

County Councillor report August 2019

Powering up St Ives Park & Ride

An energy project transforming St Ives Park & Ride into a renewable energy generator is getting closer. The project will see solar panels on carports generating renewable electricity, powering not only the site, but also electric vehicle charge points and allow the sale of power to local businesses, including battery storage housed in container-sized cabinets. The £3.6million project will be one of the first of its kind in the country and will avoid the release of nearly 2,400 tonnes of CO₂ with construction to start in later this year. The Council's vision is to secure renewable and resilient energy supplies that can support local needs, whilst maximising the commercial benefit to support front line services.

Cambridgeshire residents save over half a million pounds on energy bills

Residents across Cambridgeshire have successfully saved £563,746 by signing up to a collective energy switching scheme. Cambridgeshire Energy Switch' offers households the opportunity to sign up to an auction scheme to receive cheaper energy bills. The scheme harnesses the power of collective bargaining to get better deals on energy tariffs. Over 500 households signed up through Cambridgeshire County Council for the last auction, which took place in February 2019. On average, 70 per cent of residents that signed up and chose to accept the offer were able to save around £120 per year on their gas and electricity bills. All without changing their energy usage.

The Council recently received a certificate to celebrate the savings it enabled for residents through the scheme.

Registration for the October 2019 scheme opened on Tuesday 13 August. The more people that participate in the scheme, the more likely it is that people will be able to achieve better deals with more competitive gas and electricity tariffs.

It's free to sign up and registration is now open until 7 October 2019 when the next auction will be taking place.

Registering for the scheme only takes five minutes, and the energy tariff offer is exclusive to residents switching through the scheme. Interested Cambridgeshire residents can receive a free, bespoke, no obligation quote by visiting <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/economic-development/energy-across-cambridgeshire/cambridgeshire-energy-switch/>.

Early Years and Childcare

Cambridgeshire County Council staff operate and manage an early years and childcare training centre, offering qualifications and accredited courses flexibly across the county. The centre is accredited with CACHE (the Council for Awards in Children's Care and Education) to deliver essential qualifications in early years, childcare and playwork. There are currently around 80 learners on the books, many of whom are due to complete qualifications shortly.

The work of the centre is subject to annual external verification by CACHE, to review the quality of its assessment and internal quality assurance processes. The 2019 monitoring visit took place on Tuesday 13 August.

The monitoring officer from CACHE found the Early Years Training Centre to be **excellent across the board, with no actions**. Comments included:

"The centre has a robust induction process in place to ensure that the right learners are on the right programmes and have the capabilities to complete".

"The level of work throughout the centre's qualifications is of a good standard and shows that learners are being stretched and challenged in subject areas".

"Assessment practices are good with a clear audit trail throughout. Evidence is easy to track [...] and shows a variety of assessment methods been used. Observations are detailed and really capture the learners working practices to show competency in their occupational area".

The Training Centre is managed as part of the Early Years' Service by Lisa North, with Internal Quality Assurance from Helen Walls, Workforce Development Lead. Contact: Helen Walls (helen.walls@cambridgeshire.gov.uk),

Record year for Music Live!



Music Live, a festival run by the County Councils music tuition team Cambridgeshire Music, brings bands and orchestras into the county's schools where they give live performances, reached a record audience of 16,000 young people this year – many of whom have been inspired to take their music further. They included concerts, musical workshops, and masterclasses in which young musicians in Cambridgeshire were able to learn in small groups with the professional musicians involved. In total, over 16,000 young people experienced live music in their school, while more than 6,700 young musicians took part in workshops with leading professionals. These events included at least 2,200 young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

The feedback from the schools themselves was overwhelming, describing the events as 'excellent' with one teacher saying that it had created "a buzz of excitement and enthusiasm in the school".

New season of arts delights to look forward to this autumn



The Library Presents' is back for a new brilliant season of arts in Cambridgeshire libraries. The Season starts on Saturday 21 September - taking high quality arts activities into the heart of towns and villages across the County - until Saturday 15 December. Nearly 400 local people took part in selecting performances and activities for this new season, shaping a tailor-made programme for each participating library. There is something for everyone, whatever their age and interests, including dance, lots of music to brighten-up the winter evenings, puppetry, magic, comedy and theatre. There is also a great variety of arts and craft workshops, including arts, drama, lantern making, print making and even science. Other workshops will explore objects from the University of Cambridge Museums' collections, or help with improving performance skills while discovering the art of African Township Theatre.

Twenty-three libraries are involved this season. They are : Arbury Court, Barnwell Road, Burwell, Cambourne, Cambridge Central, Clay Farm, Cottenham, Chatteris, Cherry Hinton, Ely, Great Shelford, Histon, Huntingdon, Littleport, March, Milton Road, Ramsey, Soham, St Ives, St Neots, Warboys, Whittlesey and Wisbech.

The Library Presents' first ever international performers are travelling from Thailand to perform '[Mahajanaka Dance Drama](#)'; a show based on one of the oldest surviving folk tales in the world retold through dance, music and animation. www.neondance.org/mahajanaka.

Sherlock Holmes will be visiting, but this detective adventure by Edinburgh Fringe Festival regulars, Last Chance Saloon, will include pop songs, slapstick and physical comedy www.lastchancesaloon.org. Another theatre highlight is 'Greyhounds' by the up and coming Time and Again Theatre Company (pictured above), who will bring their clever and charming production. Set during WW2, the story tells of a local drama company battling to overcome the war raging in the skies above them, as well as the tribulations of village life, to stage a production of Henry V. www.facebook.com/timeandagaintc/videos

To commemorate the 30th Anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, 'SpyNet' is a free interactive exhibition inspired by the military bases of Cambridgeshire, revealing how the military technologies are now part of everyday life. SpyNet will be presented in five libraries in early November.

Peter Hudson
County Councillor
Longstanton, Northstowe, Oakington, Westwick, and Over