

# The Riverporter



## ST IVES AWARD WINNING NEWSPAPER

COVERING THE NEWS FOR ST IVES AND AROUND

Issue 113: 1 July 2022

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

## Riverport Singers bring a bit of Magic to St Ives

**T**he Editor of *The Riverporter* was invited to attend the first concert by The Riverport Singers last Sunday and he's glad he went.

Now I'm not usually a fan of community choirs and so I was a little unsure if I would enjoy this concert.

I love all sorts of music and we are lucky that there are so many great musicians around for us to enjoy. On Friday, along with a full audience, I'd seen the brilliant guitarists Chris Newman and Humphry Finkel performing at The Chapel Arts Concert in the Riverport Bar (see below). Music of the highest quality. Two days later and I'm not sure if an amateur choir will move me quite so much. How wrong I was.

The first thing to say is that from the very start there was feeling of happiness in the room. Agi Peach the Choir Leader was so delighted to be able to put on the concert, which had been cancelled twice because of Covid. Her enthusiasm was infectious and this soon reached the audience. On top of this was a great choice of songs and a suggestion that we could join in the singing, which of course we did. With songs we all knew, and some African chants we didn't know, the programme was very entertaining and the quality of the singing was very good.



From left to right: Roger Kuch, Chair St Ives Dementia Friendly Community, Mayor, Councillor Philip Pope and Choir leader, Agi Peach.

### St Ives- a Dementia Friendly Town

St Ives started on the course of becoming Dementia Friendly in 2016 when the then Mayor, Ian Jackson, made it one of his aims. The Choir, formed in February 2020 is just one of the activities promoted by the St Ives Dementia Friendly Community Group, led by Agi Peach, a local music teacher and accompanied by Jinty Garbutt, a retired piano and woodwind teacher. After three rehearsals with forty singers, made up of people living with dementia, their carers, and their friends and family, the pandemic silenced all the choirs in the outside world. But like so many, the Riverport Singers carried on throughout lockdown on Zoom,

keeping their freshly formed little community together and growing. Finally the day came last Sunday for the long anticipated first concert at the Corn Exchange!

The hall was bursting with singing as the audience of friends, family, volunteers and others including the new Mayor, Philip Pope, a singer himself, joined in.

In the second half of the concert the wonderful Over Community Singers and Drummers wowed the audience with their electric African rhythms and songs from all over the world. The two choirs and drummers joined together on stage for a heartwarming finale, experiencing the magic that only happens when people join together in song.

Much praise must go to Agi, whose enthusiasm and love of singing was plain to see.

*'You can see it in everyone's eyes, how their hearts connect when they start to sing. Dementia is one of the cruellest conditions, but when we sing together, for a little while, hardships can be forgotten and fond memories rekindled. People feel joy and belonging,' said Agi. 'It's a precious gift, and we are lucky to be able to enjoy it together every week. This concert has allowed us to share this gift with our audience.'*

If you would like to find out more about the Riverport Singers, or any of the other dementia friendly activities offered in St Ives, please contact Agi on 07757 811802.

## We've had picnic in The Park and another great Chapel Arts concert so what more is to come?

This weekend is **NFEST**, the annual Needingworth Music Festival now in its 26th year. Music starts at 2pm this Saturday and Noon on Sunday. The always excellent Split Whiskers are Saturday's headline act.

Next weekend, 8th to 10th July, and it is **St Ives Carnival and Music Festival** at Hill Rise Park. Friday 8th is the open cinema night when the original Disney Mary Poppins film will be shown. Sunday 10th is the Music Festival from midday with seven bands lined-up to play. Sadly there are no details about the

Carnival on Saturday 9th July. We do know that there will not be a parade from the Town centre this year.

Also starting this Sunday is the first of the **Music on The Waits** concerts with the Deeping Dixlanders a Trad Jazz band.

Other bands performing in July include: 10th: Acoustics Anonymous 17th: Chatteris & Manea Silver Band 24th: James Schouten, Tenor 31st: AA Roots. - country & blues.

These FREE concerts are from 2.30 to 4 pm. With refreshments available, please bring your own chair this year.



On 9th July in The Corn Exchange is a **Soul and Motown Night** from 7pm. Also in the Corn Exchange is a chance to see an amazing version of **Macbeth** by the Flabbergast Theatre from 14th to 17th July. Tickets for both of these events are available from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/ceevents](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/ceevents)



Above left: The Mayor congratulates Picnic in The Park band Arco Iris

Above right: So 80s bring out the dancers.



# Councillors choose three of the best

**A**t an Extraordinary meeting of the Town Council last week, three candidates were selected from the eight people who applied to become a Town Councillor.

It was a very rare event indeed as the Town Council met to adopt three councillors in one go. It was so unusual that the Clerk and other officers present had to look at 'the manual' to see how the elections should proceed.

The rules suggested that only one councillor would be chosen at a time. The vote was also to be done anonymously so that those present would not know who voted for who. As with all Council meetings there was an opportunity for residents to raise matters with the Council and on this night resident Peter Townsend requested to know why the Civic Protocol, which states that the flag should be flown during Full Council meetings was not being followed?

Somewhat surprisingly the Locum Clerk declined to comment on the matter and the Mayor, who chairs the meetings said a reply would be sent to Mr Townsend.

Prior to this councillors were asked if they needed to declare an interest with any items on the agenda.

This too caused a bit of a stir as most of the councillors knew many of the applicants for adoption.

As it turned out there were no pecuniary interests, where a councillor may benefit financially. The advice from the Clerk was that councillors should declare an interest if they feel that their decision, as to who to select, might be swayed by their relationship with a candidate, in which case they should not take part in the vote. In the end all the councillors voted.

Prior to the vote the candidates present were able to speak to the council and say why they should be elected. Four of the eight candidates were present and all took up this opportunity. The votes followed as candidates were elected one at a time.

The candidates needed to secure at least 51% of the vote to be elected and after this lengthy process the following people were elected to serve as Town Councillors until 2026.

**Mathew Setchell** an IT engineer who already sits on a number of local groups including St Ives Flood Action Group and St Ives Eco Action.

Lisa Valla

who was Headteacher at Eastfield infant school and is a member of Calmtown. She said her new role as a school improvement adviser has provided her with the capacity to support her local community, allowing her to contribute to the town's future.

The final person selected was

**Michael Gleadow**, a retired environmental health professional with a great deal of experience working with district and town councils.

Michael is the husband of the newly elected District Councillor for South St Ives, Cath Gleadow, so the relationship between the Town and District Council should improve!

There is now a full compliment of 17 councillors and, probably for the first time ever, none have been elected by the people of St Ives.

**NOTE:** Mr Townsend received a reply from the Mayor about raising the flag at council meetings but we understand the answer has been queried. **Ed.**



# Sally becomes President



The Annual Changeover Meeting of Rotary Presidents of the St Ives Rotary club took place at the Amore Restaurant on The Quay on Tuesday 28th June 2022. Pictured are the outgoing President Julian Thomas handing over to Sally Heffer-Martin. Julian has had an extremely successful year in leading the club out of the Pandemic and wished to thank all the members, and the general public who have supported the club in the many fund raising activities that have taken place during his year of office.

Sally hopes to continue in leading the club into the new year, and intends to follow the motto of Rotary in 2022 which is 'SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES'.

## BANDSTAND UPDATE

Pledges have continued to be received towards the Jubilee Bandstand and the total money pledged now exceeds £32,000. The Town Team are delighted that the community is supporting this initiative and once again it shows just what a supportive community St Ives has. However there is still a need to raise more and for this reason the Team are planning a fund raising event which we hope will provide a truly memorable evening and raise a further £1,000 (see right).

**It's not to late to make a pledge and it is easy to do - all contributions are welcome.**

You can make a pledge (from £25 upwards) by sending your contact details (address, email and telephone number) to:

[townteam@stivescambridgeshire.co.uk](mailto:townteam@stivescambridgeshire.co.uk) stating the amount you wish to pledge. Alternatively you can give details at The Town Hall between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday. Your pledges and donations will be recognised. Every person or company that donates to the bandstand will be inscribed on a panel (unless they wish to remain anonymous) so that future generations will see all of the people who contributed.

## Ahoy me hearties - join the crew in The Old Riverport

Come back in time and enjoy an evening of rollicking good fun, song and dance and a glass or two of grog.

Join the crew of Old Time Sailors at The Corn Exchange on Thursday 8 September for just £10 and help raise £1,000 towards the Jubilee Bandstand.

Tickets are available at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives) and from the Riverport Café Bar.



See a video of the crew in action on The Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival Facebook page



8pm Thursday 7 July 2022

Tickets online at [screenstives.org.uk](http://screenstives.org.uk)  
or in the Corn Exchange



Tickets  
**£5**  
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## OPERATION MINCEMEAT



8pm Thursday 21 July 2022

Doors and Riverport Cafe  
open from 7pm

# The Riverporter

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



Milly takes to wearing her mask again because of the Covid surge.



having your say ...

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

## NEWS FLASH NEWS FLASH NEWS FLASH NEWS FLASH NEWS

Please note that The Chapel Arts @ the Corn Exchange concert with Tenor, James Schouten has been cancelled as James will be singing in an Opera. We wish him luck. People who had already bought tickets will be reimbursed.



Friday 29th July 7.30pm. Tickets: £10 from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives) or can be purchased from the Riverport Café Bar. A TOWN TEAM EVENT

Dear Erik,

I hope all is well and thank you yet again for your splendid Riverporter. How else would we know what's going on in St Ives? I wonder if you may be so kind as to mention the Summer Concert being performed by COSI (Chamber Orchestra of St Ives) in the Free Church on Thursday 14th July starting at 8pm. It promises an evening of great seasonal music. Tickets are available from our Just Sharing shop in the Free Church or on the door.

Many thanks again **Pete**

**Dear Pete**, Of course we will.

Will this do? **Erik**

But Don't Panic we already have a replacement. We thought, what could replace an operatic Tenor? And of course it was obvious ... The best Irish band around! So prepare yourselves for a night of Irish jigs, airs and laments with

**BLACK VELVET**

Chapel Arts  
@ the  
Corn Exchange

**Friends of Holt Island Nature Reserve**  
Friends invite you to their  
Annual General Meeting  
Wednesday 6th July at 7pm St Ives  
Corn Exchange

With guest speaker Brian Eversham – CEO of the Wildlife Trust BCN – on the topic of 'Bumblebees and other bees'.

Hidden secrets of Holt Island – highlights from our trail cameras. Refreshments provided.

Non members £3 [www.holtisland.org](http://www.holtisland.org)  
[www.facebook.com/HoltIslandNatureReserve](http://www.facebook.com/HoltIslandNatureReserve)



## The Weed man of St Ives gets jailed

A man who described himself as the weed man of St Ives has been jailed for four years by Cambridge Crown Court on Thursday, June 23, after previously pleading guilty to possession with intent to supply class A and B drugs and being concerned in the supply of class B drugs. The man, Emcet Oktay was arrested after neighbourhood police officers launched an investigation in 2020 following reports from concerned residents about his drug dealing. Arresting officer PC Tristan Vert, said: 'It was Oktay's brazen drug dealing that ultimately secured his prison sentence. He boasted about being the 'weed man' of St Ives and used his ill-gotten gains to fund a lavish lifestyle.'

During a search of his home in Russet Close, St Ives, officers discovered cocaine and cannabis worth more than £6,000 and almost £2,000 in cash.



## Four St Ives businesses win awards

Four St Ives businesses have won awards in the Muddy Stilettos 2022 Awards for Suffolk and Cambridgeshire. Muddy Stilettos describes itself as the ultimate urban guide to the countryside - a witty, super-useful insider's guide to the very best food, walks, boutiques, day trips, hotels, interiors and events for smart, fun-loving women living outside London. [Sounds good eh?]

The four businesses are:

**VK Gallery** for the best Art Space.

**The Oliver Cromwell** for the best Destination Pub.

**Meraki Hair Design** for the best Hair Salon and the **Honey B Boutique** for the best Women's Fashion Store.

Two businesses in Somersham also won awards,

**The Sandpiper Pool and Spa** for the best Spa and **Core Factor Pilates** for the best Yoga/Pilates studio.



## Plenty of parking space for your bike

There have been a number of cycle rack installations in town recently, which is very good for cyclists and hopefully this will encourage more people to bike into town rather than drive.

There has been criticism of the standard of some installations but generally this is a positive move. Cycles can be parked in Crown Place, beside the Poundland store (below right), Market Hill (below left) and in by the bus station where there are two covered cycle racks, one with equipment to allow cyclists to deal with a puncture or minor repair.



## Town Clerk absence still unresolved

Now the Town Council has a full compliment of councillors, seventeen to be precise, and with just five of them having been in the role for more than two years, it will be a very interesting time for the town. The good news is that there is a mix of young and old with a wealth of life experience among them. With six women and eleven men the gender balance is not quite 50/50 but it is moving in the right direction.

The bad news is that this is probably the most difficult time for the Council, not only because of the legacy of Covid and now the economic slowdown but because of the internal problems the Council has been dealing with due to the absence of the Town Clerk, Alison Benfield, who has been off work for around 2 years. Although the Council has employed temporary Clerks (Locums) to do the job, they are not full time and with other staff retiring there have been noticeable difficulties in the smooth running of the Council. This has also resulted in much higher costs for the Council and of course the taxpayers. *The Riverporter* has written to the Council asking when the Clerk will return, but we have had no reply yet.



**Entries Invited for Our Next  
Antiques & Interiors Sale  
on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July**

Sold In Our Last Antiques & Interiors Sale



George Tinworth (1843-1913); 'Tea Time Scandal'  
Doulton Lambeth  
**Sold £1900**



Fielding Oil Engine by Fielding & Platt Ltd of  
Gloucester  
**Sold £1500**



500th Anniversary of the First Gold Sovereign 1489 -  
1989 Limited edition 03321 Cased  
**Sold £1100**



ADVERTORIAL



The Royal Air Force Wyton Area Voluntary Band  
perform in concert for the

# 100 YEARS of the ROYAL BRITISH LEGION ST IVES

**Saturday 9th July 2022**

7.30pm (Doors open at 7.00pm)

The Free Church, Market Hill, St Ives

Tickets cost £10 from the Just Sharing Shop in the Free Church St Ives,  
St Ives Town Hall and Monica Thompson 01480 395552



by kind permission of the Station Commander Royal Air Force Wyton

## Fifth price record this year but further signs of pace easing



The price of property coming to the market during June was up for the fifth consecutive month, reaching an average of £368,614. This rise was slower than we have seen in previous months, a modest increase of 0.3% during June, or £1,113, a sign that the pace of growth is easing. With the recent base rate rise by the Bank of England, now 1.25%, affordability constraints will start to have an impact on how bullish buyers will feel about paying a premium for their next home.

Correctly pricing your home for sale and the marketing approach taken is going to be a more significant factor if selling your property in the latter half of 2022.

A better balance between supply and demand can now be seen across the housing market. Demand is still outstripping supply, however, the last few months have been less frantic for buyers.

This improvement in choice and availability is encouraging more buyers to join the search for a home, minimising the likelihood of a swing to a buyer's market.

We still anticipate annual price growth to be around 5% year on year with demand continuing to outstrip supply and little sign this will change for some time.

If you're thinking of moving, we would be delighted to provide a free valuation and advice on your best step forward.

Call Ellis Winters on 01480 388888 to speak to our knowledgeable team.

# ellis&co winters