

# The Riverporter

ST IVES AWARD WINNING NEWSPAPER

Issue 52: 7 February 2020

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

## Overwhelming community support for Eco Action

In response to the impending climate crisis, over 80 residents of St Ives and the surrounding villages gathered to begin to form a community-led Climate Action Plan.

The meeting, chaired by local resident Helen Dye and sponsored by St Ives Town Council, included both local and external speakers, followed by opportunities for all those present to voice their ideas and to engage in conversation and discussion about how best to move towards net zero CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2050. A broad cross section of the community were present in the audience, with a range of ages and interests represented.

*The Riverporter* has produced many articles about recycling and the environment. We have our own 'Environmental Correspondent' Heidi who writes regularly on such topics (see her article on page 2).

We are keen to help promote this initiative and you can read a full report on the meeting on page 2.

Please contact the organisers to get involved or write to us at: [editor@theriverporter.uk](mailto:editor@theriverporter.uk)



Community members engaging in discussions about forming a local Climate Action Plan.

## YOUNG DANCERS WANTED

The highly popular Rotary Young Dancer Competition is back, and they are looking for as many entrants as possible. The event is being run by Rotarian Odele Stevens, who has a long association with the drama, dance and music worlds, and she has provided the following details.

The new Dance Competition is for all dancers aged 8 to 18 years across the Huntingdonshire area, (who are not in a full time professional dance school). This competition gives children the chance to showcase their Dance talent as it is for individual dancers, and not a competition between schools.

**This competition will be held at Hinchingsbrooke Performing Arts Centre, Hinchingsbrooke School, Huntingdon on Sunday 29th March 2020.**

There will be age groups of Junior (8-10yrs), Intermediate (11-13yrs) and Senior (14-18yrs). They will be able to perform any dance style of their choosing with their own choreography in the 3 age categories and as a Solo, Ensemble (2-4 persons) and Group (up to 12 persons) category. There will be no entry fees or admission fees.

The adjudicator will be West End Star Philip Bertoli who is currently performing in *Singin' in The Rain* and grew up in this area. It will be a full and fair competition.

Message the Rotary Club of St Ives Facebook Page or email: [secretary@stivesrotarycambs.org.uk](mailto:secretary@stivesrotarycambs.org.uk) for entry forms and conditions.

They are hoping to see as many young dancers as possible, together with parents and supporters.

## Have you Heard the News?



On Wednesday, Vicci Godbold, Head of Thorndown School, was presented with a cheque for £100 by Sandra Souter on behalf of the St Ives Snowman Festival. The money will be used to adopt and design their own 'mini moo' in the *Cows about Cambridge* art event, part of a county-wide learning programme.

*Cows about Cambridge* is an art event that weaves its way across the city from 30 March until 6 June. Cow sculptures, each one designed by an artist and sponsored by a business, form a free, fun, family-friendly trail. Best of all, once the installation's over, the cows sponsored by

businesses will be auctioned off in a bid to raise £250,000 for the children's charity 'Break'. Pictured with some of the pupils Ms Godbold (above left) said 'We loved being part of the Snowman Festival in St Ives. Thorndown's pupils enjoyed creating really individual snowmen with interesting characters. They then enjoyed exploring the town to find their own creations on lampposts.'

The 007 snowman was one of our favourites this year!

**Eds note:** What came first? The St Ives Snowman Trail or the Cambridge Cow Trail?

Why the St Ives Snowman Trail of course!

The Rotary Club of St Ives  
Presents  
The  
Rotary Young Dancer Competition

Age groups 8-10, 11-13 & 14-18  
Categories: Solo, Ensemble (2-4 dancers)  
and Group (max 12 dancers)

## CPRE, the countryside charity, is looking to appoint an experienced part-time administrator

CPRE is an established, national, environmental charity working to protect our countryside and ensure that it remains a vibrant place to live, work and enjoy. Working for both the local CPRE branch (Cambridgeshire and Peterborough) and the Regional Group (East of England), this is a varied and interesting role which would suit an experienced administrator.

**Location:** St Ives, Cambridgeshire. **Hours:** max 15 per week (flexible) **Salary:** negotiable  
For further information, including an application form and candidate pack, or an informal chat contact the current post-holder, Tracey Hipson on 01480 396698 or email: [office@cprecambs.org.uk](mailto:office@cprecambs.org.uk)

**Closing date for applications:** Friday 28th February



The countryside charity  
Cambridgeshire  
and Peterborough

# St Ives residents join forces to tackle Climate Emergency

The meeting on Wednesday 22 January at St Ives Methodist Church was called to consider forming a community-led Climate Action Plan.



From left to right: Professor Brian Eversham, CEO BCN Wildlife Trust; Chris Pointon, Cambridgeshire Climate Emergency; Hattie Grimwade, St Ives in Bloom; Helen Dye, St Ives resident and meeting chair; Mary Gatehouse, St Ives Methodist Church.

Meeting chair Helen Dye said, 'Unprecedented times call for radical action; and while we may all be part of the problem, we are all part of the solution. It was clear from the discussion generated that we are a creative and resourceful community with many gifts to bring to bear to help us move closer to net zero CO<sub>2</sub> by 2050, and a 40% reduction by 2030.

## Comments included

Community elder, Colin Saunderson, said: 'As a life-long litter picker this initiative is most welcome. When litter-picking I try to put all cans in a recycling bin because a can made from recycled material uses 5% of the energy required to create one from new. It will be great to see what further actions we can take as a community to recycle more and reduce our carbon footprint. Hats off to the town council for supporting the event, and leading by example by installing LED lighting in the town hall.'

Helen Haynes, mum of three from Needingworth, said: 'I am so excited to see this group being set up in St Ives. For those of us in the surrounding villages it will act as a central hub, providing information and resources to help us lessen our impact on the environment - something that I'm extremely passionate about!'

Barry Pate, a newcomer to St Ives said: 'I am struck by the existing knowledge, activity, commitment and real active concern by many people and organisations in the town and surrounding areas.'

Keynote speaker, Professor Brian Eversham, CEO of BCN Wildlife Trust said: 'It was breath-taking to see a full church hall on a cold wet miserable winter

evening. I was particularly delighted because this is my third event like this this year, and groups like this are part of a new movement, the like of which this country has not seen before. We've seen many local authorities, including Cambridgeshire and across the county declare a climate emergency; not yet in Huntingdonshire and I don't think yet in St Ives, although I suspect it's not far off.'

## 'I don't want my kids asking me why I stood by in the 2020s'

Chris Pointon, Cambridgeshire Climate Emergency and father of two said: 'In 2050 my kids will be the age I am now. I don't want them asking me why I stood by in the 2020s while there was a chance to avert extreme weather, flooding, famine, drought and resource wars. We can't just wait for the government to fix this - communities can make a huge difference if they get organised and start taking action. It's great to see St Ives come together like this and take a lead in the county, and I'll do everything I can to help.'

Alison Benfield, Town Clerk said: 'It was fabulous to see so many people keen on working together for the benefit of us all. I am looking forward to working with the group to turn some of the initiatives into actions, and will ensure that the Town

Council is aware of the strong message from the group that it declares a climate emergency.'

## Ideas included

Everyone then worked on a range of suggestions for how to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and foster a healthier lifestyle. Popular ideas included improvements to public transport, cycle ways and footpaths; tree surveys and tree planting; support for schools to raise awareness of the climate crisis and the implications that has for planetary and human health; and a local zero waste store.

It was also suggested that St Ives could be an effective hub for surrounding villages to link into for information. The meeting resolved to work towards practical community-based solutions that reflect our individual and collective responsibilities to preserve the planet and to share it with all other species. It is expected that community organising and community leadership will be key to achieving the goals that will emerge from the Climate Action Plan.

There was also a consensus to push for the declaration of a climate emergency locally. It may take a little while to collate all the ideas and then get back to those who attended.

Anyone who was not able to attend the event but would like to receive information and updates, should email: [stivesecoaction@gmail.com](mailto:stivesecoaction@gmail.com)

From our environmental correspondent Heidi N. de Tries

# Heidi tweets for the birds

Hi everybody, Heidi here! Now something for all you birdie people out there. It may surprise you to know that I just love hearing all that chirping and chattering as spring approaches - something to do with the sap rising someone told me. Well I certainly relate to that! Anyway I've had a message from the lovely Michael Holdsworth of the Cambridge Bird Club - yes, I thought that would impress you.

He told me about the Spotted Flycatcher, a lovely little bird that flies 16,000 miles here every spring from Southern Africa - bless it. I know, amazing isn't it? The thing is, what with one thing and another, this little darling is in trouble. Its numbers are in serious decline. Holding back a tear I read on. He wants to know exactly how many pairs make it back to Cambridgeshire this year, and can we help him? Well what could I say? For you Michael I'll do anything. And help the little bird.



Photo by Tom Reynolds

He says there are about a few hundred pairs breeding in our county. They are shy (like me) but love village gardens and churchyards (like me) and you'll probably know if you have one. They are about as big as a Robin, sit upright and suddenly take off to chase an insect before returning to the same perch. Friends of mine had a nest in a hanging basket. I watched it for ages from a lounge with a Pimms.

If you spot one this summer, do let Michael know. It's for his research - don't ask me any difficult questions though. Just email him at [spoif@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk](mailto:spoif@cambridgebirdclub.org.uk)

And to learn more, while I pour another and look for my binoculars, try [bit.ly/SpotFly](http://bit.ly/SpotFly).

Oooh, nearly forgot. That rugged Captain Morgan who runs the Electric Riverboats, came up to me in the snug last night, like he often does, and whispered, 'Heidi, the first Early Bird boat trip is on 2nd May. Tell all your friends.' Well now I have!

Bye! Happy tweeting. Heidi x

# Helping EACH

East Anglia's Children's Hospices (EACH) are looking for a number of local volunteers to help with their upcoming collections in St Ives. This is a fantastic opportunity which involves giving up just two hours of your time to support local children with life-threatening conditions and their families. If you are interested in helping at any of the collections or would like to know

about our future collection dates in the area please contact me on [phillipa.graham@each.org.uk](mailto:phillipa.graham@each.org.uk) or 01223 204916. We can't wait to hear from you!

**Friday 19th June** - St Ives Morrisons (9-11am, 11am-1pm or 3-5pm).

**Monday 22nd June** - St Ives Town Centre (9-11am, 1-3pm, 3-5pm).

# Screen St Ives

Friday 21st Feb 2020 Screen 1 YESTERDAY

Director: Danny Boyle UK | USA, 2019, 1h 56m

Jack Malik is a struggling singer-songwriter in an English seaside town whose dreams of fame are rapidly fading. After a freak bus accident during a mysterious global blackout, Jack wakes up to discover that The Beatles have never existed. **Doors open at 7.30pm and films start at 8pm The Corn Exchange**



# Stagecoach reroute bypasses Hartford Marina stop

Stagecoach propose to reroute their B Service from St Ives to Huntingdon via Wyton Airfield avoiding the popular bus stop at Hartford Marina. Mike Humphrey, Lib Dem Cllr for Huntingdon East said, 'I wonder whether they fully appreciate the impact on the local community, especially those in St Ives and Huntingdon who rely on a regular bus service to get to the Hartford Mill, Dobbies and the Marina.'

Photo caption: Mike Humphrey, Jacqui Taylor, manager of Hartford Marina Chandlery, and Wesley Clark, manager of Hartford Mill.



having your say ...



Erik has been so busy he has taken on a trainee sub-editor. She's called Milly and will hopefully be house trained by the time Erik goes on his hols!



Get it off your chest, email Erik at: [editor@theriverporter.uk](mailto:editor@theriverporter.uk)

Dear Erik,  
ref: **St Ives East Ward By-Election.**

Having seen Conservative Adam Roberts' literature, he seems confused. The leaflet suggests that Independent Councillors on the Town Council want to 'flood' the area North of Marley Road with new houses, suggesting that Tory District Councillors oppose this.

Mr Roberts is clearly not aware that several of the Tory District Councillors were elected as Independent Councillors on the current Town Council and must therefore be in favour of more housing if the leaflet is correct.

Reading further on Mr Roberts is proud of the record of local Tories investing 'huge amounts' in the town. Forgive me but apart from investing in the District Councils own properties, often against users objections, such as the removal of squash courts - wasn't this the same Tories who took a £million away from our town centre improvement some years ago. The leaflet says that these investments could be under threat unless a Tory is elected. Is that because the ruling Tories refuse to listen to or work with other councillors?

Pat Cook is quoted on the leaflet saying she will vote for Adam as he is the only candidate who lives in the ward. Well I've news for Pat, **HDC Leader Cllr Ryan Fuller doesn't live in his ward so perhaps he should resign!**

If Adam is so interested in 'his community', as he says, surely he would have attended Town Council meetings and be better known in the community by now.

At least two of the other candidates have been working for the community for some years, not just at election time.

**Marilyn Zanonato**

**Ed's note:**

The Chairman of the Town Council's Planning Committee, Cllr Nick Dibben, told *The Riverporter* that there has been no vote about housing North of the town by councillors, so Tory claims are not accurate.



Dear Erik,

On a flight stopover in Malaysia, two friends visited a bar/restaurant in Kuala Lumpur and were surprised to see the attached notice saying **'Gravybaby' is opening at the Dolphin Hotel St Ives soon!!**

You or your editor might like to sniff out what's cooking?

Regards Rochard PS. You are looking very 'chipper' these days.



### Station Road Project

St Ives in Bloom (SIIB) has held a meeting with representatives from the Civic Society, HDC, The Town Council, The Town Team, Waitrose and Thomas Quinn to discuss improving the area around Station Road and Harrison Way.

The aims of the project are to:

- improve the general environment
- increase interest in St Ives as a destination
- highlight the history of the town
- support the community.

Among some of the ideas include the provision of a history board with reference to the old railway station buildings and improving the impact of the corner with a raised flower bed. It is hoped to be done in time for this years Anglia In Bloom Awards with Station Road entered in the Best Commercial area with the support of nearby businesses.

# The Riverporter

## NEWS UPDATES

### East to West rail route confirmed

The journey from St Ives to Cambourne is 11.5 miles and a relatively simple journey on roads that for the most part are not too busy so the news that the new East West rail route is to have a new station in Cambourne may come as good news to many commuting St Iivians. However this may not be such great news for those living in sleepy Hilton who might start to see a bit of a new rush hour issue through the village.

The new rail link will join Cambridge to Cambourne, St Neots, Bedford and ultimately through to Oxford and another multimillion-pound rail development. The decision follows months of campaigning by residents and politicians, who felt the route would better serve the growing communities along the A428 corridor. They also argued that the original plan to take the rail line via Bassingbourn was not necessary and would have caused significant environmental damage. Transport secretary Grant Shapps confirmed the news in Parliament, announcing that the Cambourne route was now the favoured option. The decision whether to proceed with the development will be taken by the government in the coming months.

### Exhibition to gauge public opinion

This past Wednesday house builders McCarthy and Stone held an exhibition in St Ives to promote their new project off London Rd. The development aims to build homes for older and retired people, covers a large plot situated behind the Esso garage.

The exhibition was designed to gain local opinion of the outline project before a formal planning application is made. McCarthy and Stone say that the development will deliver much needed specialist retirement accommodation for older people locally and that the location is ideal for close transport links and access to shops and services.

They invite anyone with a view on the project to contact them on ... 0800 2987040 or email: [feedback@mccarthyandstone-consultation.co.uk](mailto:feedback@mccarthyandstone-consultation.co.uk)



### MPs and new council leader meet to discuss future of Wyton airfield

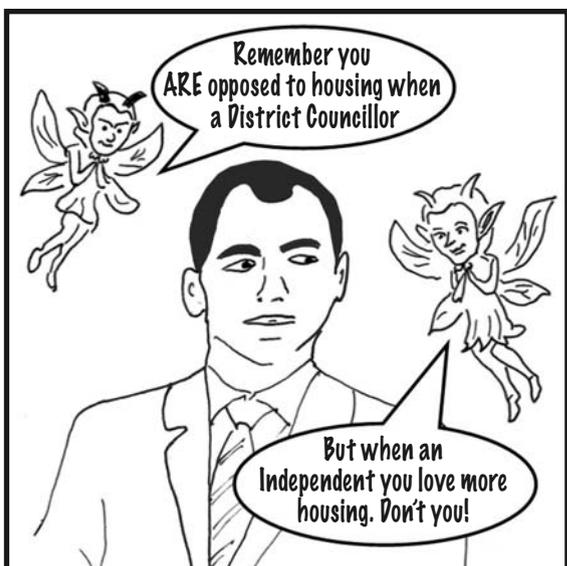
Earlier this month our new HDC Leader, Ryan Fuller, met with Huntingdonshire's two MPs, Jonathan Djanogly and Shailesh Vara, along with Secretary of state for defence the Rt. Hon Ben Wallace MP to discuss the possible future of nearby Wyton airfield.



One of the possible developments at the Wyton site would see the Marshall Aerospace and Defence Group relocate there from their current location at Cambridge Airport. Recently it was announced that one possible new location for Marshalls was Duxford, but this has now been discarded leaving a choice between Wyton and Cranfield.

Marshalls have stated that following their move they would be looking to retain their 1,500 strong workforce and, as many of them live in Huntingdonshire, the Wyton location could be an ideal commute location.

Cllr Fuller, who appears to fully support the opportunity said in a quote to the Hunts Post: *'I welcomed the opportunity to meet with the Secretary of State alongside our local MPs to discuss our ambition that the Wyton site secures a proper legacy for our places and people. Getting this site right is a once in a generation opportunity to deliver a visionary development that makes a lasting contribution to the economic success of Huntingdonshire, and also creates real choices for our existing and new communities in how they work, live and travel.'*



Eric and Pearl Jakob, of Houghton Road, celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 23rd January. Eric now 80 and Pearl 84, received a telegram from the Queen. They moved to St Ives 23 years ago and say the secret to a long, successful marriage is sorting things out together.

## The Riverporter Cartoons

It's not too late to pick up the collection of cartoons that have featured in *The Riverporter*.

Remember the 'Highlights' and 'Lowlights' of serious news reporting.

**The Wit and Wisdom of Erik**

is a great gift at just **£2.50** or 2 for a fiver!

Available at Terry's Heel Bar, Just Cards, The Oliver Cromwell and The Haywain. All profits go to the St Ives Christmas Lunch Charity.



# bests

## COFFEE SHOP



### THE 'BEST'



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7 King's Hedges, St Ives**

01480 462422

Open Monday-Friday 8am-4pm,  
Saturday 8am-4pm



The St Ives Dementia Friendly Community Choir

# riverport singers

The St Ives Dementia Friendly Community Choir

### Do you *love* singing? Or *care* for someone who does?

Join our brand new Community Choir created and led by Agi Peach for people living with dementia, their carers, families and friends. Dementia Friends will be especially welcome.



We start on Thursday 27 February 2020

- Come and sing some great songs with us - old and new!
- Make new friends and fill your heart with music and laughter!

### SING, SMILE AND SHINE!

Rehearsals every Thursday 10.00-11.30 during school term time at The Corn Exchange, The Pavement, The Old Riverport, St Ives, Cambs PE27 5AD

£2 per person per session

To find out more, contact Agi

Email [agipeach@icloud.com](mailto:agipeach@icloud.com)

Tel 07757 811802

Follow us on: [www.facebook.com/riverportsingers](http://www.facebook.com/riverportsingers)



Riverport Singers are supported by the St Ives Dementia Friendly Community Group

ADVERTORIAL

## BUYER BEWARE!

Mike Ellis of Ellis Winters explains ...



Viewing a property is exciting but remember, don't get carried away! It is easy to get caught in a whirlwind as you walk from room to room, without taking it all in properly. It may tick some of your boxes, but does that make it the perfect home for you?

### Assess the building condition.

Most buyers take just a few minutes to spend hundreds of thousands of pounds on a new house without seeing it properly. Even if there are enough bedrooms and the layout works, there are other things to consider. Will the kitchens and bathrooms need replacing, what are the windows like, is the boiler old

and is the house decorated as you would like.

### Spend time looking at the local area.

It's tempting to drive to the house, look around and then leave, but we suggest that you take a wander, both before and after the viewing. This is an important decision you are about to take, go back on different days of the week at different times of the day to get an overall picture. How close is it to amenities, supermarkets, parks, green areas and local schools, how tidy are the neighbouring gardens, what type of cars are on the driveways, these are all things to consider.

### Take someone with you.

It is always good to take an impartial friend to bounce ideas off and to ask for their considered opinion. When you start your property search you usually have a wish list but invariably something will have to give as budget and wishes collide. A friend is sometimes that voice of reason to be listened to, but remember, the final decision is up to you.



# ellis&co winters

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# The Riverporter

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