

The Riverporter

ST IVES AWARD WINNING NEWSPAPER

Issue 94: 17 September 2021

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

Forecast: sunny intervals

After a day or two of cloud, and much needed rain, the forecast from Thursday is for sunny intervals for this weekend. This neatly sums up the effect of The Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival as the music returns to St Ives.

With temperatures likely to exceed 20° it should be a first chance for music enthusiasts to enjoy some fine weather and some of the 23 FREE concerts over the four days.

The first chance to enjoy the Festival since 2019 and the organisers, St Ives Town Team hope it will once again be a success.

There are three outdoor concerts, all on the quayside and whilst no formal Covid measures are required hand sanitizer will be available and any seating will be cleaned before and after use. The Team encourage people to use face masks if they feel it appropriate to do so. For the full Festival programme see page 4.

Incinerator argument heats up

September's meeting of the Town Council Planning Committee was greeted by around 150 residents eager to have their concerns heard regarding the proposed plans by Envar to construct a dry anaerobic digestion facility in Woodhurst.



Above: Residents gathered under the statue of Cromwell with placards and banners clearly stating their concerns and objections.

At the meeting representatives from Envar laid out their case to the Planning Committee for the clinical waste plant to proceed.

A spokesperson for the residents said the message we will send Cambridgeshire County Council and ENVAR is that communities in our villages and in our town simply do not want the incinerator in their midst.

They went on to say the main question is: 'Do we need this facility when the re-development of Addenbrooke's incinerator has increased capacity to safely handle all medical waste from Cambridgeshire and Peterborough hospitals and other medical institutions.'

ENVAR propose only medical waste is used to power their composting production. However, the protest group (POWI) argued the process could be easily powered with many alternatives. They believe it is obvious that medical waste is preferred because it is a very lucrative business, with authorities paying upwards of £100 per ton. Based on the proposed 12,000 tonnes this would net Envar £2.5 million per annum and position the proposed plant in the top three of similar operations in the UK.

Shailesh Vara, MP for North West Cambs, supported the objections saying that he has objected to the proposals and went on to say... 'Any proposals to build additional facilities at the site should consider the views of local residents, especially with regard to odour and increased volume of traffic... if you have not done so already, I would encourage you to submit your views to Cambs County Council.'

POWI say that the opposition will now be carried forward to the Cambridgeshire County Council where the case should be heard some time in October.

COVERING THE NEWS FOR ST IVES AND AROUND

Winners all



Pictured left to right: Anne Holland, Virginia Bryant, Louise O'Brien, Richard Weightman, Pascoe Hussain, Gina Dunningcliff, Alan Curtis, Jo Dyke, Kevin Bryant, Hayley Weightman.

Calendar of events 2021

We are pleased to list all the ones we know about here. If you know of other events in the pipeline or are a member of a community group that wants to let us know what you are planning, please email: editor@theriverporter.uk

SEPTEMBER

Friday 24th - Chapel Arts @ The Corn Exchange 7.30pm

Featuring Robin Walker on Harpsichord.

OCTOBER

Saturday 2nd - The Old Riverport Ukulele Festival SEE PAGE 2

St Ives Corn Exchange from 10am. Tickets which include the evening concert are just £12 at: ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives. details at www.stivescambridgeshire.co.uk

Thursday 7th - Saturday 9th October - Booze in the Pews at All Saints Parish Church, Church Street, St Ives.

Saturday 16th - The Illuminated Boat Parade Another FREE to watch event from 6pm. For details go to www.stivescambridgeshire.co.uk.

Saturday 23rd - Huntingdonshire Philatelic Society Stamp and Postcard Fair St Ives Corn Exchange 10am-3pm. Free admission. For more info 01480 468037.

Friday 29th - Chapel Arts @ The Corn Exchange 7.30pm

Featuring Daniela Rossi, classical guitarist.

Tickets cost £10 and can be obtained at www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives.

There's much more to come

Next Friday, 24th September at 7.30pm is a chance to enjoy a rather unique and wonderful concert by Robin Walker in the comfortable Riverport Cafe Bar at the Corn Exchange.

Robin studied organ at the Royal Academy and over the past twenty years has built a reputation as a performer and teacher. Robin will perform works by Purcell, Dowland and Bach on his special harpsichord, built in 2013 by Mark Ransom and Oliver Sändig. It follows the design of a late 17th century instrument built by Giovanni Natale Bocalari.

Robin is passionate to share his love of music and has recorded the works of a number of living composers, most recently the complete organ works of Andrew Downes, in Ely Cathedral.

We are very fortunate that such an accomplished musician is returning to play at one of our Chapel Arts concerts at the Corn Exchange and at just £10 a ticket this has to be the most affordable opportunity to experience the true sound of music from the Baroque period.

Tickets are available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives. Places are limited to 30 people on a first come first served basis.



The St Ives Show team were pleased with the entries for the return of the Flower, Produce and Craft show. The Mayor, Pascoe Hussain opened the show in the Corn Exchange, and Councillor Margaret King gave out the prizes. Winners of the sections at the 2021 St Ives show were as follows:

Best overall score in Show and winner of the Holmes trophy, Darren Seymour; Individual sections 1. Vegetables and herbs, David Setchell; 2. Fruit, Louise O'Brien; 3. Flowers and plants, Sue Dear; 4. Flower arranging (Billman bowl), Kate Campbell; 5. Preserves and Produce, Louise O'Brien; 6. Baking, Darren Seymour; 7. Home brewing, wine and liqueurs,

Darren Seymour; 8. Art and Craft, Sue Cheffins; 9. Photography, Anne Holland; 10. Children's section, Will and Matthew.

In addition, the special prizes were as follows: RHS Banksian medal for overall best in growing classes, David Setchell; Gardening club prize for a bowl of fruit, Hayley Weightman. Waitrose prizes: 1. Sumie McMillan for apple buns, 2. Kate Campbell for flower arrangement 'Last of the summer wine' and 3, David Setchell for a bunch of celery.

The Show team wished to thank everyone who entered, and look forward to a bigger event in 2022.

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First Uke Fest set to be a big success

The Old Riverport Ukulele Festival, being held in St Ives Corn Exchange on Saturday 2nd October is on course to be attract Uke players from around the region.

With 120 people booked to attend already and four of the finest Uke players in the country taking part, this should be a day to remember. Labelled the Ukulele Festival of Cambridgeshire the Festival features four of the countries leading exponents of the art. All four will appear in a spectacular evening show and they are all doing workshops during the day. They are:



Peter Moss - is a virtuoso player and teacher with a world-wide following. I would say he has the fastest pair of hands in the West! His technique is impeccable, and his grasp of musical theory deep and broad. Peter will run a workshop dedicated to the Beatles' music, using four of their songs in four different keys, culminating in a harmony piece for those who like to put in the extra sparkle.



Matt Stead - a full-time uke teacher and performer, as well as running The Uke Room, a dedicated sales and tuition facility in the beautiful Forest of Dean. Matt is also the Musical Director of the National Ukulele Orchestra. His workshop will concentrate on making the Transition to Picking - for those who have only strummed the uke, there is a whole world of music you can make by picking individual notes, or combinations of notes.



Phil Doleman is another widely known performer with a world-wide following. His speciality is old-time ragtime, jazz, blues and hokum/jug band music, playing ukulele and banjo. Phil's workshop for us will be 'Jazzing it Up', where he will teach a selection of easy jazz chords to give



players an extra something to set their performances apart.



Opera-lele are George Bartle and Amanda Harkett, both Royal College of Music and Goldsmiths trained. They have devised a musical comedy act of the highest calibre which has dazzled audiences around the world. As ukulele groups tend to sing the melody only, George and Mandi will be offering a workshop to help and encourage their group to sing Vocal Harmony, to build up confidence and 'pazzazz'. Why have plain vanilla when you can have raspberry ripple? **There are still some places left which can be booked at:** www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives

Local family business reaches 75 years!

A quiet celebration at Jones Boatyard last week marked a magnificent achievement - a 75th anniversary through three generations - and included the first reading of a poem dedicated to the family owners from local poet Chris Morgan.

Laurie and Nora Jones set up the business in 1946 in Huntingdon, hiring out punts converting lifeboats and building other river craft. They moved to a disused gravel pit in St Ives in 1958 and along with a hire fleet of three boats, Laurie and his son Mick designed and fitted out motor cruisers.

Mick continued building craft through the 1960s and 70s and three of these - Tangle, Fair Wind and Eastmoor - can still be seen gracing the river today.

In 2005 Mick's sons, Ben and Sam, became the third generation to join the business and soon set about modernising the moorings, and expanding by adding a new separate marina just below St Ives Lock. Jones Boatyard can now claim to be the largest boatyard, brokerage and chandlery in East Anglia, a testament to family effort and exceptional customer service.

They also have a continuing record of supporting volunteer groups in the town - we are lucky to have them. With thanks to St Ives Now! magazine, Carol Jones, Colin Nash and Chris Morgan



Congratulations to Jones Boatyard on their 75th Anniversary

Great Ouse Boatman, Laurie Jones,
Hired out boats, with 'free' dreams. Launched them off into the flow,
Of The Great Ouse River streams, floating by, 'neath sunny sky,
Through the timeless river locks, where the birds and demoiselles fly,
Down-stream, beyond the wildlife flocks.

From V.E. Day, they 'broke out' free.
In that 'post war' leap for glee, started trading, boats and trips,
For sailing on, down to the sea, building craft and fixing ships,
Was his skill, his privilege, on the river's very edge,
By Godmanchester's Old Bridge.

That 'post war' bulge brought Mick along, a cabin boy, an heir, a son,
An apprentice, with a cheeky smile, meant for all. For Everyone!
A natural born river boy to help them through their daily chores,
To learn the craft of river men along the Ouse's great outdoors.

They built some proper river boats, to sell to river crews,
Authentic, stylish, river craft, to sail with pride, along The Ouse.
Part of Chris Morgan's poem. If you would like to see Chris reading his poem in full, visit Facebook Jones Boatyard - Videos.

Below:
The Jones family celebrates the company achievement.
Photograph by Gilly Jackson

Let's feed soils, not climate change

Did you know that 30% of global greenhouse gases come from producing our food? And if food waste were a country, it would have the third biggest carbon footprint after the USA and China?

In fact, 70% of food waste (post farm gate) is generated from households, with the average family throwing away £700 of edible food every year. In Huntingdonshire, this is not always disposed of in the best way. Approximately 4% of the residential recycling collections are rejected due to food waste. This would be enough to fill 6 refuse trucks a month. But more shockingly, 1/3 of the residential general waste collected comprises of food waste; enough to fill 70-75 refuse trucks a month.

Placing food waste in your grey refuse bin means this valuable resource goes to landfill. Due to the unnatural conditions, the food waste releases methane as it decomposes. Methane is a greenhouse gas and is 30 times more potent than carbon dioxide. The best way to avoid this is by reducing the food that is wasted; even some unavoidable food waste can be reduced by eating crusts, some vegetable stalks, and peels, or doing things such as making stocks.

However, some food waste is inevitable. The best way to dispose of this would be in your green garden bin or a home compost bin. During this time, the food waste will release the carbon dioxide it had absorbed during its growth as it decomposes. However, the additional benefit of adding it to your green garden bin or home compost is that it also produces compost at the end of the process, which then is used on farm land, in parks and in gardens to help feed the soil.

Let's feed soils, not climate change!

Some simple tips which will make a difference:

- ♥ Use up leftovers; maybe a leftovers dinner night once a week.
- ♥ Plan ahead; think about what you are going to use over the coming days and make sure you do not buy anything that will not be eaten in time.
- ♥ Take a 'shelfie' when shopping, so you know what you already have in the fridge and cupboards.
- ♥ Have a short date shelf in the fridge, ensuring you do not forget about it at the back of the fridge.
- ♥ And simply, buy what you eat and eat what you buy.
- ♥ Complete a food waste audit. Most people don't think they waste much food. But by documenting what is thrown away, you quickly see it adds up.
- ♥ Join a local group, such as our Hunts Waste Busters. Meeting more likeminded people, sharing experiences and ideas, helps overcome any challenges and keep motivation.
- ♥ Talk to others, share what you know; not everyone will be aware of the impact food waste has.

New venue for support group in St Ives

The Acorn Cancer Support group has re-opened its monthly meetings in Ramsey, Huntingdon and St Ives, with a new venue for the St Ives Group being the Methodist Church on the Waits.

They meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month between 1100 to 1300 hrs. They would like to welcome any new people who may have been diagnosed recently with cancer and their carers to come along, as they realise the pathway can be a very lonely journey without contact with others. Drinks and a light lunch are served with due regard to covid guidelines, relaxation therapies are also available and people are encouraged to network together in pleasant and relaxing surroundings.



Pictured at Acorn's recent Summer lunch at Sleppe Hall Hotel when 62 members attended are the Mayor of St Ives, Councillor Pasco Hussein and Acorn Chair Simon Townend. The Acorn Cancer Support group is one of the Mayor's nominated charities in his year of office.





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

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

Who do we trust these days?

Life has changed since Covid, however some changes have nothing to do with the virus and in some ways are more concerning. National news regularly carries stories of corruption in high places, whether it is a Government contract for 'mates' or payments for honours. Trust in politicians and other professions (such as journalists – why am I bothering?) are at an all time low. Add to this the surge in scam emails and we are all unsure who we can trust. I am of an age that usually says 'It was better in my day' but I guess it's always been the same. I don't think I would have trusted anyone in Tudor times!

Whilst we have become used to broken manifesto promises, we still expect our local authorities to be straight and true. For the majority of the time this is the case. There are a lot of good people working to help the public up and down the land. And yet for some reason it is increasingly difficult to get answers to perfectly reasonable questions from these organisations. It is rare to see a minister answering a question in a TV interview and it seems this tactic has been adopted at all levels of government.

The result is that trust is further eroded and even worse it's becoming normal not to get a reply. There seems to be no way of changing this. Ombudsmen, who are independent, free and impartial according to their job description, will only look into formal complaints and you cannot appeal their decision. Not answering a question or ignoring a letter or email may be wrong but isn't illegal and would not be of interest to an Ombudsman already very busy. The net result is that people may not ask questions anymore. That may be good for those in charge of the organisation but I would argue very bad for the community, which may be unable to have a voice in matters that affect them.

There are a variety of tactics used to avoid scrutiny, which include the heavy use of redacting information and labelling a complaint or complainant as vexatious, but more of this another time. The point is that getting information from the authorities should be easy and possible.

Why should you be concerned?

Well most people may not be concerned about whether a council or any organisation is open to scrutiny. It may have little or no effect on his or her daily life but everyone is ultimately affected by the way our society works. A society that is open, caring and where people can feel assured that they are being treated fairly, is good for our welfare, mental health and happiness. Covid did bring out the best of intentions in many people who helped look after neighbours and did other good works. It raised our spirits to see such community spirit. So here is the point.

If you cannot get a trusted reply from an organisation or individual that is meant to be working in everyone's best interest, then can anyone be trusted? No matter how kind people can be as seen during the pandemic, a society where trust has gone is not good and will ultimately be more damaging to future generations than even a virus. Things need to change soon if we are to restore trust and it needs to start at the top and filter down to all areas of government. That would be real levelling up!

Looks like fun!

Most of us enjoy playing about on the river and it looks like the EA guys do too. Resembling a group of orange water fairground dodgems the nifty little boats are actually a sort of a mower



clearing the larger underwater weeds that can snag passing boats. Watching the little boats wizz back and forth kept many onlookers amused for some time.

Does anyone know where the banner is?

You may have noticed some banners around the town advertising the Jazz & Blues Festival, including this one which was positioned at the entrance to the Cattle Market Car Park in the town centre.



It seems that someone decided to remove it.

The Market Supervisor and assistant, who normally look after banners, are equally baffled as to who may have removed it. On their advice the Town Team contacted HDC's Ops department, who are responsible for the car park, to ask why it had been removed and if it could be returned? As no answer was forthcoming a further request for it to be reinstated was made to Angela Dickinson and Rianna D'Souza, District Councillors for the area, but at the time of going to press *The Riverporter* understands no response has been received.

Dear Erik,

I was recently in St Ives and found your newspaper in a local café.

What an enjoyable read it was.

I have a request...

I am involved in a Community magazine in Sharow, near Ripon, North Yorkshire and wondered if I would be able to reproduce your excellent article about Phone Box Evolution.

We still have an old phone box in our village, though I'm sure it's days are numbered.

I'm sure people have very fond memories of phone boxes and would enjoy reading the feature.

Many thanks for your help.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes **Bridget Taylor-Connor**

Hi, Ed says of course you can. **Erik.**

Dear Erik,

Subject: Wheatsheaf Junction

Highways voted today for traffic lights not a staggered junction.

I spoke to the chairman very briefly at an interval about the need for a reduced speed limit. Whilst he agreed I cannot be certain that will happen.

Colin Saunderson

Dear Erik,

St Ives Choral Society are inviting members of the public to join their ranks for their 'Come and Sing' performance of Mozart's Requiem. For one day only you will be able to rehearse with the choir and perform Mozart's late masterpiece - we will guide you through the piece; ability to read music is not essential!

We look forward to meeting you on Sunday 16th October from 2pm in the Free Church.

For more information go to:

www.stives-choral.org.uk

or email: info@stives-choral.org.uk

Someday my bus will come . . .



From Luka That.

Riverporter Reporter, Luka That witnesses a continuing problem

On Saturday 11 September a coach from Leek in Staffordshire (which shouldn't have been there in the first place), and which appeared to be carrying football supporters, got stuck trying to navigate The Broadway roundabout. The reversing became a pedestrian and traffic hazard and two illegally and selfishly parked vehicles were causing the obstruction.



Also recently a lorry delivering to a shop in Market Hill was prevented from getting out for some time due to a disabled badged vehicle parking on the yellow lines outside the Corn Exchange. This is a regular problem despite all of the parking bays outside the Corn Exchange being for disabled drivers.

Dear Erik,

The article in *The Riverporter's* July 9 issue on Jason's spent ammo sparked off further comment in the *Community* as to whether this very sad figure was ever fit for Office in the first place.

There is also the story of a nearby village, ripped off by clerk and councillors alike, and costing the tax payer over £100,000, which was finally hushed up when the police looked the other way.

In desperation the people turned to their erstwhile police and crime commissioner and asked him to assist in taking the matter to the IOPC. He point blank refused, and it is quite likely that at that time he Misconducted himself in Office.

It is believed the press have already got wind of this and no doubt more will be heard the authorities in 'due course'.

Illegitimi non carborundum.

Dear Erik,

TICKETS FOR CINDERELLA

Could you let your readers know that tickets for their forthcoming Centre Theatre Players pantomime *Cinderella* are now available on line from www.ticketsource.co.uk/burgesshall or from the One Leisure St Ives reception. The show dates are 12th - 16th January 2022 with 8 performances in total. You are advised to book early to avoid disappointment.

Thanks **Dick (Chalkley not Whittington)**

HYPERION

Results from Hyperions September Fine Art & Antiques Sale



Lot 425 - Impressive Gentlemen's Heavy 18ct Gold
Sigle Stone Diamond set ring with claw setting.
1.7ct Si2/I1 **SOLD £1800**

Lot 282 - Hunts Cyclist Battalion. Private Herbert
Payne 39265 KIA
Estimate SOLD £280



Local Interest; The Limerick - Huntingdon Ferrars
SOLD £800

Charles Darwin On the Origin of Species 2nd Edition
SOLD £1500



A late 19thC Brass carriage clock, with white enamel
dial signed Dent **SOLD £1400**

Extensive Spode Fleur De Lys Gold
Service **SOLD £600**



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ADVERTORIAL

THE OLD RIVERPORT JAZZ & BLUES FESTIVAL 2021



We are absolutely delighted to be sponsoring The Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival and hope that everyone who attends will be able to enjoy wonderful music in our great town, safely and in good spirit.

Here is the full programme to help you to chose which of the excellent bands to see.

Mike Ellis

ellis&co winters

Thursday 16th September

7pm	The Oliver Cromwell	Steve Lockwood Band	Harmonica Blues
8pm	Nelsons Head	Soloman Smith	Coolness and Groove
9pm	Taproom	Gravy Train Trio	Funk, and Soul Jazz

Friday 17th September

6pm	The Haywain	Black Velvet	Irish Blues and Soul
6pm	The Corn Exchange	Savoy Super Six	Trad Jazz
7pm	Golden Lion Hotel	Dickie de Vere & The DMs	Tunes of the 20s/30s
7.30pm	Parish Church	Keith Pearson Band	Gin & Jazz session
8pm	Ivy leaf Club	Freddie Hall	Soul, Mowtown, R&B
9pm	The Corn Exchange	John Verity	Blues

Saturday 18th September

11am	The Quay	Fran McGillivray and Mike Burke	Country & Blues
2pm	The Quay	Chris Lord Blues Express	Rhythm and Blues
3pm	Parish Church	Martin Kemp Quartet	Gin & Gypsy Jazz
4pm	The Oliver Cromwell	Sure-Can Playboys	Sax, Jazz and Blues
5pm	Floods Tavern	Kafkadiva	Riffy-Bluesy-Rock
6.30pm	Taproom	CBT Band	Sophisticated Jazz
7.30pm	Golden Lion Hotel	Rhythm & Blues Band	Rhythm and Blues
9.30pm	Ivy leaf Club	Split Whiskers	Chicago Blues

Sunday 19th September

Noon	Golden Lion Hotel	Django's Tiger	Gypsy Jazz
2pm	The Quay	Barefoot Doctors	Electric Blues
4pm	Nelson's Head	Lexie Green	Americana, Blues
6pm	Seven Wives	The Flyin' Leathernecks	Rockabilly
7pm	Amore	Peter Shepherd Duo	Smooth Jazz
8pm	The Lounge	Dr Ika's Pharmacy	Rock Blues

PROGRAMME MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE