

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

There's good news, old news, very old news & now breaking news

THE RIVERPORTER COVERING THE NEWS OTHER PAPERS DON'T

The good news is that things are gradually getting back to normal, with shops open and live music returning (see page 4). The old news involves our former Police & Crime Commissioner (see page 3) and the very old news is an article about Victorian education in St Ives (page 2). See breaking news below.

Neighbourhood Plan Team to hold consultation

So let's start with some good news. The St Ives Neighbourhood Plan Team will be holding their first consultation during July. There will be exhibitions at:

- **Burleigh Hill Community Centre on Friday 16th July from 14.00 to 17.00**
- **Farmers Market on Saturday 17th July**

For those unable to attend these events, the display material and questionnaire will be available on-line via the Town Council's website: www.stivestowncouncil.gov.uk/Public_Consultation_29968.aspx

There will also be limited number of paper copies available from the Town Hall.

An opportunity to shape the future

This is an opportunity to shape the future, with respect to new development. The displays will cover issues such as new housing, the town centre, community facilities and green space. Neighbourhood Plan Team Chair Nick Dibben said: *'The Neighbourhood Plan team feel that the town has reached a natural limit so we are*



not proposing any expansion of the town, but we would like people to confirm that this what they want.

'With respect to the town centre, we are aware that the Combined Authority Mayor and HDC are developing ideas so we will need to coordinate with them on that, but the Neighbourhood Plan can help define the scope of these changes.

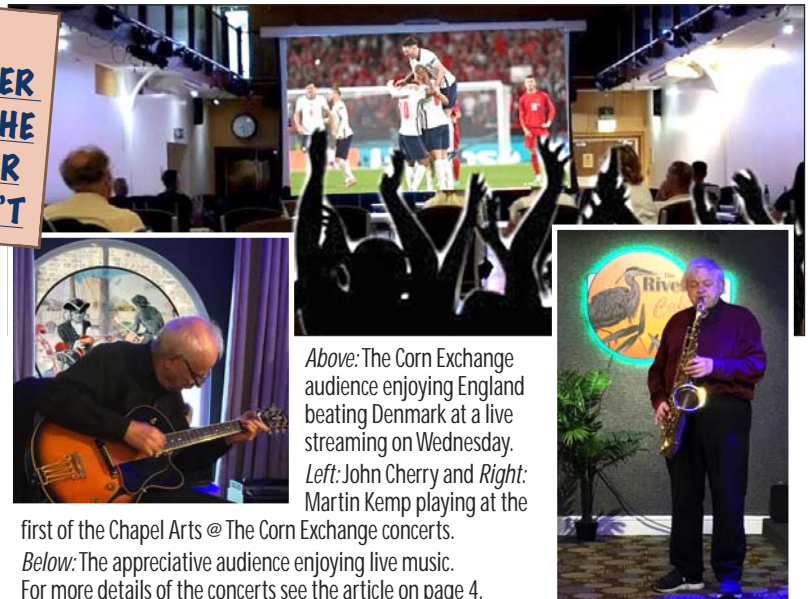
'One of the ideas we want to develop is a 'green ring' around the town. This may take many years to put into place but would provide natural corridors for wildlife and possible routes for walkers to enjoy the countryside.

'We would like to know what the public think and their responses will help shape the final plan.'

St Ives in Bloom hard at work

We have all seen the amazing results of the St Ives in Bloom team this year. With their intention to brighten up the town they always put in the hard work and the town looks great for it. This year they have really put in an amazing effort and have even taken to getting the town painted up. The team can be found brushes and overalls in hand painting up our street furniture and benches.

The Riverporter caught up with them on The Quayside brushes at the ready. . .



Above: The Corn Exchange audience enjoying England beating Denmark at a live streaming on Wednesday.

Left: John Cherry and Right: Martin Kemp playing at the first of the Chapel Arts @ The Corn Exchange concerts.

Below: The appreciative audience enjoying live music. For more details of the concerts see the article on page 4.



BREAKING NEWS • BREAKING NEWS • BREAKING NEWS TOWN COUNCIL PLANNING - A CLOSED SHOP

According to Civil Engineer Peter Townsend, recent St Ives Town Council Planning Committee meetings have been unlawful.

In a formal complaint made to the Council, Mr Townsend states that they failed to hold their meetings in public, which a high court judgement stipulated had to be done from 7 May.

This resulted in a 'closed shop' where councillors comments and decisions were made behind closed doors. This view was confirmed by CAPALC, the Association for Local Councils, who told the Town Clerk that *'the Council were not being open and transparent'* as members of the public were unable to listen to the debate or participate.

Burgess Hall to restart events

After months of uncertainty about the future of the Burgess Hall in St Ives it seems that here also events will restart. Whether the hall will be run in the same way as before we do not know but The Centre Players have been assured that they can continue to function more or less as before and the really good news is . . .

CINDERS WILL GO TO THE BALL

The Centre Theatre Players are pleased to announce that, restrictions permitting, they will be presenting the traditional family pantomime CINDERELLA on January 12th - 16th in the Burgess Hall of One Leisure, St Ives. Tickets go on sale 1st September.

The Players will also be presenting their annual Charity Cabaret **A MOMENT IN TIME** supporting Bowel Cancer UK in memory of their dear colleague and friend Norma.

The show will be staged on **Friday & Saturday 10/11th September** in the Burgess Hall commencing 7.30pm. Tickets £10 will be available from 20th July. **Book online www.ticketsource.co.uk/starliteroadshow**



having your say ...

Trainee Milly is hoping to relax in the sun at lunchtime.



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

NEWS UPDATE

Jason's ammunition finally exposed!

Under the headline:

Former Police and Crime Commissioner Jason Ablewhite will not be prosecuted

The Cambs Times, sister paper to the Hunts Post, disclosed that a police search came across 'a small box containing various size spent and live ammunition' in a locked cabinet. This strange 'News' suddenly emerged, almost 18 months



Tories celebrate Ablewhite being elected PCC in 2016.

after Mr Ablewhite resigned. It seems that a search of Mr Ablewhite's house in November 2019, during a probe into allegations concerning an email exchange of explicit photos with a 50-year-old woman, discovered the ammunition, which prompted the separate investigation.

Mr Ablewhite resigned from his £85,000 a year role in December 2019 when details of his email exchanges became public and the second 'unrelated' investigation has only now surfaced. The IOPC says that evidence about his possession of live ammunition was passed to the Crown Prosecution Service, whose report says the CPS has decided 'to take no further action'.

In July 2019, Mr Ablewhite backed a Cambridgeshire police campaign to hand in any unlicensed firearms and ammunition as part of a two-week campaign. He said at the time 'As part of wider crime prevention and reduction initiatives, this firearms surrender campaign can only help make the county safer and continue to keep this type of crime low.'

Some people have queried why, after both investigations, the CPS declined to prosecute the ex Police & Crime Commissioner for incidents that would often result in criminal charges? Curiously there is no mention of this latest development in the Hunts Post.

Well we weren't expecting that...

Just after 11am on Wednesday morning the windows rattled as a formation of RAF Puma helicopters staged a flypast over St Ives. Along the Quayside people stopped and stared as the amazing scene passed over to the south of our town. It turns out that the fly past was part of a formation of RAF Puma helicopters marking 50 years of service in the Royal Air Force. Up to 10 helicopters will fly over a long list of national locations that have all been important to the Puma Force for the last half a century which includes our Wyton base. The first Puma helicopters were delivered into service in 1971 and have been used in a number of conflicts including Northern Ireland and both Gulf Wars. An RAF spokesman said that people are encouraged to share their images using the hashtag #Puma50 to help commemorate this event.



Man banned from St Ives streets

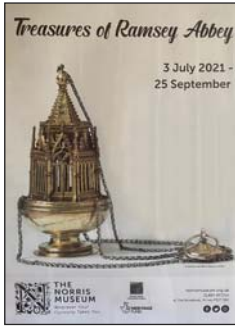
A 29 year old man named as Shane Arthur has been banned from entering St Ives town centre for five years. He received the ban from Peterborough Magistrates Court on June 24th under what is called a Criminal behaviour order or CBO. He is allowed to enter the town for what is described as legitimate activity, but he must then leave immediately. During the court hearing Mr Arthur pleaded guilty to being drunk and disorderly and using threatening or abusive words or behaviour in St Ives. Sergeant Alice Draper spoke with the Hunts Post saying... 'We have successfully secured a CBO prohibiting Arthur from behaving in an anti-social manner. The order was granted after a series of incidents including criminal damage, being drunk and disorderly and threatening and intimidating behaviour and disturbances caused by Arthur.'



Dear Erik,
I attended the Friends preview of Treasures of Ramsey Abbey last night at The Norris Museum. Nice nibbles and interesting speakers but I was underwhelmed by the exhibition.

A couple of really nice objects recovered from Whittlesey Mere in glass cases and that was it. Certainly doesn't deliver their website promise, which is way out of date.

Name withheld.



Dear Erik,
Ongoing surgery work

The build at the Cromwell Place branch of the Grove Medical Practice is rather like Peyton Place: it never seems to end. Due for completion in late autumn 2020, the build is continuing. When asked, the Surgery couldn't provide any sort of date. Instead, it blamed materials. In the meantime, for the last 6 months there have been escalating problems as the parking promised as part of planning permissions was blocked by metal barriers, and the 'short-term' use of the rear entrance rather than the normal entrance on Cromwell Place.



That led to patients parking along the rear, blocking garages and neighbours' drives. Installing cones and plastic barriers did little to ease the problem - with patients regularly driving inside them on the pavement, and running over both cones and barriers. With nowhere to park, deliveries have commonly blocked the road, worsening traffic problems. Hopefully, completion at some stage will close this sorry saga. **A resident**

Dear Erik,
Wot hedge

The self styled wildlife lover who complains about the loss of a hawthorn hedge appears to have seen something that I have not over the last 15 years, during which I have cleared plenty of rubbish mostly on the green. Up against the OLD FENCE there were a few bottles and cans but no hawthorn.

Local litter picker

Dear Erik,
I am sending a copy of a poster, which please could you include in your excellent publication! We are still looking to welcome singers to our friendly group! Thankyou **Carol Jennings**

Yes here 'tis Ed

Dear Erik,
Another shop gone!

Very sad and shocked with the sudden closure of the Edinburgh Woollen Shop! Another loss to St Ives! **Diana Baldwin**

Dear Erik
Artics and other goods lorries using Hill Rise as a shortcut

Is it not time a weight limit was put on Hill Rise/Marley Road due to the numbers of artic lorries using it as a shortcut especially at school drop off and pick up times? **Angela**

Dear Erik
I was wondering if you were aware of this brick structure on New Bridges, London Road? See photo.

I doubt that it's a Tate Modern art installation but a very unsuitable and unsightly restoration effort, which to boot is reducing the width of the already narrow footpath.

Angela (London Road resident)

Dear Angela,
The good news is that this was an exercise to consider which bricks to use on the restoration of the bridge wall due soon. Unlike previous repairs, which had used the wrong type of brick, the authorities are trying to ensure a more suitable brick is used from now on.



You will have noticed that it was removed by the next day. **Ed**

Hemingford Ladies Choir
welcomes fresh voices.....

It is a well known fact that singing is good for your health and well-being!

We are a friendly, traditional ladies choir singing everything from Bach to the Beatles and Bernstein.

We've been going for 25 years now and over the years have held concerts for many local and international charities.

During lockdown we had fun 'Zoom-singing' even having virtual concerts! Zooming has been great but now we are looking forward to singing together in person, probably from September.

We meet once a week on Wednesday mornings (currently in St Ives). You don't have to live in the Hemingfords to be a member!

If you love to sing and would like to join us on Wednesday mornings please contact:
Viv Oxley 01480 417925
for more information.
We look forward to welcoming you!



The COURTYARD

St Ives

Open-air boutique market, run by independents

Dolci
Crêpes & Waffles

Next door to @lorenzocoffee and now adding to our drinks offerings we've got Rosaria @dolci.crepes.waffles serving the most yummy crepes and waffles



L O R E N Z O ' S
COFFEE



GM Leather Works

We've got our very own Bespoke Leather Worker @gmleatherworks. You will find Graeme cutting, hand-sewing, and creating beautiful leather goods throughout the week visit the GM Leatherworks pod for a selection of belts (some can be made while you wait), wallets, bags, and other home decor items I think you will agree the craftsmanship on offer down at The Courtyard is something very special

Every Thursday is Late Night Shopping with a Live Band & BBQ to accompany your shopping experience!

The Courtyard, The Salerooms, Station Road, St Ives PE27 5BH www.hyperionauctions.co.uk/the-courtyard-shopping Tel: 01480 464140

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First Concert a real success

The last Friday in June saw the first of six Chapel Arts @ The Corn Exchange concerts with a full house.

Of course a full house was, due to Covid restrictions, actually only half full, but the response of the audience couldn't have been better as they enjoyed some live music at last. The Martin Kemp Trio impressed with a repertoire of classic jazz numbers. It emphasised the quality of the music at these concerts and best of all everyone felt safe and enjoyed the comfort of the venue.

One response to the evening was... *especially comfy sofas... best seating we've had anywhere! Looking forward to Ruth the Harpist, making sure we arrive early to grab a sofa!*



NOTE CANCELLED CONCERT

Sadly the 27th August concert featuring Dickie De Vere and his Dorchester Mavericks has had to be cancelled. We hope to have a replacement act soon and details will be available in the next Riverporter.

Friday September 24th sees renowned Harpsichord player Robin Walker. (below). For full details of these and other events please visit the Town Team website at: www.stivescambridgeshire.co.uk



There are still a few seats available to see Ruth on Friday 30 July, who was harpist for the award winning musical 'The Phantom of the Opera' but with a maximum of 30 tickets available, at present, you will need to book yours as soon as possible. Tickets £10 are available from ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives.



ADVERTORIAL

Good News For Investment Buyers

(Story from Property Industry Eye)



Landlords now have more than 2,709 mortgage products to choose from, surpassing the number on the market before the pandemic took hold, Moneyfacts.co.uk data shows. Mortgage rates in July 2021 are also cheaper than the equivalent in 2019, though they've yet to fall to 2020 levels. Landlords wanting a 5-year fix this month can typically get one at 3.01%, far cheaper than the average of 3.50% in 2019. There's also a minor reduction to 2-year fixes, which cost 2.98% compared to 3.01% in July 2019. However mortgage rates were still cheaper in July 2020, when they averaged at 2.61% for a 2-year fix and 2.97% for a 5-year fix.

Eleanor Williams, finance expert at Moneyfacts.co.uk, said: *'Landlords now have the highest level of product choice that we have recorded in over a year.'* At 2,709 the number of products available to investors is far more than the choice they were faced with this time last year, but perhaps even more interesting is that there are 365 deals more available now than we recorded in July 2019, demonstrating the strength and resilience of this sector in the aftermath of an unprecedented 18-months.

'The demand for buy-to-let could well remain strong in the months to come as rental demand is prevalent, indicated by recent research from PropertyMark's Private Rented Sector report, May saw a record-breaking number of new prospective tenants registered.'

'Whether now is the right time to invest in property may also come down to the desire to earn a decent income. Indeed, research from Nottingham Building Society revealed that 61% of landlords surveyed felt property was a better investment due to low interest rates for savings – and this coupled with high demand for rental accommodation could sway new investors to dive into the buy-to-let sector.'

The past few months has seen mainstream lenders like The Mortgage Works return to 80% loan-to-value lending. Rates in that bracket now typically stand at 3.94% for a 2-year fix and 4.15% for a 5-year fix. However things get much cheaper at 75% LTV, where you can typically get a 2-year fix at 3.01% and a 5-year fix at 3.36%.

Williams added: *'There could still be some understandable hesitation from prospective landlords with some existing investors who could even be considering downsizing their portfolio depending on the pandemic's impact. However, we are beginning to see some improvements in average rates in certain loan-to-value brackets on a month-on-month basis. As house prices rise, demand for rental accommodation is high, and savings rates remain poor, therefore, investing in property could be enticing to some. It is vital though that would-be landlords and those looking to change their deal seek advice to ensure it's the right time for them and they find the best package for their circumstances and plans.'*

Are you looking to invest in a rental property, do you have a variable rate buy to let mortgage or is your fixed rate coming to an end soon? We can put you in touch with a mortgage expert who can advise you on the products available that best suit your borrowing.

Call us to arrange a free consultation on 01480 388 888.

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