

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

Council miss opportunity to comment on Broadway

Cries of 'Shambles!' and 'Mish mash!' echoed round the Chamber last week as the Planning Committee attempted to manage a presentation from a representative from the County Council on the revisions the Broadway improvement scheme.



The good news is that the plans have been revised in line with feedback from retailers and the number of parking spaces removed is now only four. So the County have listened and now want to know our views on the new drawings. So far so good.

The problem arose because although noted as the first item on the notice of the meeting, but not as a formal Agenda item and therefore not in Public Participation, this meant that questions and answers raised would not be recorded.

Also as it had not been properly advertised as a public meeting, only a limited number of people knew about it via social media.

The presentation was fairly well received and a number of questions from the public were answered, although some issues still seem problematic - negotiation of HGVs

round the memorial fountain roundabout for example. But to the amazement of some, not one Councillor offered any comment. When this was queried, it was revealed that The Broadway Scheme was in fact a formal Agenda item for the following meeting, that of the Facilities Committee.

Those members of the public keen to hear what the recorded Councillor feedback would be, decided to sit through the Planning meeting, and most of the Facilities meeting, to hear what the Council thought of the amendments to the scheme, having just heard the public comments.

Another problem here though was that not all the Facilities Committee attended the Planning Committee! But worse was to come. At the start of the Amenities meeting it was pointed out that that the only

aspects of the proposals that would then be discussed would be the street furniture, rather than the major issues. Most of the public then left, feeling misled, confused and frustrated by wasted time.

An apology was offered by the Mayor who suggested a properly advertised Town Meeting might be the answer, rather than an agendered Full Council Meeting discussion, but it was acknowledged that, as time was of the essence to secure the funding on offer, neither of these options seemed practical.

'The sooner the Council gets the basics of meeting management right the better!' said one resident.

Corrine Harwood of La Muse, who had galvanised the response from the retailers to the initial plans said *'The loss of just four parking places is a good result, far better than the fourteen originally proposed.'*

Vanessa Kelly from the County Council said that the turning circle for HGVs was not affected and her presentation included visuals of how The Broadway will look when finished, see above and left.

PLEASE NOTE THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING IS NOW ON 19 APRIL!



What more can we do?

The Editors of *The Riverporter* were a little surprised by a post on a local Facebook page when someone asked 'Are there any quiz nights or bingo nights or fun things to do in St Ives where you can meet new people?'

It wasn't the question that was of concern, after all the person asking it may have just moved here. It was a response which was most surprising. It said *'Shame there isn't some kinda social group in st ives. St neots have one. They organise events i.e tapas evenings, quiz nights etc. Often done during week days - not only would you get to know new people but it also helps local businesses. Just a thought.'*

I know what you might be thinking ... yes it's not a literary classic, but then most posts do not seem to care about spelling, punctuation or the like and we are gradually learning to accept that, for better or worse depending on your point of view! No, our surprise was that someone who has been living here didn't seem to know just how much is going on in St Ives.

After all *The Riverporter* has spent most of the last seven years advertising some of the many things going on and many are free (see below). There are numerous groups, social and otherwise from the Civic Society to dance groups, from the U3A to youth groups all active. In fact it would take up all of this paper to ensure every group and activity is mentioned.

Admittedly we concentrate on one off events rather than the regular weekly meetings of groups and we realise that not everyone reads *The Riverporter*.

Informing the public is not an easy thing, particularly now, as there are so many different ways to do that with social media. Local papers are generally in decline as fewer people read them. Facebook, Instagram and the like proliferate and are sources of information but with so much out there you are not guaranteed to see the information you want to know about.

Some media is more successful than others, as highlighted by the Post Office scandal. This had been written about extensively for years and many MPs were aware of the problem long before Mr Bates verses the Post Office featured on ITV when suddenly everyone is talking about it.

Fortunately the response above was not the only reply and several people mentioned the Haywain and the Seven Wives offering bingo.

Perhaps this will help

In 2014 when the Old Riverport name was assigned to St Ives centre the Town Team launched their website which attempted to put all the information you might want to know about St Ives in one place. Despite a lot of consultation with businesses and groups it never fulfilled its aim. This was partly due to the fact that it was still a relatively new concept and various groups and businesses wanted to control their own site. It became apparent that websites must be continually kept up-to-date to function properly.

Well today the Town Council through the Cares project is about to launch the St Ives Hub website, which according to the information we have, aims to provide a central hub for people to find information about what is happening in St Ives, where to shop, local services, in fact a one stop shop.

Of course the information it will impart will only be as good as the information put in, so the Council hope their funding will allow it to be updated regularly. Also, we assume, local groups will be able to do this easily and will be encouraged to update their links and data so that it really will be the place to find out everything you need to know about St Ives.

In the meantime look at our Diary on page 2.

St Ives & Music - at Easter

Friday 29th March - The Clare Hayes Band

Smooth country-blues, three-part harmonies and rip-roaring solos. **A Free event** at 7.30pm in the Charter Hall, St Ives Corn Exchange.

Saturday 30th - Morris Dancing with Sutton Masque and Fenstanton Morris in the Town centre.

Easter Monday 1st - The Elusive Black Dog Ceilidh Band
A Free event at 7.30pm in the Charter Hall, St Ives Corn Exchange.



DIARY OF EVENTS

Here are some events to look forward to this year.
Of course if you wish to inform us of your events please email: editor@theriverporter.uk

MARCH

Saturday 23rd - Songs from the Musicals by St Ives Musical Theatre Choir and St Ives Youth Theatre. St Ives Corn Exchange. Two performances 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Tickets: £15 (£10 Students + NHS) from Corn Exchange or online at [www.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents).

Saturday 23rd - St Ives Choral Society Concert. Free Church, St Ives, 7.30pm. Tickets £18 and £15 (concessions) accompanied children U12 Free from www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-ives-choral-society.

APRIL

Saturday 6th - Greener Plants for a Greener World, Methodist Church, 10am to 3pm

Friday 19th - Community Day and Annual Town Meeting, Corn Exchange from 10am. Town meeting starts 6pm.

Saturday 27th - Mayor's Ball - Burgess Hall

MAY

Saturday 4th - UK's Blues Artist of Year nominee - Connor Selby. St Ives Corn Exchange from 7.30pm. Supported by Stella Hensley & Chris Newman. Tickets: £10 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents or venue.

Wednesday 8th - Mayor Making - St Ives Corn Exchange

Thursday 9th - Sat 11th - GUYS AND DOLLS, the fabulous musical presented by The Centre Theatre Players. The Burgess Hall of One Leisure. Tickets £12 and £15 from www.ticketsouce.com/burgesshall or reception.

Saturday 11th - Cabaret Rhumba - A Night of Burlesque. St Ives Corn Exchange from 7pm. Tickets: £16 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents

JUNE

Sunday 23rd - Picnic in The Park. Warners Park from noon. **FREE event.**

Tuesday 4th - Bible Dicing, All Saints Parish Church (TBC)

Thursday 6th - 80th Anniversary of D Day

Saturday 8th - Repair café, Methodist Church

JULY

Every Sunday in July - Music on The Waits

Friday 12th - Sunday 14th - Carnival and Music Festival - Hill Rise Park

AUGUST

Every Sunday in August - Music on The Waits

SEPTEMBER

Thursday 12th - Sunday 15th - The Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival 2024 - 26 free concerts over four days.

Saturday 14th - Heritage Open Day

Sunday 22nd - Civic Sunday (TBC)

Saturday 28th - Repair café - Methodist Church

OCTOBER

Saturday 12th - Ukulele Festival - St Ives Corn Exchange from 9.30am

Saturday 12th - Illuminated Boat Parade - The Quay

Monday 14th - Wednesday 16th - Michaelmas Fair

NOVEMBER

Sunday 10th - Remembrance Parade

Sunday 24th - ArtsFEST, St Ives Corn Exchange 10 am to 4 pm

DECEMBER

Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th December - Santas SnowFEST - St Ives Corn Exchange - includes Santa Arriving by Boat on Saturday 14th Dec.

Return of the cattle imminent

You might be wondering where the animals that grazed on the roundabout by Morrisons have gone?

Well they are currently having a wonderful time at a Spar, just for wicker cattle, up near Chester.

The result is they are feeling well and truly regenerated and will soon be returning to their favourite spot in St Ives.

Just to put your mind at rest, for those of you who worry about these things, here are pictures of Porky Pig and Woolly Sheep looking refreshed after a complete make-over and a Linseed oil bath. The oil is designed to help their joints and resist the harsh effects of the weather, especially hot summer sun, following the heavy rains we have been experiencing.

Caroline Gregson, who is in charge of the Spar has said that Gertrude Cow is now being lovingly massaged and as soon as her treatment is finished all three will be packing their bags for the return trip to St Ives.



Dancing in the Old Riverport

Saturday 30th March



THE OLD RIVERPORT JAZZ & BLUES FESTIVAL 2024

Introducing Shufflepack

This is blues to make you want to jump and shout. With a blazing front line of harmonica, sax and guitar, and shuffling, swinging rhythms in the classic style, The Shufflepack is for dancers as well as true blues fans.

Shufflepack are the darlings of the Birmingham Jazz & Blues Festival and have had standing ovations at the UK's finest blues clubs.

Their set blends blues favourites like Bright Lights Big City, Red Rooster and T-Bone Shuffle with our own material in the Chicago style, including the showstopping Watch That Thing.

They are: Tom Domagala, sax and flute; Roger Bromley, guitar; Les Calvert, bass; Chris Lloyd, drums and Stuart Maxwell, vocals and harmonica and you can see them on Sunday 15th September at 4pm in the Nelson's Head.

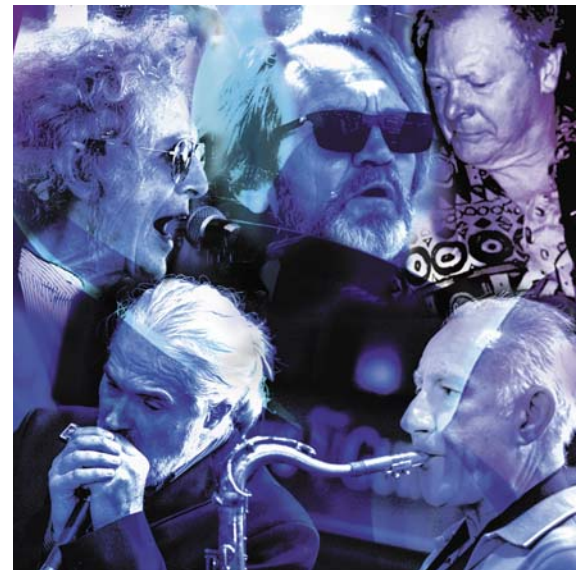
Supporting the Jazz & Blues Festival ...

Remember every one of the 26 concerts is free to attend thanks to the Town Team. Your can help us keep it free by coming to our fundraising concert with the best Blues artist around - see right. Only £10 a ticket. Also you can buy one of our popular T-shirts, which has all the bands printed on the back. This year we are also issuing a Festival CD with a track from nearly every band.

Why not order yours now by

emailing: townteam@stivescambridgeshire.co.uk.

Simply send your name, address, phone number and t-shirt size (small to 3XL) and whether you want just the t-shirt or the CD, or both.



Connor Selby

Nominated for Blues Artist of the year
Saturday 4th May - St Ives Corn Exchange
Tickets: £10 from the Corn Exchange or from www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents
A TOWN TEAM EVENT



The Lesson

Thursday 18 April 2024 at 7:30pm

(Note, this is the 3rd Thursday of April)

Doors open 6:30pm. Tickets £7

Director: Alice Troughton, 106m, Cert: 15

Synopsis

As an aspiring novelist, Liam Sommers (Richard E Grant) looks up to Hélène Sinclair (Julie Delpy). Being hired to tutor Sinclair's son and to spend the summer living on this author's estate, must have been akin to winning the lottery for a talented young writer yet to land a publishing deal. Liam's work, however, extends beyond tutoring. He's tasked by Sinclair to help him with his IT troubles, whenever his printer or computer acts up. That's when Liam begins to see Sinclair's true face.

Ticket at 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 is looking forward to the Morris Dancing.



having your say ...

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

OTHER NEWS

Town Meeting date change

Organised by St Ives Town Council, the Annual Town meeting will now take place at 6pm on Friday 19th April in the Corn Exchange, following the St Ives Community Day which will take place in St Ives Corn Exchange earlier that day. This is a day for all community groups across the town to network and find out about what other groups do, as well as a day for local residents to come along and find out more about the various activities and social support groups they can connect with. The Annual Town meeting is your chance to quiz Councillors about Town issues, of which there are always many. Often the same issues come up time and again, which sadly means that not a lot changes despite good intentions. One issue we can guarantee will be high on the list is parking and the lack of enforcement. This may be solved in the next 12 months so 2025's Town Meeting might need to raise some new issues!

Drug dealer threw cocaine onto roof

A man who tried to throw £2,500 of cocaine onto a garage roof as he was pursued by police has been jailed. Liam Haliday, 23, was seen by police officers getting into a taxi outside his home in St Ives Road, Hemingford Grey, on 1 November. They stopped the taxi, but Haliday attempted to escape and ran onto a nearby driveway where he threw the bag of cocaine onto a garage roof. After his arrest he was found to be carrying cannabis, scales, deal bags, a burner phone, £90 in cash, and an iPhone in his bag. Haliday appeared at Cambridge Crown Court on Thursday 29 February, where he was sentenced to three years and eight months in prison.

Grafham Water want more groups to use it

Ed Groome from Cambs County Council is keen to ensure more adult groups use Grafham Water. They have recently has SEN groups attend and have worked with FACT to put on transport. It is possible they may also be able to provide bursaries to assist groups to attend. Meeting rooms are also available. You can get in contact if you or your group would be interested in visiting by emailing grafham.water@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

People urged to count plastic this month

St Ives people are being urged to count their plastic waste this month as part of The Big Plastic Count. Organised by Greenpeace and Every Day Plastic, it hopes to use the results to put pressure on the Government to push for a strong and ambitious Global Plastics Treaty, to protect people and our planet from plastic production and pollution through a commitment to cut global plastic production by at least 75% by 2040.



The Refill Shop of Ikigai in St Ives aims to help people reduce their single use plastic consumption by offering refills of food, cleaning and personal care products, and is encouraging people to take part. Owner of the shop, Martin Cooper (above), said: 'The Big Plastic Count will help us really see just how many items we buy in single use plastic and how many we are throwing away – either into the recycling or into the bin if it can't be recycled – to understand the extent of the plastic problem we face.'

In 2022, almost 250,000 people from schools, households and communities across the country made The Big Plastic Count the biggest ever investigation into UK household plastic waste. Martin added: 'With almost 100 billion pieces of plastic packaging thrown away by UK households every year, and just 12% of it being recycled in the UK, we all have a part to play.' The Big Plastic Count starts on Monday 11 March. Sign up at www.thebigplasticcount.com

On-line comments funny

We were amused by this post recently. Below this picture it said: *Could anyone explain why the sign at Ramsey Road says it takes 8 mins to walk to the 'Local Centre' but according to the the sign at the 'Local Centre' it only takes 7 mins to walk back to Ramsey Road, but the cycle time is the same.*



Some of the answers were priceless ...

Pretty obvious if you look at the signs! The man who walks it in 7 minutes gets on the bike and rides for a while [but] the other man is walking away from the bike ... It's downhill on the way back ... Tailwind ... Obviously the bloke on the return leg is in the bikes slipstream - simple science! ... It accounts for the earths rotation ... Because the top sign has a person watching out for cyclists coming from behind? In the bottom sign he/she does not have to keep looking behind ... Because you're more tired walking back, and full of coffee cake or a meal not hard to work out is it. ... Going home quickly probably with a need to go to the toilet now !!! and finally the suggestion that ... *It's the space time continuum.*

Hinchingsbrooke Head resigns

Mark Patterson's resignation letter (below) highlights one of the downsides of Academy schools. While budgets are so tight any loss of funds is critical and in Hinchingsbrooke's case this is more apparent, as being in an important listed building the school has major expenses in maintaining it. Mr Patterson, who was forced out from St Ivo School by its governors, was popular with parents who organised a 'Bring Back Mr Patterson' campaign. Riverporter sources have said that teachers at Hinchingsbrooke are sad at his departure and some have threatened to strike over it.

One of the comments regularly heard concerns the pay Academy Trustees earn, which some consider excessive. Also that they are able to do as they wish with little external governance.

Dear Erik,
Subject: Supping Brews in the Pews



Of All Saints' Church
We saw photos plastered all over, online
Of glum folk, but for what do they search
In this holy place, erst so sublime?

But alas, what disturbs this sacred scene,
To many of us so dear and familiar?
It is the sight of glasses
And other beer paraphernalia,
Our beautiful altar in use
Like any shelf or other piece
Of furniture miscellanea.

Supping brews in pews is hardly divine.
To church they may have come
For the Communion bread and wine,
But get instead ale (and the odd crumb).
Served up from barrel upon barrel,
Racked and stacked, in line upon line.

Do we spy a new Friar Tuck?
What is there to save
In this hedonistic, hellish conclave?
Why oh why in St Ives
Did we so run out of luck?

Doberman

Dear Parents and Carers
Resignation from my post as Principal at Hinchingsbrooke School
I am writing to you to tell you that I will be leaving my post as Principal at Hinchingsbrooke School at the end of this school year.
I leave with a heavy heart - I am not retiring, and I do not have another job to go to (as I write this). I am leaving because I have raised significant concerns with the ACES* Trust Board around the leadership of the trust, how the trust operates at its top levels, and the high amount that the trust takes from the ACES schools' budgets (often called the 'top-slice', the trust top-slices around three quarters of a million pounds each year from Hinchingsbrooke School's budget), and the trustees have said that they do not share my concerns and they are not prepared to act on any of them.
My concerns are shared in the other schools in the ACES trust: last summer all of the ACES Headteachers co-wrote a statement to the ACES Trust Board and the Chief Executive outlining our concerns and we made a number of proposals for change - very little has changed as a result. My decision to leave has not been made hastily - I have been working behind the scenes for years to change things; unfortunately, from my point of view, that work has not yielded a positive result, and that is why I have now decided, reluctantly, to leave. I wish things were different; if they were, I would be staying, and gladly.
On the positive side: Hinchingsbrooke School is strong: our last Ofsted inspection judged the school solidly 'Good' in all areas; last summer saw the school's best-ever outcomes at the end of Year 11 and Year 13; the school is hugely over-subscribed - we have more first-preference applications for places in Year 7 in September 2024 than any other school in the county; we have great students who are very well supported by committed parents and carers, and we have a dedicated and caring staff team who are willing to go the extra mile every day for our students. We are in a very good place as a school and hopefully, a new School Principal will be able to help Hinchingsbrooke School on its journey from Good to Great.
Please be assured that in the time remaining to me at the school, I will do my very best for my colleagues and our students, your children.
I would like to finish by saying a huge thank you to you for your continuing support for our school. I am very grateful to you.
Best wishes
Mark Patterson
Principal



St Ives in Bloom



Do you remember the summer display on The Waits? Did you know it won gold and "Best Local Authority display" in the whole Anglia region?



You have a chance to come and hear Trevor, from Cranbrook Plant Nursery, Somersham, explain how he designs the flowerbeds and chooses and grows the pollinator-friendly plants with both biodiversity and visual impact in mind.

Take home ideas for beautiful wildlife-friendly gardening by visiting: "Greener Plants for a Greener World" on Saturday April 6th, at the Methodist Church, The Waits, from 10am to 3pm (talks at 10.30am, 12 noon and 1.30pm).

Refreshments will be available. ALL WELCOME!!



Chapel Arts 2024

This years programme has now been arranged and what a year it will be.

Chapel Arts was introduced to bring a range of music across all styles and genres. They are intimate concerts in smaller venues creating a wonderful rapport between audience and performers. We have already had the brilliant

Brooks Williams in January and last month Stella Hensley's Musical Amigos played to a full house. Rather special this year will be three extra concerts all in St Leger's Chapel on the Bridge, where Chapel Arts sessions started in 2017. They are:

Friday 19th April - Federico Pecchia - Argentinian Guitarist.

Saturday 11th May - Daniela Rossi - (right) one of the finest classical guitarists launching her long awaited recordings of the works of Giulio Regondi.

Saturday 6th July - Sebastian Pompilio and Justin Hyer return after last year's successful charity concert in aid of Amnesty International.

PLEASE NOTE: we are unable to charge for concerts in the Bridge Chapel. As space is limited please book at www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives to reserve a seat. You may make a donation if you wish.



There are also the following concerts in the Riverport Café Bar. All start at 7.30pm. Tickets are £10 from the Bar or from www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents

Friday 31st May - The Lightwaves - Playing well known numbers.

Friday 28th June - Lexie Green and Johnny Wright - Americana.

Friday 26th July - COSI String Quartet - Playing a range of classics.

Friday 30th August - Huntingdonshire Guitar Ensemble - 7 guitarists.

Friday 27th September - GetNotGot - Contemporary jazz and funk.

Friday 11th October - Upwood Ukuleles - Having fun with Ukuleles.

Friday 25th October - 4 Winds Sax Quartet - Four exceptional players.

Friday 29th November - Chris Newman & Humfry Finkel - Ragtime.

THE COURTYARD, a hidden gem in the heart of St Ives.

An eclectic mix of traders and pods. Situated between St Ives Bus Station and Hyperion Auctions on Station Road.



We offer kids craft workshops over the school holidays too.

A unique mini high street in the heart of St Ives. Small businesses showcasing their talents.

Fantastic and vibrant selection of traders selling baby and toddler clothes, candles, Curios, handmade glass art, clothes, furniture, collectibles, unique jewellery, refills and eco products, watches and clocks plus repairs, artwork, books, gift ideas and St Ives' only pet shop.

Whilst you are browsing enjoy a cup of freshly made coffee and a tasty bacon roll from Kate's Coffee Pod.

Open 7 days a week Monday to Saturday 9-5 and Sunday 10-4.

Here at The Courtyard, we feel incredibly proud of our work and supportive local community. Thank you so much to you all for your kind words and continued support.