

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

Erik's bid for Mayor thwarted

A presentation to Wednesday's Town Council meeting, by the Editor of *The Riverporter* in support of Erik to become Mayor, fell on deaf ears as councillors eventually selected Pasco Hussain to take up the role for a second time.

Current Mayor, Cllr Pope, explained that councillors were about to select their 'Preferred Nomination' for Mayor, unlike previous years they would no longer be 'Mayor Elect'. At the start of the meeting, under public participation, *The Riverporter* Editors put forward Erik as a candidate for Mayor.

They emphasised Erik's suitability for the role. His love of being the centre of attention and attending functions where there is a buffet, and that he is used to wearing a chain.

As readers of this paper will know Erik is a good listener and capable of great Wit and Wisdom, all qualities needed for the role of Mayor.

However councillors failed to accept this nomination and instead Cllr Hussain was proposed by Cllr Burke and Cllr Pope was proposed by Cllr Gleadow, resulting in a vote.

It has been a difficult year for the Council, as both candidates accepted, and so it was a little ironic that the vote ended in a tie - 7 votes for each candidate, the result of three of the seventeen councillors being absent. This put Cllr Pope in a difficult position as the normal procedure would be for the Chairman to have a casting vote, which, as he was a candidate, could be considered unfair. Fortunately one councillor abstained during a second round of voting and Cllr Hussain (right) was victorious 7 votes to 6.

Erik who sat through the whole procedure, tail wagging, was magnanimous in defeat wishing Pasco all the best for the year. He didn't even mention anti-canine bias during the vote!

The vote for the 'Preferred Nomination' for Deputy Mayor was



more straight forward as the current incumbent, Councillor Julie Kerr, was elected unanimously.

In his acceptance speech Pasco said that he had been disappointed by the events of the past year and hoped all councillors would work together for a new positive future for the Town and residents. Cllr Pope agreed and offered to help Cllr Pasco in any way he could.

Televised Inquiry more interesting than TV drama

I don't know whether, like me, you are keeping an eye on the Post office Horizon Inquiry, but since Tuesday's resumption I have been hooked.

Mr Bates vs The Post Office was brilliant TV and brought the scandal to the attention of the public but the true story of how a once revered public institution, owned by the Government, ruined the lives of so many people is even more dramatic. Described as the greatest ever miscarriage of justice it sums up our

current malaise. I often hear that nothing ever works properly. From dentists to banks, from parking machines to road repairs. World news is even more dispiriting, I can't take any more.

But listening to Alan Bates and Lord Arbuthnot at the Horizon Inquiry one realises just how bad things are. If Lord Arbuthnot, a pillar of the establishment, ex Eton Head Boy and MP couldn't get anything done then what is the hope for any of us.

At least they come out of it well and Alan Bates should be knighted for his unwavering efforts.

I am angry

It is easy to blame the system. But really it is people who make the system and somehow those people are protected. I am angry because no-one has been prosecuted yet, but I live in hope that will change.

We will see as those responsible for this debacle face the Inquiry over the next four months. **ED.**

Easter Roundup

Easter in St Ives was a welcome change as the weather improved and throughout Saturday the sun shone as dancers enjoyed Market Hill, The Quay and Waits by the Bandstand.

The weekend began with a well attended and enjoyable concert by the Clare Hayes Band, followed by a Ceilidh with the Elusive Black Dog band.



Above: A packed dance floor at the ceilidh. Below: The Clare Hayes Band.



Right: Sutton Masque on The Quay. Below: A sunny Easter Monday Market and left: Fenstanton Morris enjoying The Waives and Bandstand.



Photograph I. Jackson

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

APRIL

Friday 19th - COMMUNITY DAY AND ANNUAL TOWN MEETING, Corn Exchange from 10am. The Town meeting, where you can question the Council on its work starts at 6pm.

Friday 19th - Federico Pecchia - Argentinian Guitarist playing Tango's and more in St Leger Chapel on the Bridge at 7.30pm. **PLEASE NOTE:** This is a free concert, however space is limited so please book at www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives to reserve a seat. You may make a donation if you wish.

Saturday 27th - Mayor's Ball - Burgess Hall. Details from the Town Hall.

MAY

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

Saturday 11th - Daniela Rossi - one of the finest classical guitarists around, launching her long awaited recordings of the works of Guilio Regondi. St Leger Chapel on the Bridge at 7.30pm.

PLEASE NOTE: This is a free concert. We are unable to charge for concerts in the Chapel. However space is limited so please book at www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives to reserve a seat. You may make a donation if you wish.

Wednesday 8th - Mayor Making - St Ives Corn Exchange.

Thursday 9th - Sat 11th - GUYS AND DOLLS - fabulous musical presented by The Centre Theatre Players. The Burgess Hall. Tickets £12 and £15 www.ticketsource.com/burgesshall.

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.

Saturday 22 June - Love songs for a June evening - St Ives Choral Society.

St Ives Free Church, 7.30pm Tickets £16 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-ives-choral-society.

JULY

Every Sunday in July - Music on The Waits.

Saturday 6th - Sebastian Pompilio and Justin Hyer return after last year's successful Amnesty International concert. St Leger Chapel at 7.30pm.

PLEASE NOTE: This is a free concert as we are unable to charge for concerts in the Chapel. However space is limited so please book at www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives to reserve a seat. You may make a donation.

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 see the full programme at www.stivescambridgeshire.co.uk.

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. A **FREE event.**

Monday 14th - Wednesday 16th - Michaelmas Fair - Town Centre.

NOVEMBER

Sunday 10th - Remembrance Parade.

Sunday 24th - ArtsFest - St Ives Corn Exchange 10 am to 4 pm.



ST. IVES COMMUNITY DAY

Friday 19th April 2024 at The St Ives Corn Exchange

Come and find out more about local organisations and community groups

10am-2pm **COMMUNITY COLLECTIVE**



The Annual Town Meeting will be after from 6 to 8pm

For any questions then please contact Jane on stivescares@stivestowncouncil.gov.uk or 01480 388929

THE OLD RIVERPORT JAZZ & BLUES FESTIVAL 2024 Introducing Fred's House

Fred's House comprise of friends Vix, Prue, Lachlan, Gafyn and Paul who are based in Cambridge. They are an award-winning band, well-known for their very lively and entertaining shows, they also have those songs that bring a tear to the eye.

They have the Saturday afternoon slot on The Quay so expect to hear catchy melodies, feel-good vibes and powerhouse vocals.

It will feature four-part harmonies, soaring violin, rocking guitar and a dancing rhythm section.

Fred's House has performed more gigs than they care to remember, including headline tours of the UK and China, playing some big festival stages such as Cambridge Folk Festival, Acoustic Festival of Britain and Bestival. Having just won the Break Out Award at the NMG Awards 2023, Fred's House are close to releasing their fourth album.

You can see them at The Quay on Saturday 14th September at 2pm.



Superb, intimate concerts in the comfortable Riverport Café Bar on the last Friday of each month.

- 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 - Seven 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.

All start at 7.30pm. Tickets are £10 from the Bar or from www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents.



Don't miss out on our first ever Festival CD

A double CD featuring 26 tracks from the bands playing this year.

Plus - get your Festival T-Shirt.

Both will be available at the Connor Selby (left) concert on Saturday 4th May in the Corn Exchange.

Tickets are just £10 from the Corn Exchange or from www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents.

From 4th May you can also order **T-Shirts** and **CDs** online @

<https://www.mitsa.co.uk/products/customer-shops/riverport-jazz/shop>



Erik hoped to be appointed Mayor.



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

Cattle 'Trucked' to St Ives

As we reported in RP154 the cattle have been taking a break and two weeks ago they came home, courtesy of Kevin Page who collected them on his trailer. Pictured is Caroline Gregson (Willow Weaver) who gave them all a re-weave and rub down with Linseed Oil, ready for the summer ahead. They will soon be back eating the grass on the roundabout.



Dear Erik,
Subject: Missing A's (see RP155)
It seems that the missing A's are back. I've found them easily available on all three of the parking machines used in the last three weeks. So - good result and great cartoon!
Stewart

Dear Erik,
Subject: Broadway Parking
Motorists are getting desperate to park in The Broadway!



But others are continuing to be selfish in Crown Street ...



Hello Erik!
Please can you publish the below in the next issue of the Riverporter.
Open day for Huntingdonshire Speakers Club at the Ferry Boat Inn in April.
It's a great group! I live in St Ives. And I have met a great group of people through the group and made so many good friends. I'd recommend it to anybody. Thanks, John

Awards galore for Hunts Speakers group.
Debbie McManus and John Marsh have won various competitions and will now be competing against 191 clubs across the UK and Ireland in the finals this May. Debbie will be competing in the impromptu speech competition and John will be competing in the humorous speech competition. Another member, Adrian Podmore, hopes to join them.
Debbie thinks the club has been so successful because it is very welcoming to its new members. She adds that the amount of talent and enthusiasm from our members at the club is not only good for winning awards, but also great to encourage even the most nervous public speaker to blossom.
If you would like to visit the club to see what it's all about Huntingdonshire speakers is opening their doors for an open night on **Tuesday 23rd April** at the Old Ferry Boat Inn, Holywell, St. Ives, PE27 4TG. Entrance is free and includes buffet refreshments for all guests. For more information, please contact huntsspeakers@gmail.com



Trader bags a Merc.
Bank Holiday Easter Monday saw a slightly rejuvenated market, a most welcome return of traders and sunshine.
However one trader found that he had to build his pitch around a parked car, which had failed to leave Market Hill after midnight on Sunday.
We are not sure if he managed to get a good price for it but hope that the owner was suitably embarrassed by their poor parking.

Beer Festival at Corn Ex. a success

The Corn Exchange's first beer festival held from Thursday 4th to Saturday 6th April was well attended and may well happen more regularly as a result. As well 30 different beers there was music from The 29th Funktion and RJ Archer & The Painful Memories. Below: Mayor Phil Pope was on hand to open the event and test the ale.



HEMINGFORD LADIES CHOIR

military wives **Choirs**

Wyton & Brampton

Military Wives Choir

Hemingford Ladies Choir

CONCERT UNDER THE DIRECTION OF ELAINE GUNN
WITH PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT BY ANNA ALDOUS AND TONY HULME

AN AFTERNOON OF SONG WITH TEA AND SCONES

3PM SAT 20TH APRIL

THE FREE CHURCH ST IVES

No entry charge
Donations in support of the Sue Ryder St John's Hospice Moggerhanger

Sue Ryder is a charity registered in England and Wales (1052076)

SSII Screen St Ives Community Cinema

The Lesson
Thursday 18 April 2024 at 7:30pm
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 H el ene 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.

Anatomy of a Fall
Thursday 2 May 2024 at 7:30pm
Doors open 6:30pm. Tickets £7
Director: Justine Trier, 152m, Cert: 15

Synopsis: This legal drama revolves around the death of Samuel Maleski (Samuel Theis), an aspiring writer and occasional professor, with inconsistencies in his autopsy suggesting this was no tragic accident. Samuel's wife, Sandra (Sandra H uller), is the only one at home during the fateful event, becomes the prime suspect and the centre of a sensationalised trial. To prove her innocence, Sandra must insist that the fall was not an accident, but that it was her husband's intention to kill himself, fracturing her family in the process.

Ticket at screenstives.org.uk or in the Corn Exchange

First meeting for new Councillor
This week's council was the first attended by the new Town Councillor Martin Page (RP155). Mr Page was a partner and then a Director of Brown & Co. His expertise in planning matters should be useful to the Town Council, which is a statutory consultee on all planning applications within the parish.



Update from St Ives Day Centre
Members were busy making decorations for Easter. The range of artistic talent was amazing with painting, colouring and paper mache work and the tables looked fabulous.



St Ives Electric Riverboat Co

Great Ouse RIVER TRIPS



PASSENGER TRIPS FROM THE QUAY

Early Bird Trips

Join us from 6am to 8am as we cruise along the river and experience the dawn chorus.

April 21st & 28th, May 5th, 12th & 19th, June 2nd & 9th.



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info@electricriverboats.co.uk



Great Ouse Valley Trust
Our landscape for life

Annual General Meeting

April 20, 2024, Offord Village Hall,
High Street, Offord Cluny PE19 5RR

The meeting will start at 10.30am
and coffee is available from 10am.

With a talk by Martin Lineson on Nature Friendly Farming

The Nature Friendly Farming Network is a membership organisation led by farmers, working alongside other organisations and public supporters. Together, they are a strong voice for sustainable food and farming in the UK. The organisation recognises that a farmer's job is to produce food sustainably while delivering multiple important outcomes.

If you have any questions to put to the AGM please submit these in advance by email to:
helenboothman@btinternet.com



yes you can
with
Slimming
World

Would you love to
Socialise? Enjoy meals out. Go on holiday?
And lose weight?

Find out how in one of your local groups!

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

Kathie 07772 868472
Vikki 07955 155215
Kathie 07772 868472
Kathie 07772 868472

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.



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.