

Strikes a long way from archives yet as its given new lease of life

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A management company has taken over Strikes Bowling Alley in Ely and insists the lanes are still very much open for business.

Independent Hospitality Solutions took on the alley and adjoining Planet Zoom this month, despite plans to make the building the new HQ for the county council archives.

Director Matt Barnwell said the council's plans were still some way off and Strikes would be open for the "foreseeable future".

He said: "We have one of the biggest venues in Ely that is sitting here and is not being used and we would like to work with the people and let them know that we are here, open for business and happy to help."

The alley has 15 full and part-time staff and Mr Barnwell said he is welcoming applications for summer jobs. He added: "We are still here, we are still open and, at the moment, we have had no message to tell us otherwise."

Mr Barnwell added that the alley would be given a three-month period of notice should the county council press ahead with its archive plans.



■ Strikes Bowling Alley, Ely; (l-r) Technician Adam Croucher, and manager Annabel Keeble.

Picture: HELEN DRAKE

It was announced in March that Strikes was to be taken over by Cambridgeshire Archives.

The county council has unveiled

plans that will see thousands of documents and records, some dating back to the 13th century, housed in the bowling alley, in Angel Drove.

The council has been working to find new premises following an inspection which found that the archives were inadequately housed.

IN BRIEF

A chance for local musicians to take to the big stage

ELY: A festival band night is taking place at the Maltings next month. The event will be held on July 8 and doors to the venue, in Ship Lane, open at 7pm. Following the success of last year's festival band night, ADeC will once again be giving local musicians the chance to take to the big stage. The event will feature a variety of local rock and pop groups as well as solo performers. Tickets for the event are available for £5.

A toast to Wellington at celebration dinner

SUTTON: St Andrew's Church is holding a dinner in the Glebe to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo. The dinner will be held on Saturday at 6.30pm. Tickets cost £12.50, with gluten free and vegetarian options available. For further information contact Linda Jackson on 01353 777276.



■ Presenter Steve Miller is coming to Ely later this month

Perfect timing to check out your phobias...

TV presenter Steve Miller is visiting Ely to help celebrate the launch of a hypnotherapy practice.

Hypnotherapist Dan Regan opened the door to his new office in May but will officially open the new Lynn Road premises with the help of the *Fat Families* presenter on Saturday, June 27.

The TV star worked with Mr Regan to help him overcome his phobia of blood.

Dan, who last year won the title of hypnotherapist of the year, said: "I look forward to continuing to help more people abolish their anxiety, worry and panic attacks."

Every little - and quite a lot - helps too!

Income from the Diocese of Ely's investment portfolio helped to produce an accounting surplus of more than £200,000 in 2014.

The diocese's annual report revealed that a "better than expected" performance from the church's investment pot

produced £144,000 in interest and dividends.

Other savings in IT and staffing levels in the diocesan office helped boost the total surplus to £227,000.

A large chunk of the surplus will be used to fund a new initiative, called Ely 2025, which aims

to develop and expand the church and its buildings across the diocese.

Diosesan secretary Paul Evans said: "Ely 2025 would also consolidate other growth and mission provisions in the general reserve. The fund would be subject to strict application."



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