

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

Businesses concerned about Broadway proposals

Following the proposals to redesign the road layout of The Broadway by Cambs County Council (see RPs 148/149), 44 businesses have said they are concerned that the loss of parking spaces will damage them, particularly during this difficult trading period.

Along with their concerns, a public petition, objecting to the proposals, has been signed by 500 people.

Corrine Harwood-Davey of La Muse said 'It is not our intention for the council to lose the funding for the scheme, but rather to limit the damage to business by removing so many parking spaces'.

Some of the businesses involved include Hephers, Janet Church Interiors, Townrow, Manifest and VK Gallery. In a letter accompanying the petition sent to CCC's Democratic Services the businesses stated that they not been consulted properly. It said 'Few had received the letter about the scheme although the Crop Shop had received 7 copies and the Norris Museum 6 copies in one day'.

The letter requested that the business owners be established as consultees on the scheme to find a constructive way forward.

It requested that the letter and petition be sent to councillors. The Riverporter spoke with St Ives 'active' County Councillor, Kevin Reynolds, who told us that he agrees the scheme needs adjusting so as not to lose the ten parking spaces. In his response to Vanessa Kelly who is in charge of the CCC scheme, Kevin said:

'While it is good to encourage cycling. ... The Broadway is unusually wide, therefore one of the few areas capable of taking a nonstandard parking configuration [and] I strongly object to the current [parking] proposals on the following grounds:

The numbers are greatly reduced, to the detriment of the retail units in that end of the town. While I concede current arrangements are not satisfactory, due to no policing of the parking spaces ... the original concept was for a 'pop in' and 'pop out' facility

to increase footfall, which worked well when restrictions were enforced. Herringbone parking must stay!

Moving disabled bays to this area makes little sense, as they are further from the shops. The [Victoria] monument would benefit from railings and/or cycle parking facilities [to] deter illegal parking and make cycling slightly more attractive.'

A comprehensive scheme

Interestingly Kevin also went on to suggest something The Riverporter has promoted in the past, namely buses going through the Broadway to Market Hill. 'This will achieve increased vitality and footfall in the Broadway [and avoid some of the] problems buses encounter using the North Road route. I hope my suggestion are incorporated in any revised scheme.' He said

We await the outcome of this consultation!

Why be cold, when you can be COSI tomorrow!



Winter

Saturday 13th January

@ 7.00pm

The Free Church St Ives

Conductor – Chris Hiscock
Leader – Karen Hubbard



Orpheus in the Underworld
Overture

By
Offenbach

Suite Algerienne
By
Saint Saens

3rd SYMPHONY
By
Schubert



Tickets £10 from the Free Church Office or from:
ticketsource.co.uk/chamber-orchestra-of-st-ives

BREAKING NEWS Town Council to appoint new Town Clerk

Speculation has been rife for some time about the position of the Town Clerk, Matthew Price following an Extraordinary meeting of the Council in December (see page 3). The Riverporter understands that some councillors are extremely unhappy with the way the Council has been operating, with several resignations already and more likely.

River reaches highest recorded level but no house flooded

The recent flooding of some streets in town has provided an opportunity for more interesting pictures of St Ives (see page 2 also), as this moody shot of a canoeist on the river and meadow shows. The flood meadow regularly floods, hence its name, and fortunately the flood defenses, put in earlier this century, prevented residential properties from being badly affected. The fact that the river rose to its highest level ever recorded is significant. As I write the road at Earith is flooded, resulting in a lot of traffic, including large lorries, needing to use the Harrison Way bridge to access the A14 and beyond. This route, on occasions, become vital and questions are now being asked about the structure. Built in the 1970s, is the bridge capable of handling increasingly heavy vehicles and what's its life expectancy?



DIARY OF EVENTS

JANUARY

Thursday 25th - Burns Night Celebration - St Ives Corn Exchange 7pm
Tickets £55: www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents.

Friday 26th - Brooks Williams - Chapel Arts Concert. 7.30pm - Riverport Café Bar. Tickets: £10 from the Bar or from www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents.

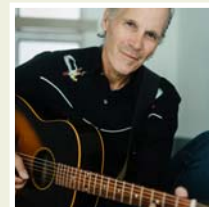
Saturday 27th - Don't Stop Queen Now! - Queen Tribute Band. St Ives Corn Exchange 7.15pm. Tickets £25: www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents.
15% off pre-show meal at Di Rita's with ticket!

FEBRUARY

Saturday 17th - Huntingdonshire Philatelic Society Stamp and Postcard Fair at St Ives Corn Exchange 10am-3pm. Free admission.
Call 01480 468037 for further information.



St Ives & Music - FRIDAY 26TH JANUARY Brooks Williams



Brooks returns for an intimate concert in the Riverport Café Bar. He has been a leading light on the roots acoustic music scene for over three decades and it is no surprise he is listed in the Top 100 Acoustic Guitarists.

7.30pm in the Riverport Café Bar.

Tickets: £10 from the Bar or from
w.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents

A lot happened over Christmas

Here are some of the wonderful things that happened in St Ives since our last edition. As usual many people and organisations gave their time free to make Christmas a special time.

Snowman Festival

Below is Matt from Ellis Winters presenting the cup and £200 to Star Crafters, the winners of the best Snowman Display for their decorations of the Post Box in Bridge Street (see RP148). Star Crafters was originally set up by Elaine Spence of Star Dancewear and Crafts.



The Snowman Trail winners, which received a £50 Townrow Voucher each were: eight year-old George Jenner of Fairfields, six year-old Florence Stubbington of Manchester Way, two year-old Darcy Ireland of Houghton and three year-old Harry Davies of Dart Close.



Dementia Friendly Community Group

At their Christmas Concert in the Corn Exchange, the Rotary President, Sally Heffer-Martin, handed over a cheque for £500, a most kind and generous donation to their cause (see below).

This followed another wonderful concert, sold out again, and attended by both the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor.



Corn Exchange

Below - The Corn Exchange held its annual New Years Eve party which was sold out and featured the band Poke playing a wide range of cover numbers.



Two Indian restaurants re-open

Sultan on London Road and Monal Indian Cuisine, formerly PR Massala in Wellington Street, reopened before Christmas. Monal's official opening was conducted by the Chair of HDC, Michael Burke and the towns Deputy Mayor Cllr Julie Kerr. The new owner, Nain, has been overwhelmed by the great response and pleased with the feedback.



yes you can

with
Slimming
World

ST IVES

The Burleigh Hill Centre
Constable Road, PE27 3ER

Tuesdays 9.30 am *
Thursdays 5.30 pm *
Fridays 9.30 am
Saturdays 8.00 am & 9.30 am

*** Calmer sessions**

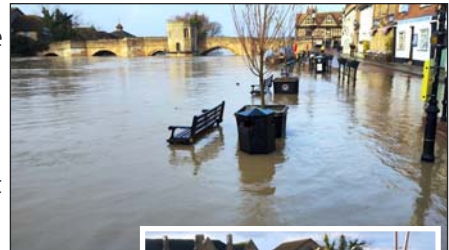
For information about our special offers, call/message Kathie on 07772 868472

... and it rained and rained and rained

Back in August 2018 *The Riverporter* (RP16) speculated on the effects of global warming and produced the image below of the Gondola approaching The Quay as water lapped the buildings. We thought this might be the position in 2068 not 2024!

With the river reaching the highest level since recording began, and the news that monthly global temperatures have been the highest ever over the past 6 months, concern is mounting about the lack of urgency in reducing global emissions.

With the elections due this year in the USA (a major Green House Gas emitter) there is concern about comments made this week by Trump, who said he will be a dictator if elected and 'We're gonna drill [oil] baby!' The swans seemed to like the flood (right), but the flood gates on The Waits leaked (bottom right). Wellington Street also began to flood (bottom left). Did the Oliver Cromwell pub miss a marketing opportunity here?





Milly and the editor wrap up.



having your say ...

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

**Dear Erik,
Subject: Greggs Passage**

I feel sad that I have to bring attention to customers from Greggs constantly throwing their rubbish down the passage walk through, where I walk daily ... I don't know who is responsible, but as a well known company, I feel that the management of Greggs should carry some accountability!!



This eyesore must stop blighting our lovely little town of St Ives, enjoyed by so many people. I would appreciate your comments Erik and perhaps find out who is responsible for this area!!

Kind regards **Marie Brookes** Daily visitor
Dear Marie, Thanks for letting us know about this. We will ask Greggs if they can do something about it. **Erik.**

**Dear Erik,
Subject: Are councillors really worth their money?**

I enjoyed your article 'Are councillors really worth their money? More journalists need to be looking at their paid local officials to sort out the dead wood and who is doing the work to make the locals life better. Well done. If you are looking for investigations ... in this energy/save the planet crisis why do so many St Ives shops trade in winter with their doors open (not just St Ives) and all the warm air floats outside?

Why is the Cow and Hare passage a pigeon infested dirty urine smelling s*** hole that people and visitors have to pass through to get to the town centre? Keep up the good work. Kind regards **Mal**

**Dear Erik,
Subject: Further to New Garden Waste**

Are your readers aware that under the new green waste bin rules, even though we are supposed to be more environmentally friendly, that from April, you can no longer put food waste in your green bin.

The lady I spoke to at the HDC didn't know why, that's the new rule - it is to go in the grey bin and to landfill!!!!?

Regards
Phil McC.

This letter was sent to Vanessa Kelly of Cambs County Council and to *The Riverporter*.

**Dear Erik,
Subject: The reordering of
The Broadway, St Ives**

It has been brought to my notice by concerned fellow elderly neighbours at Harvest Court, that signage in Ramsey Road to divert large vehicles along North Road, will compromise their safety.

North Road forms part of the Busway for both A & B routes, and does have pinch points when buses confront lorries coming in the opposite direction.

The safety of pedestrians on the North side of North Road between Harvest Court and No 14, is already compromised by the narrow width of the footpath and its camber(sloping as it does down to the road).

It is impossible to use a wheelchair or mobility scooter on this length of the footpath, and is painful for elderly pedestrians with arthritis.

I will also point out that during heavy rain, the fact that surface water flows out of Globe Place car park into North Road, where three of the drains are almost permanently blocked with detritus, causing flooding and standing water.

As a consequence, pedestrians can be subjected to a drenching by inconsiderate motorists.

Careful consideration must be taken regarding the wider environment when making alterations to traffic flows (a matter not taken up, some 40+ years ago, when West Street could have been made a through road into Ramsey Road and form part of a one way system with North Road).

Kind regards
Philip Noble

**Dear Erik,
Subject: Parking in St Ives**

There is no doubt that the new Ivo Lounge is a smart and much needed addition to St Ives. However the parking outside Boots has now become worse than ever and as a person that can't walk so well at the moment, when you just want to go into Boots and pick up your prescription, this is terrible.

I either have to go down first thing in the morning or much later in the day before Boots shuts as can't walk from the car park. Nobody seems to care anymore and the parking in the town is appalling. We keep getting promised something is going to be done about this but when is this going to be.

Perhaps you can advise. **Valerie Ritch**

Dear Valerie, The latest information about parking is that this will not be sorted until 2025. It was originally thought that Huntingdonshire District Council would be taking over responsibility for parking enforcement from the police this year. However the County Council will need to complete the road signs (yellow lines etc.) before the District can accept responsibility.

This means a delay because of there is a lot to be done throughout the whole district.

The Riverporter

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

OTHER NEWS

Council agenda falls apart

The Editor knows that running a council is a difficult job, which seems harder each year due to legal requirements, the increasing administration required, health and safety issues and the protection of personal data. This came to a head on Wednesday, when the Town Council agenda was found to be illegal. A resident told the Council that they could not discuss the estimates and ratify the precept as some of the paperwork was missing. He also said that his details had been given in council minutes, without his consent, and he stated that the discussion of community grants should not be held in private as the agenda indicated.

The Council took on-board these comments, agreeing to delete the residents details from its minutes and did not discuss the Precept during the public session. Councillors did not discuss Grants to outside bodies during the closed session, as agreed, but did, quite illegally, discuss the Precept behind closed doors.

Councillors did adopt a new Town Councillor for the vacancy caused by the resignation of former Deputy Mayor, Craig Smith (see RP144). Four people who put their names forward, however Kathryn Campbell, withdrew before the meeting leaving the following candidates:

- John Kennedy who has worked at Waitrose for 40 years, having moved to St Ives in the 1990s. He is a member of the Parish Church and the Civic Society and a volunteer at St Ives In Bloom and for 12 years performed in the panto.
- Martin Gill who moved here in 1994 after working at RAF Wyton with 30 years service in the Army. He is an IT Project Manager due to retire soon. He recently stood as a Conservative candidate in the District elections for St Ives South where he came fourth.
- Jacqueline Spencer a resident of St Ives for 30 years. A Solicitor of a firm in Newmarket for 19 years she specialises in conveyancing. She is involved in local theatre, including Shakespeare at the George and latterly Huntingdon Drama club.

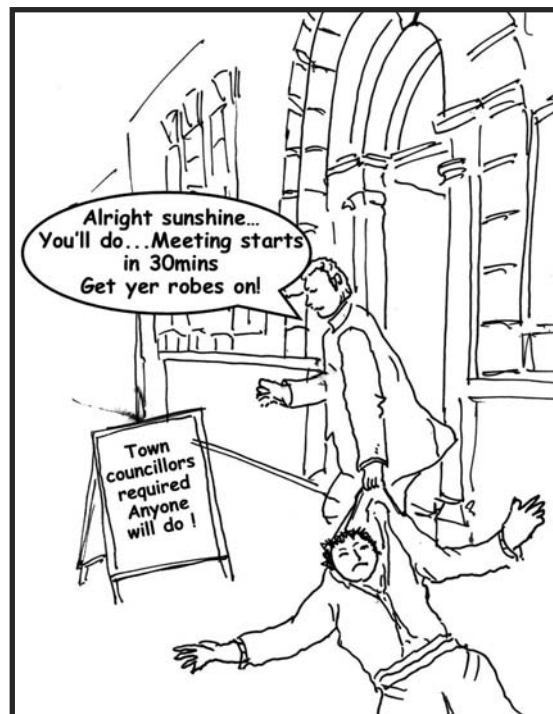
After hearing the candidates speak, councillors chose Jacqueline Spencer, as a Town Councillor. Another item discussed was an Auditors report which noted that the council had failed to comply with some regulations, which included not keeping the public informed by not issuing copies of The Bridge magazine for the whole of 2023.

One in and two out . . .

Following an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council on 9th November it was agreed that a panel consisting of Cllrs, Mokbul, Tiddy, Wells, Vala and the Mayor were to meet a member of staff to carry out disciplinary proceedings with delegated authority of the Full Council. *The Riverporter* understands that as a result Matthew Price is no longer in the role. The council has agreement with CAPALC for Libby White to give interim locum cover for 5 hours per week and will discuss the recruitment of a new Town Clerk at its Personnel Committee on 17 January.

Yet another Councillor, Monica Mallol Wright, resigned on 4th January and we are aware of one other councillor considering their position due to concerns about 'Things not being done properly'. It appears that the Council has been hampered by the lack of experience on the Council. Many of the current councillors have either been adopted or elected unopposed and few have more than a couple of years in a role that requires not only time and dedication, but considerable skill and experience.

It is clear that the Mayor and long standing councillors need to step up as there is a fear that the council could hit the headlines for the wrong reasons.



Other news

County Councillor Douglas Dew, from Hemingford Grey, who defected to the Lib Dems from the Tories last January (RP126) has been made Vice-Chairman of the County Council.

The Sorting Office in Bridge Street will close on 29th January and mail will probably have to be collected from Huntingdon.

Correction

We made an error in the article **PCC wants more?** in our last issue. Police and Crime Commissioners have been told by that they are able to raise the police element of council tax **up to £13 a year**. Not a week! Our apologies.

Community Spaces in St Ives

Do you know there are welcoming spaces in St Ives where you can go to take part in something fun while meeting new people in your community?

Details of all Community Spaces across Huntingdonshire can be found here:
<https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/people-communities/community-spaces/>

EVERYDAY

Ivy Leaf Club

23 The Broadway. PE27 5BX

Monday to Friday from 11am to 2.30pm, 6 to 11pm.
Saturday from 11am to 12am. Sunday from 12noon to 10.30pm

Free tea, coffee, biscuits. TV and a friendly chat during opening hours

01480 464431 www.stivesivyleafclub.com

Library

4 Library Row, Station Road. PE27 5BW

Opening hours from 9.30am (and 10am on Sunday) and additional Open+ access hours

Regular activities include: EngAge in the afternoon, Rhymetime, Lego club, concessionary bus pass help and more

0345 045 5225

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/directory/listings/st-ives-library

One Leisure Indoor Centre Café

Westwood Road. PE27 6WU

Monday to Thursday from 10am to 5.30pm. Fridays and Saturdays from 10am to 7pm. Sundays from 10am to 4pm

01480 388111

U3A (University of the Third Age)

Monthly meeting for members at the Corn Exchange - for details of how to join and upcoming meetings and venues please see the website

<https://u3asites.org.uk/st-ives-cambs/home>

St Ives Dementia Friendly Community Group

Regular activities include: Dementia Café, Friendship Lunches, Love to Move, Reminiscing Sessions, Memory Lane Singing Café, Riverport Singers, Games Session and Carers Group.

Contact the Chair, Roger for more information.

07796 783521 rjkuch@gmail.com

MONDAY

Friendship Group at The Golden Lion

Market Hill. PE27 5AL

Every Monday from 10.30am to 12.00noon

A get together with tea and coffee for those bereaved (but can a bring a friend!)

01480 300726

angiewalters1941@gmail.com

Creative Café at the Norris Museum with Arts and Minds

41 The Broadway. PE27 5BX

Second Monday of the month from 10.30am to 12.30pm

Informal, friendly, creative drop-in café with refreshments and materials provided

01480 497314

info@norrismuseum.org.uk

www.norrismuseum.org.uk

St Ives Child and Family Zone

Broad Leas Centre. PE27 5QB

Second Monday of the month from 10am to 12noon

Young families drop in with social prescribers

heather.simlo@nhs.net

TUESDAY

Pop-up Cafe at the Foodbank

All Saints Parish Church. Church St. PE27 6DG

Tuesdays from 10am to 12noon

Open to everyone - hot drinks and chats

<https://www.stivesparishchurch.org.uk/foodbank/>

Chatty café at the Commute Café

33 The Broadway. PE27 5BX

Tuesdays from 10am to 12noon

Chatter & Natter table - come along for a chat and a cuppa. <https://www.thecommutecafe.com>

For more information contact Jane at St Ives Town Council on stivescares@stivestowncouncil.gov.uk or call 01480 388929.

WEDNESDAY

Warm Welcome at Burleigh Hill Community Centre

Constable Rd. PE27 3ER

Wednesdays from 10am to 2pm

Warm Welcome with free tea, coffee and biscuits with local community information.

01480 388929

stivescares@stivestowncouncil.gov.uk

Face to face appointments with Citizens Advice Rural Cambs can be arranged.

Email: advice@ruralcambscab.org.uk

Sacred Heart Church

19 Needingworth Rd. PE27 5JT

Wednesdays from 10.30am to 12noon

(Provided no funeral)

Free tea, coffee and biscuits

07510 443036 claire@taskline.co.uk

Tots and Carers at the Free Church

Market Hill. PE27 5AD

Wednesdays from 10am to 11.30am

01480 468535 office@stivesfreechurch.org

Reminiscence Group at the Norris Museum

41 The Broadway. PE27 5BX

First and Third Wednesday of the month from 10.30am to 11.30am

Support group for those who live with dementia and their carers. Small cost. Booking required.

01480 497314 info@norrismuseum.org.uk

www.norrismuseum.org.uk

Senior Citizens Club at the Free Church

Market Hill. PE27 5AD

Wednesdays from 2 to 4pm

Entertainment, quizzes and social get-together. £2 entry.

01480 468535 office@stivesfreechurch.org

THURSDAY

Methodist Church

4 The Waits. PE27 5BY

Thursdays from 10am to 12noon

"Coffee On The Waits" with cake and biscuits - no charge, donations.

01480 462293 www.simc.co.uk

Good Mood Café facilitated by MIND

Morrisons Community Space, Needingworth Road. PE27 4NB

Thursdays from 10.30am to 12pm

0300 303 4363 goodlife@cpslmind.org.uk

www.cpslmind.org.uk/how-we-help/good-life-service/good-mood-cafes/#sessions

Men's Group at the Norris Museum

41 The Broadway. PE27 5BX

First and Third Thursday of the month from 1.30pm to 3pm

Games, object handling, talks, making items and more

01480 497314 info@norrismuseum.org.uk

www.norrismuseum.org.uk

Cambridgeshire Older People's Enterprise (COPE) at The Corn Exchange

The Pavement. PE27 5AD

3rd Thursday of the month from 2 to 4pm

Talks, tea and coffee and a chat. £2 per session.

3 outings a year also organised

01480 300726

angiewalters1941@gmail.com

St Ives Darby and Joan Club at The Corn Exchange

The Pavement. PE27 5AD

Last Thursday of the month from 2 to 4pm

Friendly get together for entertainment with tea and biscuits.

01480 495745

FRIDAY

The Bridge Church

2 Burrell Road. PE27 3LE

Fridays from 10.15am to 12.30pm

Free tea, coffee and cake with people to talk to and cards and board games

01480 498801

www.thebridgechurch.co.uk

Pop-up Cafe at the Foodbank

All Saints Parish Church. Church St. PE27 6DG

Fridays from 10am to 12noon

Open to everyone - hot drinks and chats

<https://www.stivesparishchurch.org.uk/foodbank/>

St Ives Armed Forces Community Drop In

Third Friday of the month from 11.30am to 1.30pm

Free tea, coffee and biscuits.

Alan on 07982 260971

stives.bcs@rbl.community

Feel Good Fridays at the Norris Museum

41 The Broadway. PE27 5BX

Fourth Friday of the month from 10.30am to 12noon

Try something new in a friendly, supportive setting.

01480 497314

communities@norrismuseum.org.uk

www.norrismuseum.org.uk

Christmas Day lunch returns to the Free Church

After 3 years of Christmas Day lunch home deliveries, Kirsty Fletcher from the St Ives office of Huntingdonshire Volunteer Centre (HVC) was very excited to be able to again host our traditional sit-down Christmas Day lunch at The Free Church.



'We provided a two course Christmas lunch for 60 guests who would otherwise have been on their own on Christmas Day', she said.

The day was possible due to the generosity of several business donations, Waitrose provided £100 of wine and food, Morrisons provided 6 bottles of red wine, the Star Crafters knitted and crocheted hand warmers to be included in the gift bags that all guests received and food was donated by The Buckingham Emergency Food Appeal.

We are also extremely grateful for the financial donations received from many local people, thank you all for supporting our Christmas Day lunch.

We were overwhelmed by the number of people who volunteered following an appeal in *The Riverporter* (issue 148) to help us set up on

Christmas Eve and also gave up their time on Christmas Day to welcome and serve lunch to our guests.

Most importantly our cook Pat Jones gave up both days to prepare and cook a lovely lunch for us all. We were joined by our St Ives Town Councillor Andrew Riddell and The Mayor of St Ives, Cllr Philip Pope who welcomed our guests and helped to serve lunch (see right), and the Reverend Barry Pate who said Grace and also served lunches.

We had a raffle with over 40 prizes which were kindly donated by The Free Church. We are also thankful to Hephers of St Ives who set up televisions for us all to watch The Kings Speech.

Guests were offered a glass of sherry on arrival and Mike Baker the Chair of Trustees of HVC welcomed everyone into The Free Church. We sang carols which got us all in the festive mood and then we all enjoyed our very tasty turkey lunch with all the usual trimmings with dessert which was followed by coffee, mints and mince pies.

Our volunteers did an amazing job making sure our guests enjoyed themselves.

We are forever grateful to Pat Clark, who has cooked the lunch for the last 13 years and supported us to put the lunch on this year, Michael and his family for organising the purchase of goodies for the gift bags and the drinks to accompany lunch, and to the volunteers and friends of The Free Church for their help with putting together the gift bags and for organising the raffle prizes.



The Christmas Day lunch takes a lot of co-ordination and planning and without the help and kindness of all the wonderful people mentioned we would not be able to put on this event.

Compliments included:

'Thank you so much for a very tasty lunch'.
Mr B.

'At the last minute my family came down with Covid so I would have been on my own on Christmas Day and even at such short notice was so pleased you were able to let me join you for lunch. To spend time with others was so lovely'.
Mrs H.




The COURTYARD St Ives

Open-air boutique market, run by independents




Open 7 days a week, all year round



Screen St Ives Community Cinema


Supported by
BOONGATE KIA
Home of the 7 year warranty
Peterborough PE1 5UA, Tel: 01733 344344



PAST LIVES

Thursday 1 February 2024 at 7:30pm
Doors open 6:30pm. Tickets £7
 Director: Celine Song, 106m, Cert: 12

Synopsis
 Past Lives is a romantic drama film written and directed by **Celine Song** in her feature directorial debut. Starring **Greta Lee**, **Teo Yoo** and **John Magaro**, it follows two childhood friends over the course of 24 years while they contemplate the nature of their relationship as they grow apart, living different lives. The plot is semi-autobiographical inspired by events from **Celine Song's** life. Past Lives received five nominations at the Golden Globe Awards, including Best Motion Picture (Drama).



ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND (138m)

Sunday 11 February 2024 at 2:30pm
Doors open 1:30pm. Tickets £12

Synopsis
Christopher Wheeldon's Alice's Adventures in Wonderland burst onto the stage in 2011 in an explosion of colour, stage magic and inventive, sophisticated choreography. **Joby Talbot's** score combines contemporary sound worlds with sweeping melodies that gesture to ballet scores of the 19th century. **Bob Crowley's** wildly imaginative, eye-popping designs draw on everything from puppetry to projections to make Wonderland wonderfully real crisis.

Royal Ballet

Ticket at screenstives.org.uk or in the Corn Exchange