

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

Hart of the town to reopen

Some good news at last, as the White Hart, a very significant pub in the town centre is re-opening this Monday 24th June at Noon. Philip Lloyd will take over as the landlord and hopes to run a pub for the whole community.

Philip Lloyd, who was born in Scarborough, but has lived in St Ives for many years and has been a customer of the White Hart for at least 10 of those years, enjoying the community it had brought together. Following its closure at Easter, Philip decided to take it on, as he didn't want to see it close. He decided to incorporate his passion for White Hart with business, and has put a lot of effort and money into bringing the pub back to life and also hopes to bring the community back into it.

Philip has a background as a site manager, so many aspects of the work required for the reopening he has done himself.

Previously Philip worked in the kitchen and the bar, all good training for the role of pub manager.

He aspires to keep the community pub feel by offering a good range of drinks and food at reasonable prices, including a quality traditional



Sunday lunch for the very reasonable price of £10.

Philip says he has hired a good team that will give friendly and efficient service and hopes that the addition of a pool table will encourage the younger generation to also become part of his community.

In the future Philip would like to get the place fully re-fitted and become

a space everyone can enjoy.

The Riverporter wish Philip and his team the best of luck as they bring one of the oldest pubs in the heart of town back to life.

An old coaching inn, it will be interesting to see if the pub will also offer bed & breakfast facilities as it used to, as there is a shortage of rooms available in St Ives.

Sunshine expected for music event

This Sunday's Picnic in the Park featuring family fun activities, food stalls, a beer tent and live music looks set to be a great day out, with sunshine and warm weather. A welcome change from some of the wet and cold days we have been experiencing since Spring.



The Free to attend fun event starts at noon and continues to 6pm with music from 5 Star Swing, The Word, Reggie Ray and the Chatteris & Manea Silver Band. Run by Festival Event St Ives, you can enjoy a family picnic in the lovely setting of Warners Park. Next Month FEST will be holding their weekly 'Music on The Waits' concerts at the Bandstand, starting at 2.30pm each Sunday during July and August.



Superb, intimate concerts in The Riverport Café at St Ives Corn Exchange



Next Friday 28th June

Lexie Green & Johnny Boy Wright



A chance to enjoy the brilliant songs and wonderful voice of Lexie, accompanied by the magic guitar playing of Johnny 'Magic Boy' Wright. A perfect combination for a relaxing start to the weekend.

Doors open at 6.45pm concert starts at 7.30pm. Tickets £10 from the Bar or www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents

DIARY OF EVENTS

If you wish to inform us of your events please email: editor@theriverporter.uk

JULY

Every Sunday in July and August - Music on The Waits - 2.30pm.

Wednesday 3rd - Engage Talk - The Beatles - Songs and Stories St Ives Library. 2pm.

Saturday 6th - Saturday Art Club (for children) St Ives Library 10am £1.

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

Saturday 13th - COSI Summer Concert 7.30pm Saturday. Free Church. Tickets £10 (U16s Free) on the door or via ticketsource <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/chamber-orchestra-of-st-ives>.

Wednesday 17th - Branch Meeting of St Ives Royal British Legion, 11:30 am at St Ives Ivy Leaf Club, 23 The Broadway, St Ives.

Thursday 18th - Commemoration for the 80th anniversary of the battles of Kohima and Imphal. 10:45am at St Ives War Memorial.

Friday 26th - Chapel Arts concert with COSI String Quartet - Playing a range of classics. St Ives Corn Exchange 7.30pm. Tickets £10 from the Bar or www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents.

AUGUST

Every Sunday in August - Music on The Waits. The Bandstand 2.30pm

Friday 30th - Chapel Arts concert with Huntingdonshire Guitar Ensemble - Seven guitarists. St Ives Corn Exchange 7.30pm. Tickets £10 from the Bar or www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents.

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).

Friday 27th - Chapel Arts concert with GetNotGot - Contemporary jazz and funk. St Ives Corn Exchange 7.30pm. Tickets £10 from the Bar or www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents.

Saturday 28th - Repair café - Methodist Church.

Are hustings results unreliable?

There have been two hustings in our area recently. The first in the new St Neots constituency was claimed to have been unreliable as an indicator of which candidate has received the most support according to the organiser, Ste Greenall of Black Cat Radio. It appears that the interactive smart phone app was shared outside of the meeting and therefore the results could have been rigged. The results have therefore not been divulged. Meanwhile the result of the second hustings in Huntingdon Town Hall on Tuesday was published by the Hunts Post as a clear win for the Labour candidate Alex Bulat.

Votes taken before and after the event were:

Huntingdon Hustings 2024 - BEFORE the debate (78 votes)

- Alex Bulat (Labour)** - 30 votes - 38.5%
- Undecided** - 15 votes - 19.2%
- Ben Obese-Jecty (Conservatives)** - 14 votes - 17.9%
- Chan Abraham (Independent)** - 9 votes - 11.5%
- Mark Argent (Liberal Democrats)** - 6 votes - 7.7%
- Sarah Smith (Reform)** - 3 votes - 3.8%
- Georgie Hunt (Green)** - 1 vote - 1.3%

Huntingdon Hustings 2024 - AFTER the debate (79 votes)

- Alex Bulat (Labour)** - 31 votes - 39.2%
- Ben Obese-Jecty (Conservatives)** - 28 votes - 35.4%
- Chan Abraham (Independent)** - 8 votes - 10.1%
- Mark Argent (Liberal Democrat)** - 4 votes - 5.1%
- Undecided** - 4 votes - 5.1%
- Sarah Smith (Reform)** - 2 votes - 2.5%
- Georgie Hunt (Green)** - 2 votes - 2.5%

There were two spoiled votes.

Obviously these relatively small samples cannot be a clear indication of the likely winner but it does pose a couple of issues. The first is that Ben Obese-Jecty doubled his vote after the debate, whilst Alex Bulat only added one vote. All other candidates lost votes, except Georgie Hunt who doubled hers to two. One of the real surprises is that Mark Argent of the Liberal Democrats failed to make an impression in a constituency that the Lib Dems have been gaining votes locally. Huntingdon could see a close-run election for a change.

If you are seeking an opportunity that's both rewarding and life-changing? Consider fostering.



Ruth, a primary school teacher for twenty years, transitioned to becoming a foster carer after being inspired by a boy in her class who was in foster care.

Initially, Ruth couldn't pursue fostering due to lack of space at home, but when her daughter went to university, she contacted Nexus Fostering for more information.

'I chatted to my family and talked to friends, and they all said go for it,' Ruth recalls.

Ruth remembers the arrival of her first foster children: 'When the girls arrived, they were so happy to be here. They had something to eat and went to bed well. It was lovely to put them to bed and go downstairs, knowing they were both asleep and safe upstairs. I knew I had made the right decision to foster.'

Could you become a foster carer?

At Nexus Fostering we are looking for foster carers to join us. Contact us on 01223 903 503 or visit www.nexusfostering.co.uk.

Sewage discharge not a new problem

This snippet came from the excellent COPE newsletter about a time when Queen Victoria made a visit to Cambridge. The City lacked proper drains and all its excrement went into the Cam.

Standing on Trinity Bridge, the Queen asked the Master 'what are all those pieces of papers doing on the river?' Diplomatically, the Master replied, 'Those Ma'am are notices that bathing is forbidden.'

Ironically, in recent years swimming in the Cam was cancelled during the Ironman contest, because of its high e coli content. Nothing new then!

COPE in St Ives

2 pm to 4 pm in the Corn Exchange. Meetings held on 3rd Thursday of each month. Entry is £2.00 and includes refreshments and the celebrated £1 Raffle. Friends, carers and partners are welcome.

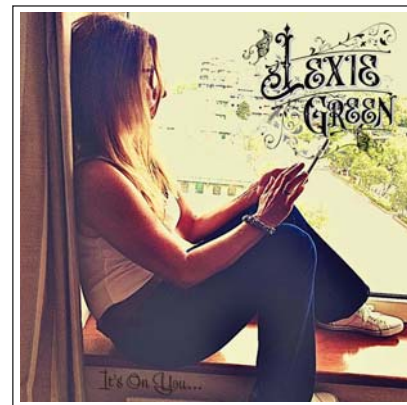
Topics 18th July - Nature Reserve, 19th September - Where have all the Characters gone?.



Michael Sumner of Riverport Books is looking up - so is The Broadway! **Luka That**

THE OLD RIVERPORT JAZZ & BLUES FESTIVAL 2024

Lexie Green & The Indigo Blue



Lexie Green is a singer-songwriter from Cambridgeshire (UK) who describes her influences as Americana, Country, Vintage Blues and good old-fashioned Rock 'n' Roll.

Her passion for songwriting and hard work has gained her a number of international song writing awards and multiple album releases to critical success,

including being chosen by Bob Harris, the BBC Radio 2 production team and The Long Road Festival organisers to perform on the BBC Introducing stage at the first Long Road Festival in 2018.

She has had multiple local BBC Introducing performances, airplay and was a regular pick of the BBC Uploader choices by presenters.

International Recognition - Lexie's 2019 live album release 'Live at Bobs Records' attracted national recognition with Maverick Magazine awarding it a Maverick seal of approval plus a 5 Star review. Lexie also caught the attention of multiple international magazines and radio stations with notable mentions of her songwriting strength and her 'Raw yet soulful voice with a timbre that mixes Melissa Etheridge and Katie Melua' (Blues Magazine)

Live - Lexie is always 'out there' performing, touring nationally around the UK, either solo, duo or accompanied with her full band of good friends Steve, Sam, John and Kat she fondly calls 'The Indigo Blue'.

Over the past few years she has built up a strong reputation for her live performances. Recognised and respected by venues, promoters, radio presenters and audiences as a crowd loving and excellent live act.

Her happy presence shines through, winning over venues and audiences alike. Lexie loves nothing more than to write and perform great music, bring a smile, raise an audience to their dancing feet and make you feel like you are a huge part of that moment.

You can see Lexie and the Indigo Blue at this year's Festival at Floods Tavern on Saturday 14th September at 5pm.

If you can't wait ... you can see her next Friday. See the front page.

Advocate of the Old Riverport dies

The Riverporter is sad to announce that Chris Lewis has died at the age of 80 after a long illness. Chris, who died on Sunday 6th June moved to St Ives in 1997 and immediately threw himself into the interests and activities of the town.

Chris joined St Ives Town Initiative when it was first set up and later became a supporter of the campaign to save the Corn Exchange from being sold off by the Town Council.

During the renovations of the Corn Exchange the Town Council asked Chris to Chair the renovation steering group and he eventually became a director of the Community Interest Company (CIC), responsible for running the revamped facilities.

Chris later became Chair of the St Ives Youth Theatre a post he held for several years - helping the young people develop. He continued to support them and many of their ex-members until recently when he became unwell.

Chris was also a member of the St Ives Town Team and with Ian Dobson promoted the town as the Old Riverport, in recognition of the almost forgotten history of the importance of the river, not only to St Ives but the surrounding area. Their proposal to the Town Council was wholeheartedly embraced and in 2014 the town centre began to be promoted as The Old Riverport.

For some years Chris worked with others promoting the town, which included a Discovery Day, a 3 month long exhibition about the history of the river at the Norris Museum and two plays on the Quay, 'The Merrie Wives of St Ives' and 'The Mill Wives of St Ives', which Chris wrote the music for. This also included the hugely successful Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival and these slotted in nicely with his love of music. He played in 2 local bands, The Groanin' Bones and Tonica.

Chris was a Professor of Occupational Psychology and worked as both a lecturer and a consultant. Serving 2 terms as Chair of the British Psychological Society. As a psychologist and football fan (Charlton Athletic) he was seconded onto the FLA (Football Licensing Authority) after the Hillsborough Disaster helping to make all football stadia safe. It was a dream job for him.



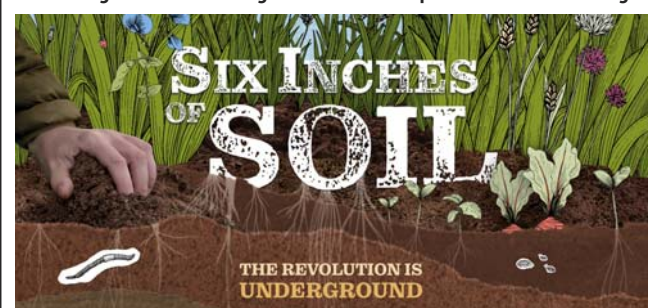
He is survived by Evie his wife - and son Matthew and daughter Jane, plus stepsons Michael and Paul and eight grandchildren and nephews.

He was a huge asset to the community and will be sadly missed.

Chris's funeral will be at midday on 11 July 2024 at Huntingdon Crematorium and afterwards at their function room. Family flowers only.

Left: Ian Jackson, Chris Morgan, Ian Dobson and Chris Lewis, promoters of The Old Riverport on the Bridge in 2014.

Don't forget the Great Ouse Valley Trust's showing of the revolutionary film on regenerative farming - 27 June at 7.30 pm St Ives Corn Exchange.





having your say ...

The Riverporter

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

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

OTHER NEWS

Milly hoping for divine inspiration?
Or a treat!

Pig Down

The 'eagle eyed' among you might have noticed that the little pig collapsed on Morrisons roundabout the other day. Rumours that he 'Went to Market' were untrue. In fact the grass cutters probably knocked him over. It caused much comment on a local Facebook page ...



Nicholas Clarke
31 May at 16:02 · 🌐

Pig down on the Morrisons's roundabout....!

Alan Goodjohn
Someone stole a leg of Lamb? ...

Nicholas Clarke
Alan Goodjohn there's no pulling the wool over your eyes 😊

Sandra Souter
Thanks for letting us know. The vet is on his way. Oh and by the way wool doesn't come from a pig, that's a bit of a porky pie.

Mark Dunn
Just rub some oinkment on it 🤪

Trevor Jones
Where they vandalised. If so why are you people talking crap 🤔???

Robert Claire Allen
Trevor Jones it's harmless banter

Nicholas Clarke
Trevor Jones I don't think it was vandalism, just knocked over by weather - and for clarity the photo was taken by a passenger.

Leslog Red
Blown over by the wind

Chris Rudd
See this is the problem, money spent then vandalised. stupid

Dougie Sangster
Drive by shooting

John Rush
Denotes the commencement of BBQ season..

Nicholas Clarke
Update - looks like the pig has gone, the swine flew...!

Nicholas Clarke
Pig news....! He's back!



Thanks to Kevin Page and his team, Piggy was rescued and taken back. It's not known if he went 'Wee! Wee! Wee!' all the way home!

Dear Erik

Referring to Paul D's letter re the Union Flag, I totally agree with him. It annoys me to see it flown upside down.

Please print a picture so everyone knows which way up it should be.



Also referring to it as a Union Jack is wrong, unless it is a small flag being flown on the prow of a boat or ship to indicate it's country or the small Union Flag in the upper hoist corner of a British dependency, colony or anything else. **Steve Puttick**

Dear Erik,

Please find attached a brilliant poem written by my Gran about achy knees. I think it will be a great addition to your next paper and add a bit of lightheartedness to the usual doom of the news! **Rebecca**

Achy Knees

Armchair yoga does help
when knees begin to play up
The Paso Doble too is definitely out
when knees begin to shout!

With sympathetic trainers on guard
to help my gardening knees
when the green bin can't accept nothing
but twigs 'n' browning leaves
The Ashtree gloats with glee
I have to say poor knees!

Carol White

Dear Erik,

The 'St Ives In Bloom' team must be thrilled with the countless floral kerbside displays currently flourishing on footpaths all around our town.



Stewart Denham

Dear Erik

As a fellow pedestrian I know you will agree with me that the most important part of a bicycle is its BELL. And that cyclists frequently startle us out of our wits by suddenly and silently whizzing past WITHOUT WARNING as they overtake us on a shared path.

Don't get me wrong, I admire and applaud cyclists for using their legs rather than driving. But when will they learn that far from being considered aggressive or rude, a timely ringing of their mellifluous bell as they approach from behind is not only a much appreciated courtesy but an essential safety measure.

Long live cyclists! But long live pedestrians too - we hope! **Fiona Ford**

Have you lost anything lately?

St Ives Town Council would like you to know that if you have lost something it may have been handed in at the St Ives Town Hall. 'Whenever something is handed in, we make a post on our Facebook page and then keep the items for 3 months before disposing of it.' said their Admin Officer. However for credit cards the Council only keep them for one week before being cut up.

If you have lost something then please contact the Town Hall during their opening hours which are; 10-4 on weekdays. Or you can call them on 01480 388929, or Email to: admin@stivestowncouncil.gov.uk.

St Ives Town Council, Town Hall, Market Hill, The Old Riverport, St Ives, Cambs PE27 5AL'

Volunteers required . . .

If you wish to help your local community there are always volunteering opportunities (see: www.huntsvc.org.uk) and here are just two local organisations seeking help.

The Norris Museum, which tells the stories of Huntingdonshire from 160 million years ago to the present day have two opportunities:

TOWN TOUR GUIDE: The museum offers a range of historical town tours to local groups and they need to expand the team of Town Tour Guide Volunteers to cope with demand.

If you have an interest in local history, are a keen researcher, good communicator and enjoy meeting people then this is for you.

TALK VOLUNTEER: The museum also offers a range of historical talks to local groups. Talks usually take place at the meeting place of the group that books them, which can be in any Huntingdonshire town. Full details are available on the Norris Museum website.

Ladybird Boat Trust. The Ladybird narrowboat provides trips for groups of disadvantaged or disabled people of all ages and operates from mid April to early October. It is crewed by a Boatmaster and trained crew, all of whom are volunteers and run nearly 150 trips a year. You need to be fit and healthy and available on weekdays between 09:00 to 16:00 and will be expected to undertake all areas of boat operation so some knowledge of boating and boats would be a distinct advantage - we are also in particular need of a volunteer with knowledge and experience of diesel engines. Full training will be provided, so if this is something you are interested in email bookings@ladybirdboat.org.uk and they will contact you.

Neighbourhood Watch Awards 2024

As part of Neighbourhood Watch (NW) Week celebrations, NW launched the Volunteer Recognition Awards 2024 nominations. From Coordinators and Administrators to Cyberhood Watch Ambassadors that deliver crime prevention advice, they all have a part to play. The Volunteer Recognition Awards are our way of saying a huge thank you and winners will be presented with their awards at their annual Crime and Community Conference in September.



Last year NW received over 500 nominations in the three categories and this was so well received that we have extended the categories to 5 this year, which are: Innovation and Reach, Crime Prevention, Community Health and Wellbeing, Young Volunteer of the Year and Special Recognition Award. For more information go to: www.ourwatch.org.uk/volunteerawards.

Erik rings his bell to warn of speeding cyclists



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over the
school holidays
too.

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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.