

# The Riverporter

ST IVES AWARD WINNING NEWSPAPER

COVERING THE NEWS FOR ST IVES AND AROUND

Issue I48: I December 2023

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

## A cash machine is not just for Christmas!

**A**t this time of year the public are usually responsive to messages seeking support for good causes, such as 'Children In Need' and the 'Homeless'. This year Cambridgeshire Police are asking residents to help deter ram raids by adopting an ATM machine.

A number of raids have taken place around Cambridgeshire through the autumn, and police are hoping residents can help be the eyes and ears to clamp down on the problem.

'This winter, we are asking the public to 'adopt' their local ATM and keep an eye out for suspicious activity around it, to try prevent these destructive crimes in our towns and villages' said a police spokesman.

Detective Chief Inspector Chris O'Brien added: 'Initiatives like these are so important in helping raise awareness of these destructive crimes and hopefully going some way to tackle the issue before the crime occurs.'

Ram raids often take place between October and January when the nights are darker and usually around 2am,

when most people are tucked up in bed.

*Below the St Ives Co-op, following a ram raid in 2018.*



**Controversial plans for the Broadway see page 2**

## Snowmen take over



**Come to The Old Riverport this Christmas and enjoy all the fun of the Snowman Festival and a chance to win fabulous prizes**

Using the Trail Map, available from shops taking part, collect 20 stickers to complete the trail to enter the draw to for a £50 Townrow voucher.

Completed maps should be handed in at either La Muse or Janet Church Interiors by 4pm on Saturday 16th December to be entered into the draw.

### DON'T MISS

**Saturday 16 Dec** – Santa & Chief Snowman arrive 11 am on The Quay.

**Sat 16 & Sun 17 Dec** – Santa and Snowman Festival. Games and craft activities and FREE Santa's Grotto. The Corn Exchange from 10am.

**Sunday 17 Dec** – Snowman Festival Trail draw takes place.

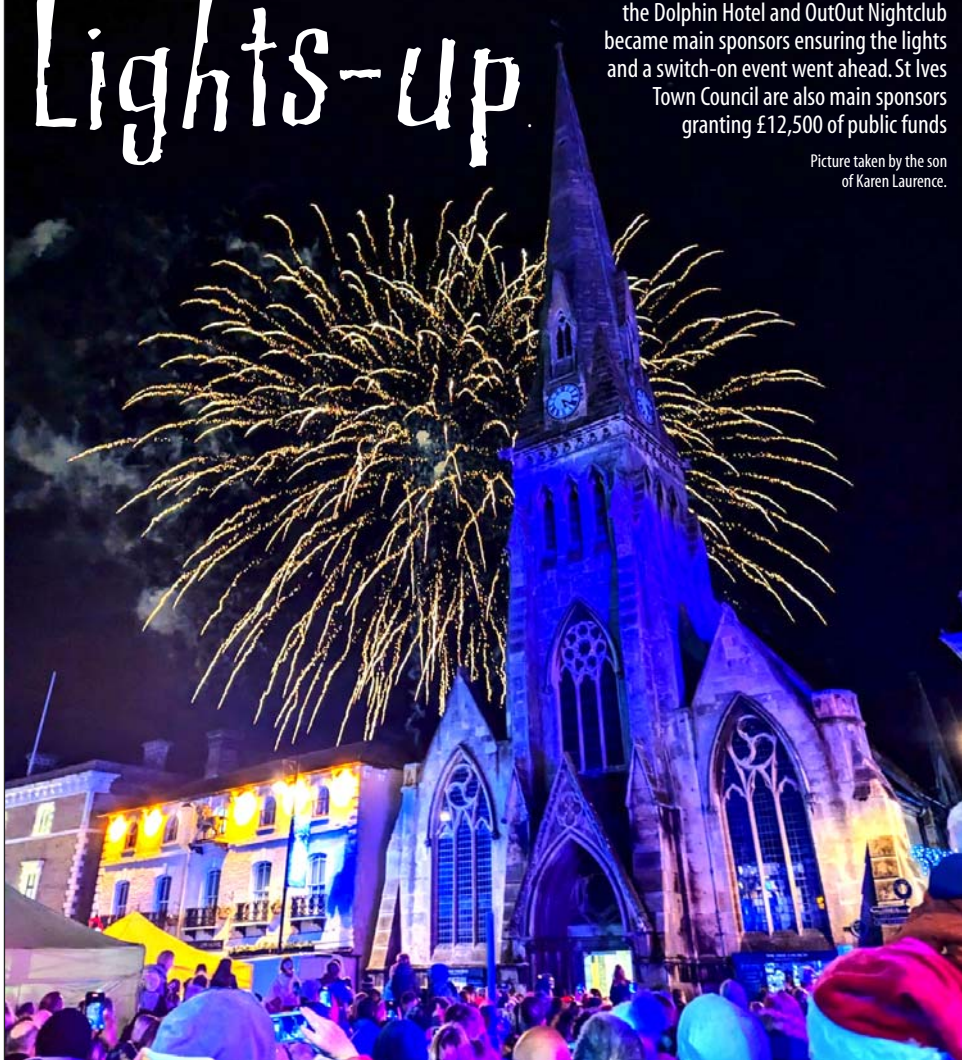
**Monday 18 Dec** – Awards for Trail and Best Snowman Window.



## St Ives Lights-up

Thousands enjoyed the Christmas Market and Light-switch-on event in the town centre on Saturday 18th November. Despite concerns recently that there was insufficient funds for lights two companies, the Dolphin Hotel and OutOut Nightclub became main sponsors ensuring the lights and a switch-on event went ahead. St Ives Town Council are also main sponsors granting £12,500 of public funds

Picture taken by the son of Karen Laurence.



## DIARY OF EVENTS

### DECEMBER

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

**SOLD OUT**

**Sunday 3rd** - Harmonia Singers and Double and Squeak An Alternative Christmas Concert. The Free Church 7pm.

**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. £2. Free entry.

**Sunday 10th** - A Musical Christmas Cracker presented by the Rotary Club of St Ives. The Free Church 6pm. Tickets from the Free Church office.

**Friday 15th** - A Candlelit Christmas Musical Feast with Karen England and Mark Burton. The Free Church 4pm. Tickets £15 call 07971623243.

**Saturday 16th** - St Ives Choral Society Family Christmas Concert 6.30pm, Free Church, St Ives. Tickets: ticketsource.co.uk/St Ives Choral Society

**Friday 22nd** - Carol Concert with RAF Wyton Brass Band. The Corn Exchange from 6.45pm. Tickets £10 www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents.

Read on-line at [www.theriverporter.uk](http://www.theriverporter.uk) or see our Facebook page. Email: [editor@theriverporter.uk](mailto:editor@theriverporter.uk)

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# Supporting local businesses is more important than ever this Christmas

says Martin Cooper, of The Refill Shop of Ikigai.

In the first half of 2023, the number of businesses closing increased from the previous year, and according to government statistics, the rate of business insolvencies is at its highest rate since 2009.

## This Saturday is Small Business Saturday

This Saturday, 2 December, people across Cambridgeshire can show their support for small, local businesses by choosing to shop with them over large national companies and supermarkets.

Martin Cooper, owner of The Refill Shop of Ikigai in St Ives, said: 'Shopping locally and in small independent businesses has never been more important.'

'When big businesses are leaving our high streets in their droves, it's small

local businesses that are keeping our towns and cities alive - so supporting them is essential.'

A campaign by Totally Locally encourages everyone to spend just £5 in a small independent business this Christmas.

If everyone in Cambridgeshire did this it could bring to £3.5 million into our local economy - maintaining our high streets and the jobs they provide.

Buying local isn't only about keeping the high street full of shops, it's also about keeping the environmental impact of Christmas shopping low by keeping down the miles and reducing packaging too.

Martin added: 'We hope, as small businesses, we can offer something a bit different, as well as a more



personal service than large supermarkets or online businesses.

'This year I hope people can think small for their Christmas gift shopping and choose to spend a few pounds in the hundreds of small businesses across the county - and show their support for us all.'

Small Business Saturday is a grassroots, non-commercial campaign, that highlights small business success and encourages consumers to 'shop local' and support small businesses in their communities.



# St Ives & Music - Acts for 2024

FRIDAY 26TH JANUARY

## Brooks Williams



'Surely one of the finest acoustic musicians in the UK' KONTRA GIGS.

Following his well received appearance at this year's Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival, Brooks returns in January for an intimate concert in the Riverport Café Bar. He has been a leading light on the roots acoustic music scene for over three decades and it comes as no surprise he is listed in the Top 100 Acoustic Guitarists.

7.30pm in the Riverport Café Bar.

Tickets: £10 from the Bar or from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents)

## A treat for music lovers

Attendees at November's Chapel Arts Concert were entertained by the superb Kimberley Rew and Lee Cave-Berry. With the wonderful Christine Kitching on Cajon. This was a joyful evening featuring a range of songs written by Kim and Lee.

Kim's skill as a musician and composer shone through during this intimate a fun evening.



# New layout for The Broadway to go ahead!?

This week the County Council announced to residents in The Broadway plans to significantly alter the layout of the road with an improvement scheme due to begin next Spring.

The letter stated that an initial design was developed following help from the Town Council, the Civic Society, St Ives Eco Action and Local District and County Councillors.

This came as a surprise to residents and some shopkeepers, despite the County saying that owners and managers of businesses had been consulted and had 'given a high level of support' for the proposals.

The Riverporter contacted Vanessa Kelly of CCC who answered the following questions:

Q Currently large delivery lorries often turn around at the

Victorian monument at the bottom of the Broadway. After the planned changes to this area, will there still be space for them to turn here?

A Yes, our designer has auto-tracked the movements of large vehicles round the Fountain, to ensure they can get round. I'm also liaising with the Showmen's Guild on their vehicle requirements for the Michaelmas Fair. We will be reviewing the signage on the southbound approach on Ramsey Road to the junction with North Road to ensure any large vehicles

that have no need to enter The Broadway divert along North Rd.

Q These plans seem designed to support Sustainable travel and encourage cycling in St Ives. However, there are no actual cycle paths. So will this address safety concerns for cyclists.

A There is no dedicated cycle lane as part of this scheme but we are replacing the echelon/angle car parking on The Broadway with parallel parking spaces which are safer for cyclists.

Echelon parking considerably reduces drivers' visibility of

# Not everyone welcomes the scheme

Whilst some residents are pleased to see improvements, not everyone is happy.

Corrine Harwood of 'La Muse' is very angry about the proposals, which she maintains will reduce visitors to her shop due to the loss of 10 parking spaces.

'At a time when the footfall is lower than ever this could equate to 100 less people coming into the town centre' she said.

One resident has written to Vanessa Kelly asking why it is the first time they have heard of the plans and wondering why they were not consulted before.

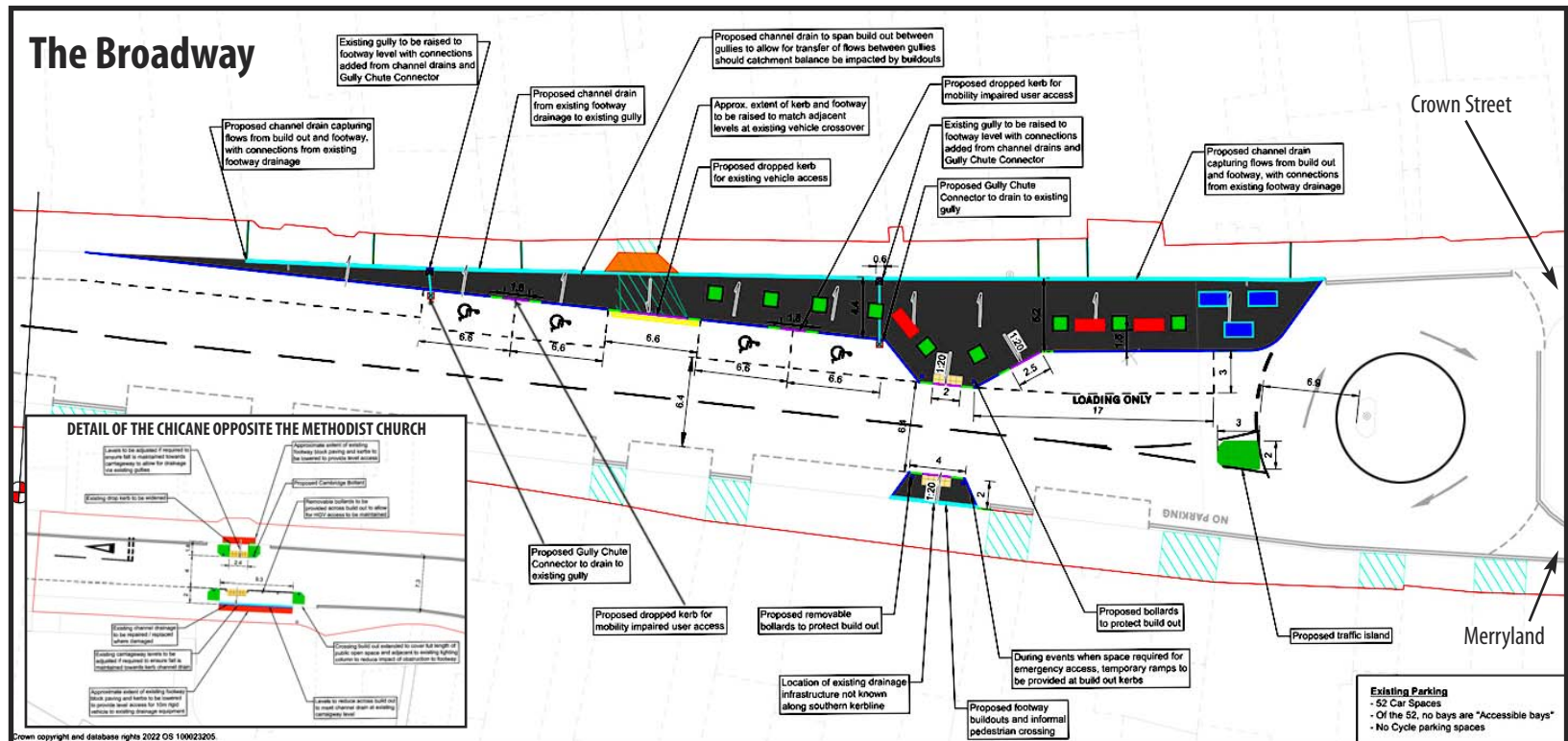
Many people have been asking for The Broadway to be improved for some time, particularly with a view to improving trade in this part of the town. However it seems that commercial considerations may not be top of the priorities.

approaching vehicles including cyclists.

The chicane at the west end of The Broadway, together with the narrowing of the carriageway towards the east end (widening of the north side footway + new crossing point), should reduce

traffic speeds and thereby improve safety and create a more pleasant environment in which to walk and cycle.

Once the scheme is in, there may be a desire to see further walking and cycling improvements in the future.





Milly & Erik love 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

### Volunteers needed for Christmas Day Lunch

THE  **Volunteer Centre** NEEDS YOU  
Huntingdonshire

The Christmas Day Lunch is once again being held in The Free Church this year and the Volunteer Centre need helpers to prepare the lunch from 2pm on Christmas Eve for about 3 hours and on Christmas Day for a few hours - from 11:00 to welcome guests, serve lunch at 13:00, join in the Carol singing and make Christmas Day lunch special for our guests who may otherwise have been alone.

We are also looking for volunteer drivers to collect our guests from noon and return our guests home from 15.30.

If you are able to volunteer for either Christmas Eve or Christmas Day at The Free Church or drive our guests to or from the Church please call us on: **01480 301462** and let us know what time you are free to help us create a special Christmas Day.

### A comment on the Neighbourhood Plan (SINP)

The SINP ought to be welcomed, as a labour of love. But it is not the clear, simple, lucid document that we might all have hoped for. Whether it is to be welcomed is uncertain.

The SINP is a curate's egg: uncertain of what it is, and tainted by association with the St Ives Masterplan, to which it pays overdue reference. The 'Masterplan' has recently been superseded by the 'Vision' and most unfortunately it is damaging for the Neighbourhood Plan as many people have confused the two documents. It would have been much better if the SINP had been finished before the appalling 'Vision' appeared.

### Don't forget to light a candle . . .

The local British Heart Foundation group will be collecting donations for 'Lighting a Candle for a Loved One' in the Bridge Chapel between 10am and 4pm on 1/3 and 9/10 December.

**Dear Erik,**  
Good morning. On behalf of St Ives Choral Society we want to say a huge thank you for your [The Riverporter's] support in publicising our concert(s). Due in no small part for your help, our Saturday concert of the Messiah was a sell-out. We rely heavily on local ticket sales so we are very grateful to you. Keep up the good work. Thanks again. **June York,**  
Publicity Officer, St Ives Choral Society

**Dear Erik,**  
**Subject: Complimentary Guide**  
I am looking at a beautifully presented and illustrated, informative Complimentary Guide for 'The Old Riverport St. Ives'. The compilers should be commended for the high quality of its design and content. Given that the town plan is designed to help the visitor navigate St. Ives, there's one important and unique feature of our town which should be clearly visible on the town plan: THE CAR TRAP. There is also near Waitrose, and a few yards from the car trap, a board displaying a town plan which doesn't feature this unique and important feature of St. Ives. For the next print run of this publication, perhaps the CAR TRAP could be included, and 'CAR TRAP' be added to the town plan display board? Sincerely, **Ann Jackson**

**Dear Erik,**  
**Subject: Solar panels**  
Can I ask, as you like a challenge, a question that nobody seems to want to answer, is 'when are the council or whoever is responsible for the solar farm at St Ives park and ride going to finish it? And when is that awful fencing surround going to be removed?' It must be 2 years now. It's a blot on the landscape to anyone visiting our lovely town by bus or any other transport. Please let the people of st Ives know or at least find something out about it. Many regards **David Tidman.**

**Dear David,** Thanks for your letter. We are on the case and have spoken with the County Council, whose project it is. They've responded with this comment: 'We apologise for the inconvenience to our Park & Ride users. We will finish the final electrical works once materials arrive in January. The fenced off area of the site will reopen when these works are completed in the New Year.' According to Kevin Reynolds, our only active County Councillor for St Ives, the materials required include microchips, a common problem since the pandemic. **ED.**

**Erik follows the Police advise and adopts an ATM!**



Here are some of the events on at The Free Church this Christmas  
See details in Diary page 1.

The Rotary Club of St Ives presents  
**A Musical Christmas Cracker Concert**  
  
**Huntingdonshire Concert Band**  
Musical Director - David McClintock  
Sunday December 10th, 2023  
Free Church, St Ives - Doors Open 5:15pm  
Concert Starts at 6:00pm  
Tickets £15.00  
Funds raised for The Acorn Cancer Support Group and Rotary Charities.  
Free refreshments during interval  
Tickets available from:  
Free Church Office, The Free Church St Ives  
Email: secretary@stivesrotarycambcs.co.uk  
Tel: 07986 835931  
Charity Commission Number: 1019329

**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  
Reserve yours now on 07971623243  
Friday, December 15th, 4.00pm at St. Ives Free Church

**ST IVES CHORAL SOCIETY**  
MUSICAL DIRECTOR **Arwen Gilbert**  
With **Julian Merson** (Organ) and **Olga Tiboum** (Piano)  
**Family Christmas Concert**  
  
FREE CHURCH, ST IVES, SATURDAY 16 DECEMBER, 6.30PM  
Tickets £8 (accompanied children under-12 free)  
Book your tickets online at ticketsource.co.uk/st-ives-choral-society

**RELENTLESS church**  
**CAROL SERVICE**  
24TH DECEMBER  
ALL WELCOME  
6.30PM - 7.30PM  
SAMSEY ROAD, ST IVES, PE27 3TB  
  
*The Night Of Hope*

**Entries Invited for Our Next  
Antiques & Interiors Sale on  
Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December**



Sold In Our Last Interiors Sale



18ct Gold Medal for Southern Counties Cross Country  
Championship winning Team Highgate H C Still 22 Feb  
1908  
**Sold £480**

Harris Tweed 3 seater sofa  
Upholstered Sofa on wooden  
fluted legs  
**Sold £350**



9ct Rose Gold double watch chain with T  
Bar 39g total weight  
**Sold £620**

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



**FROM MAYOR POPE TO DAME TROTT**

The Centre Theatre Players have revealed that our current town Mayor, Cllr Phil Pope will be appearing as Dame Trott in this year's pantomime:

**JACK AND THE BEANSTALK**

**in the Burgess Hall of One Leisure on January 10<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup>.**

Phil has been a member of The Centre Players for many years and has performed in several of their productions, most recently as the magical Genie in last year's Alladin.

So if you would like to see Phil treading the boards as the loveable Dame Trott, and haven't already purchased your tickets, then why not do so today on line from [www.ticketsource.com/burgesshall](http://www.ticketsource.com/burgesshall) or from the reception of One Leisure.

**Free Church says farewell to Dolphin friends**



On Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November members of the Free Church arranged a farewell lunch for their friends from the Dolphin, who had been told by the Government that they would be moving out the following Wednesday.

Pastor Catherine Ball asked for members to pray for Ahmed, Hamed, Zana (centre above), and all our other friends from the Dolphin, as they went through the disruptive and unsettling experience of being moved to new accommodation in various locations. *The Riverporter* understands that the asylum refugees have been dispersed throughout the country.

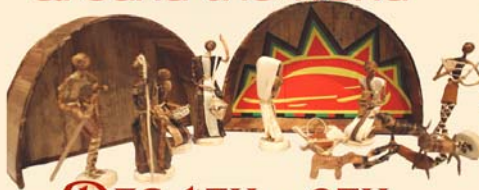
Meanwhile the Dolphin Hotel is busy redecorating and planning to reopen to the public in January. It has a very important location and should be one of the most significant venues in St Ives' burgeoning hospitality sector, especially with the shortage of accommodation in the town centre.

**NATIVITY & EXHIBITION**

120 nativity sets from  
around the world

Each set is different, some are large, others are extremely small and one or two are so tiny that they have been made for dolls' houses! Some feature teepees, others Llamas, some are made from paper or bamboo - but each tells the story of the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem over 2,000 years ago.

Group visits by arrangement  
Contact:  
23heatheroc@gmail.com



**DEC 4TH - 9TH**

MONDAY - WEDNESDAY 12-3PM  
THURSDAY - SATURDAY 10-3PM

[www.churchbytheriver.org.uk](http://www.churchbytheriver.org.uk)



**yes you can**  
with  
**Slimming  
World**

**ST IVES**

The Burleigh Hill Centre  
Constable Road, PE27 3ER

**Tuesdays 9.30 am \***  
**Thursdays 5.30 pm \***  
**Fridays 9.30 am**  
**Saturdays 8.00 am & 9.30 am**

\* Calmer sessions

For information about our  
special offers, call/message  
Kathie on 07772 868472

**Rainbows**  
1st St Ives Rainbows Presents:

**A Festive Quiz**

Bring your own booze!

Winter punch & mince pies

Kids picture round

Balloons, lucky dip & treats

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December**  
**6pm-7:30pm, eyes down at 6:30**  
**At Thorndown Primary School**

£5 per adult, teams of up to 8 (incl. kids)  
£3 per child, including crafts to keep them busy!  
\*Pre-booking Essential\*

**Soft drinks, treats and snacks available to buy, plus an amazing raffle, so bring plenty of cash!**

All profits go back into the unit, a registered charity providing amazing inclusive opportunities to local young girls.

To book, please scan the QR code to message our Facebook Page, or email us with tickets required to: [sirainbowsfundraising@gmail.com](mailto:sirainbowsfundraising@gmail.com)

Registered Charity No. 306016

**MERRY XMAS**