dead trees.

Dear Erik,
Subject: Extraordinary meeting

The Mayor of St Ives held an illegal full council meeting on Thursday 9th November without giving 3 full days notice, with a locum clerk and an agenda. James Penny

Dear James, There are occasions where the council need not give the usual notices depending on the matters being discussed. It would appear from the published agenda that this was the case in this instance. ED.

Dear Erik,
Subject: Parking in St Ives

Perhaps you would like to use the power of your mighty press to pose the question as to what has happened to the promised control of illegal parking in St Ives and its environs? What has happened to the mooted 'take over' of parking control by our local government from the police?

As you will be aware, cars continue to be parked in ever increasing numbers within the town - on double yellow lines, on corners, kerbs, pavements and in 'disabled bays' without showing a blue badge. Many drivers overstay the 1-and-2 hour allowances in designated areas and it is obvious that some park in all these locations for the whole of their working day.

As for the supposed 20mph limit areas not to mention the pedestrian-only timed restrictions for the Broadway/Bridge Street roads...

I look forward to hearing of the latest response (excuse) from our local government representatives for the failure to instigate the much-needed control of this town's selfish and thoughtless motorists.

Yours etc. Dr John Daines

Dear Dr John, We contacted HDC Councillors who told us that there is no definite date agreed for the District to take over responsibility for parking due to CCC and central Govt having lengthy actions to take.

It is likely to be next Autumn before it happens, partly because there will be a lot of work to do with new signs and road markings ED.

Dear Erik,
Subject: Riverporter issue 146

Excellent issue today Erik. Your finger on the pulse as usual and with an excellent rant to boot! [Is it me or the world that's mad? p2]. I too have had my overdraft reduced by a bank we have been with for over 50 years, including a self-build mortgage.

I must say that I applaud the efforts of the team working recently to replace the sewer pipes in East street, and all the premises' connections. This must have been an immensely complicated engineering challenge in a busy narrow back street, but at all times the guys were polite and obliging as traffic flow and parking were compromised. I take my hat off to them. (And am happy to be quoted as a nearby resident.)

Wackster

Dear Erik,
Subject: The Cloisters - Pine with roots growing into the concrete building!

Luckily this tree has been saved from destruction in October and now has a stay of execution until JANUARY 2024. [see letter]

23 October 2023

Dear Resident(s),

RE: UPDATE Tree Removal and Ground Works at the Entrance to The Cloisters

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to inform you of a change in the scheduled date for the removal of a communal tree, which I had previously communicated to you.

In my previous letter, I had advised that the tree removal was scheduled for Friday, 27th October 2023. However, due to unforeseen circumstances, we have had to make a change to the date. The new date for the tree removal is now set for Monday, 8th January 2024.

It should not be felled, it needs PRUNING: both the top of the tree and some bonsai activity on the root system should do the trick!

The owner/housing association Accent which 'owns' the property had not been aware that there were other opinions to be gathered before its earlier dictat to chop the tree down last month. Accent is completely unaware of the environmental concerns of St Ives Council, environmental groups and residents, thinking that it can do as it pleases. This has got to stop. Give them hell and slap a Tree Protection Order on this tree!

Thanks Jan

Dear Erik,
Subject: Cope's Zoom meeting

There are still a few spaces available for COPE's Zoom events this December. Join us on Monday 11 December for 'Scams and Fraudsters - how to avoid them', to gain invaluable insights into this serious issue.

Events last an hour: they are free, though registration is required. Register by phoning COPE on 01223 364303 or email: copetalkingtogether@hotmail.com

Best regards, Sally Fenn

Dear Erik,
Subject: The Bridge Magazine

I sent this to the Town Council. It occurred to me that I could not remember seeing an issue of the Town Council's magazine 'The Bridge' for quite some time.

Over a number of years a number of us, then Councillors worked hard to raise the bar and create lively and relevant content to promote Council and town.

Three or four issues per year are needed to maintain the Town Council's 'Quality' status, are they not?

And should not one of them in mid-year carry and make public the Council's annual accounts?

Newly elected or co-opted councillors are introduced to the townspeople via 'The Bridge' too.

I just checked on the website. The last Bridge Magazine posted there was the November 2022 issue.

Yours sincerely Ian Dobson
p.s. I have not had a reply yet.

40th Anniversary for the BHF

The local British Heart Foundation group will once again be collecting donations for *Lighting a candle for a loved one* in the Bridge Chapel over the next 4 weekends. Jean Chandler and her team will be manning the Chapel between 10am and 4pm on 18/19 and 25/26 November, 1/3 and 9/10 December.

Jean told The Riverporter that it was September 1983 when she started fundraising for the BHF. During the past 40 years they have been recognised as BHF's best fundraisers (see RP44), having raised around £600,000 in that time.

Marie Curie Information Day

Come along to our FREE informative talks

- Compassionate Workplaces
- Bereavement support for children
- GP Daffodil Standards

Slepe Hall Hotel,
St Ives, PE27 5RB
Friday 24th November 2023
10:30am - 3.00pm

Tickets are FREE - to secure your place visit

<https://mariecurieinformationday.eventbrite.co.uk>

@ barbara.richmond@uwclub.net

07887 625449

@mariecurieuk
mariecurie.org.uk

FR
FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR



The COURTYARD St Ives

Open-air boutique market, run by independents



Open 7 days a week, all year round



A MAN CALLED OTTO
Thursday 7 December 2023
Starts: 7:30pm
Doors open: 6:30pm
Director: Marc Forster
Duration: 121m
Cert: 15

A Man Called Otto is a 2022 American comedy-drama film directed by *Marc Forster* from a screenplay by *David Magee*, about a bitter old man reluctantly getting involved in the lives of his neighbours. It stars *Tom Hanks* in the title role, with *Mariana Treviño*, *Rachel Keller*, and *Manuel Garcia-Rulfo* in supporting roles. It is a remake of the 2015 Swedish film *A Man Called Ove*, which was based on the 2012 novel by *Fredrik Backman*.

Tickets £7 from screenstives.org.uk
or in the Corn Exchange

A CANDLELIT CHRISTMAS MUSICAL FEAST

With **KAREN ENGLAND**
(mezzo)

and **MARK BURTON**
(piano)

Back by popular demand, we would love you to join us for an hour of beautiful, ethereal Christmas music to start your celebrations in style

Tickets
£15.00

Available on
www.eventbrite.co.uk
Or text 07971623243 to
reserve. Tickets also
available on the door.

**THURSDAY
21ST DECEMBER,
7.00PM AT
HOUGHTON
PARISH CHURCH.**



Lunchtime Recital

Friday 24th November, 1pm
Free Church, St. Ives



Bach

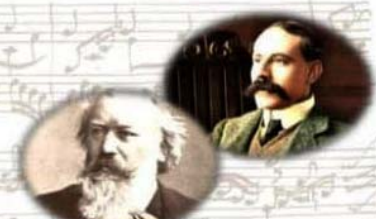
and

Beyond

Oboe ~ Gillian Atherton

Violin ~ Sally Merson

Piano ~ Julian Merson



Entry Free

Voluntary donation in aid of The Free Church