PLEASE READ AND PASS ON

The Riverporter

COVERING THE NEWS FOR ST IVES AND AROUND

Issue 194: 10 October 2025

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

ANOTHER SUPER SATURDAY

Weekends in St Ives have been pretty special this year. Farmer's Market on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month brings shoppers to the town but in between there have been some notable events, the most recent being the Freedom Parade in September.

The list of special weekends started on Easter Saturday with four teams of Morris Dancers bringing music and dance to town. On Sunday 4th May the first of four Fleas on The Quay took place.

June saw the Mayor open the Big Green Week on Saturday 7th, which included activities to benefit the environment and a concert by Dickie de Vere and his Dorchester Mavericks at the bandstand on Sunday 8th. The Civic Parade and Picnic in The Park both took place on Sunday 22nd.

July was particularly busy with Music on The Waits (MOTW) every Sunday, another 'Flea' market and the Carnival on the weekend 12-13th July. Sunday 20th July saw 'WOW' day, where people were encouraged to walk the Ouse Valley Way, and 'Toll Games Day' where people crossing our bridge took part in a range of games. They played rather than paid to cross the bridge.

Of course the last weekend of July featured the 600th Anniversary of the Bridge re-enactment with the battle for the bridge, the Living History displays and a Ceilidh in the Corn Exchange.

August by comparison was quieter with just a Flea Market, the MOTW concerts, the Farmer's Markets and the August Bank Holiday market.

September exploded again with the Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival providing 27 free concerts to thousands of music lovers, which also included hundreds of people enjoying our buildings at Heritage Open Day on Saturday 13th.

That brings us up to Saturday 27th September when crowds flocked to see the 42 Engineer Regiment exercise their Freedom of The Town with a spectacular parade led by the Band of the Welsh Guards.

Okay there weren't any explosions, horses, Pikemen, dancers or musket wielding Roundheads but there was an extemly well organised parade of 120, smartly turned out, soldiers marching together as one and carrying the odd sword or two and assault rifles with bayonets fixed.

A ceremonial sword, given by the Regiment to St Ives Town Council now adorns the Town Hall.

Another impressive sight on a Saturday in St Ives.

See photos on page 2.

THE 600 ANNIVERSARY

The draw for the fabulous raffle prizes will take place at The Oliver Cromwell Pub on Thursday 20th November at 7.45pm

- **A 1 hour Self-Drive Hire boat trip** - courtesy S.I. Elec. Riverboats
- **A meal for two including wine** - courtesy of The Oliver Cromwell
- **Afternoon Tea for two** - courtesy of The Golden Lion Hotel.

Tickets are still available from The Oliver Cromwell at just £2 each.

Below: The Deputy Lieutenant Mr Daniel Schunmann MBE DL, Major General Peter John Rowell MBE and the Mayor of St Ives, Councillor Julie Kerr, take the salute. Picture: UK MOD Crown Copyright 2025.

DIARY OF EVENTS

Please email: editor@theriverporter.uk

OCTOBER

Monday 13th - Wednesday 15th - **The Michaelmas Fair.**

Thursday 16th -**British Heart Foundation Quiz Night** Corn Exchange 7.30pm. £5 per person. Teams maximum of 6 per table.

Saturday 18th - **Huntingdonshire Philatelic Society Stamp and Postcard Fair** Corn Exchange 10am-3pm Free admission. 01480 468037.

Friday 24th - **COSI lunchtime concert -** by Nene Voices,features German Lieder and English Song. A free concert, 1pm St Ives Free Church.

NOVEMBER

Wednesday 5th - **Cyber Crime and Fraud Awareness.** 2pm - St Ives Library - Cambridgeshire Constabulary on cyber crime.

Sunday 9th - **Remembrance Sunday** 10am Market Hill, St Ives.

Saturday 15th - **Christmas Market and Lights Switch On**.

Saturday 15th/16th - **BHF Candle Lighting in the Bridge Chapel.** Light a candle for a loved one. 10am to 4pm every weekend until 7 Dec.

Saturday 15th - **Bach Christmas Oratorio, St Ives Choral Soc.** 7.30pm Free Church. Tickets from www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-ives-choral-society.

Saturday 22nd - **ArtsFESt exhibition**. St Ives Corn Exchange, 10 am to 4 pm - to exhibit contact Pat-stivesnow@hotmail.com.

Friday 28th - **COSI lunchtime concert -** featuring a clarinet quintet. A free concert, 1pm St Ives Free Church.

Friday 28th - Chapel Arts Concert - Stella Hensley's Magical Colours St Ives Corn Exchange 7.30pm. Tickets www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents.

Sunday 30th - The Amazing Technicolour Concert - St Ives Community Choir in the Free Church. 6.30 pm. Tickets £9 adults, £5 children.

DECEMBER

Wednesday 3rd - **St Ives Foodbank**. 2pm - St Ives Library - Donations

Saturday 6th - **Christmas Charity Concert** The Free Church 7pm.

Saturday 13th - **Family Christmas Concert, St Ives Choral Society.** 6.30pm. Free Church - www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-ives-choral-society

Sunday 21st and Monday 22nd - **Santa Arrives by Boat,** plus **Santas SnowFESt.** Corn Exchange with Grotto and Giant Snowdome. 12.30 to 4pm.



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42 Engineer Regiment exercising the Freedom of St Ives, September 2025

Pictures on cover and right: UK MOD Crown Copyright 2025.



Town Mayor, Julie Kerr, told *The Riverporter* she thought the parade was spectacular and very well organised by the Engineers and Town Hall staff. In particular she mentioned Civic Officer, Gilly James who was responsible for managing the event. She also thanked the many members of the public for coming to see the 42 Engineer Regiment exercise the Freedom of St Ives.



SHOEBOXES FOR MOLDOVA & UKRAINE 2025 APPEAL

Thank you for helping the Rotary Club of St Ives again in our 2025 appeal for Christmas Shoeboxes to be sent to Moldova and The Ukraine. The boxes are handed personally to struggling families by the charity cr2ee, so you can be assured that your donation will reach a needy recipient.

The shoeboxes need to be received by the club on or before Friday 14th November 2025 for dispatch in time. Please label each box with a guide to the intended recipient eg:- Boy/Girl and age group, Man/Woman, Grandmother/Grandfather. Everything in your Christmas box must be new, a condition set by Customs, if used contents are found, the whole lorry load will be rejected. Please avoid glass and wrap liquids securely to avoid leakage in the unlikely event of being dropped when being distributed.

The boxes should be securely wrapped in Christmas paper after packing.

It would be a nice touch if a card or tag can be included, to give the recipient some idea of the sender and your location.

(If some people would like to donate individual items, then the Rotary Club could assemble some boxes)

Unsuitable items would be:

Medicines, anything that might injure a child such as small items that might be swallowed or sharp items such as scissors etc. No toy guns or swords please.

Playing cards are frowned upon by many because of their association with gambling, so it's best not to send a pack of cards.

Bubble bath, because most people will be washing from a bowl with water drawn from a well.

Below are ideas for your shoebox

Age 2 to 4

Girls: Toothpaste and a toothbrush, shampoo and hair brush, chocolates and biscuits, top, socks and tights, soft toys, colouring books and pencils, dress

Boys: Toothpaste and a toothbrush, shampoo and comb, chocolates and biscuits, T-shirt, socks and trousers, soft toys, colouring books and pencils, car.

Age 4 to 7

Girls: As above plus toy and a calculator, notepad and a copybook, felt tip pens, soap, shower gel, hair clips and slides.

Boys: As for 2 to 4 year olds plus sweater, copybook, notepad, paints and Lego.

For adults (Grannys or Grandpas)

Ladies: Toothpaste and toothbrush, shampoo and deodorant, fragrant soaps, chocolates and biscuits, warm hat, gloves, socks.

Men: Toothpaste and a toothbrush, shampoo, shower gel and deodorant, razor and shaving cream, chocolates and biscuits, warm hat, gloves, socks.

Please contact Simon for a full list.

We recognise that it isn't cheap to put together your gift. Offers such as two for one, or unwanted but unused, gifts you may have tucked away can help make up a lovely Christmas surprise for someone who will receive little else this year and will remind them that there is someone who cares about them.

Thank you so much for your kindness and generosity.

cr2ee. Registered charity no 1062623

Contact : Rotarian Simon Townend 01480 498054.

RIVERPORT REMEDIES



SKINKIND FACIALS

SOME SPACES HAVE BECOME AVAILABLE FOR NEW CLIENTS
IFPA AROMATHERAPIST, FULLY INSURED OFFERING VEGAN, HANDCRAFTED PLANT BASED FACIAL CARE. ARTISAN, HANDCRAFTED PREPARATIONS.
PERSONAL CONSULTATION IN MY RIVERSIDE THERAPY ROOM.
CONTACT VIA FB OR INSTAGRAM ON RIVERPORT REMEDIES, OR TEXT ME ON 07999 718967



Community Spirit at its Best!



Star Crafters would like to thank Specsavers for very kindly hosting the sale of their crocheted and knitted Pumpkins this year.

Our group really appreciate this community support from a high street shop as it gives us an opportunity to raise money for our yarnbombing and for local good causes.

We would also like to thank you for purchasing our pumpkins! As soon as we can make more, we will add to the window display so please take a look when you are in town next. Pumpkins start from £1!

Aisha Bari, the manager in Specsavers has also very kindly said we can also do a Christmas Craft Sale, which is amazing! We cannot thank Aisha and her staff enough for their support. **Elaine, Star Crafters**

The Riverporter



Milly and Tilly love your letters.

having your say ...

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

To listen to the latest **Riverport Radio Podcast** go to **https://riverportradiopodcast.buzzsprout.com**

PLEASE NOTE: Letters are reproduced as presented by the writer. Editing is confined to grammatical corrections or minor trimming to fit the space. *The Riverporter* neither condones or condemns the opinions expressed.

Dear Milly and Tilly,

ONE NIGHT ONLY

As a result of their recent Charity Cabaret show 'ONE NIGHT ONLY' the Centre Theatre Players are delighted to announce that they were able to hand over a cheque for the value of £2,400.00 to their nominated charity The Motor Neurone Disease Association.

On behalf of The Players, and indeed the charity, we would like to thank everyone who supported the evening and help us raise such a fabulous amount. Cheers **Dick**

Hello Milly and Tilly,

In reply to Stringer Jack's question (issue 193) Joe Bugner lived in the big house called 'River View' on the A1123 somewhere opposite Hartford Marina. I guess that puts him in the camp of Houghton and Wyton.

Unless he had a home elsewhere in St Ives.

Dave

Dear Dave, Tilly and I bumped into Jean Chandler the other day, she used to run a playgroup in North Road that also housed Andy Smith's gym, where Joe trained. She told us that Joe used to bring his son to the play group before training, when he lived in Needingworth Road, so Joe did live in St Ives before moving to Houghton and Wyton.

Update on Ed Kelly's funeral

We have been informed that everyone is welcome to attend the funeral of Ed Kelly, which will take place at St Ives Parish Church on Monday 13th October at 1pm.

Ed received the Freedom of St Ives just two months ago. We understand that there is unlikely to be a memorial service after all, but that at 2.10pm, following the funeral, there will be a fly past by the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight including a Dakota aircraft over the church and town.

Hello Milly and Tilly,

Thank you for keeping us up to date with what's going on in our area. I am sure others will share my concerns about the plans to abolish Huntingdonshire District Council and for St Ives to end up on the periphery of a super-sized unitary authority based in Peterborough. It is difficult to see how a council serving the needs of around 600,000 people would find much time to consider what is best for St Ives. I would be concerned about how committed they would be to facilities in our town, such as our swimming pool, leisure centres etc. when they, inevitably, find themselves short of money.

I was very pleased to see that Huntingdonshire have decided to rebel against these plans. Their hope being that they can persuade the government to allow them to become a unitary authority i.e take on responsibility for roads, education, social services etc. That would seem to be a better outcome for our town. Unfortunately, it sounds unlikely that the government will agree to this.

I did wonder if another option might be for Huntingdonshire and East Cambridgeshire to team up to become 'Central Cambridgeshire'. We have much in common with communities such as Ely, Haddenham, Sutton, Wilburton, Burwell etc. Such an option may satisfy the government's desire for fewer and larger councils whilst still keeping decision making more local.

I hope that all who represent our area, at all levels, are willing to put aside their political differences and work together for the best possible outcome.

Best wishes, **Peter Davies**

Dear Peter, Our MP, Ben Obese-Jecty, favours Huntingdonshire becoming a unitary authority as will many 'St Ivians'. The new Local Plan is coming out, which seems to rely on funding for the A141 improvements around Huntingdon and St Ives to unlock development at Wyton and the surrounding area. Without this funding from central government, the Local Plan may not be effective and this might dent our 'unitary authority' ambitions. **Ed**

OTHER NEWS

St Ives Civic Society 56th AGM

Is to be held on 17th October 2025 at 7,30pm in the Free Church Centrum.

The Society are seeking nominations for 3 trustee vacancies and co-options of representatives from other organisations. Forms are downloadable from www.stivescivic.org.uk until 14.10.25. Enquiries to chair@stivescivic.org.uk. The AGM will be followed by a re-enactment by theatre group, The Field Detectives, of The Trial of Col Francis Hacker, one of Charles I's executioners. All welcome, Members free, guests £3pp.

New Exhibition at the Norris



'Appreciating the Picturesque - an Artistic Legacy' is the title of the latest exhibition at the Norris museum. Curated by Bridget Flanagan, it show cases many attractive paintings, posters and postcards of St Ives, the river and nearby villages and is on now until 3rd January 2026.

Do you have an old mobile phone?

Or perhaps you have a laptop gathering dust in the cupboard, or a tangle of charging cables you're not quite sure what to do with? If so, you're not alone. Across the UK, we're sitting on a treasure trove of forgotten electronics worth billions of pounds.

Electronic waste, or e-waste, has become one of the fastest-growing waste streams globally. In 2022, the world generated 62 million tonnes of e-waste, yet only 22.3% was properly recycled. Here in the UK, we generate 24kg of e-waste per person annually, much of which ends up in household drawers rather than being responsibly disposed of. The problem runs deeper than clutter. When electronics end up in general waste, toxic materials like lead and mercury can leak into our environment. Meanwhile, valuable materials like gold, silver, and copper worth £38 billion globally go unrecovered.

This challenge inspired students at Cambridge Judge Business School to create Retapp, a Cambridge-based startup. Those old phones, tablets, laptops, and cables in your drawers could make a real difference. Not only will you declutter your home and potentially earn some money, but you'll also help protect our environment and support others who need affordable technology. For details visit retapp.co or call 01895 746555. *Article courtesy COPE's newletter.*

Could you make a difference?

6,500 more fostering households are needed across England. You don't need fancy qualifications or to own your own home to foster. What matters most is your time, patience, and willingness to provide a nurturing environment. Full training is provided, along with ongoing support and financial allowances to help you support and care for a child. Our Cambridge office hosts free fostering information events, a perfect opportunity to meet some of the team and chat over a cup of tea about fostering. Call 01223 903 503 to find out more or visit www.nexusfostering.co.uk/cambridge

nexus fostering

Town Council fill their vacancies

Last month councillors selected Keith Brown and Jeff Massey to fill two of the three vacancies for councillors following the resignations of Rebecca Chapman, Sajjad Khan and Martin Page.

Keith Brown said in his application that he is motivated by a commitment to community wellbeing. '*Locally, I want to expand opportunities for young people.*' he said. Jeff Massey who has lived in St Ives for almost 13 years supports those volunteer groups who put pride back into town. Last Wednesday ex councillor Craig Smith was selected for the remaining position. He resigned two years ago (see Riverporters 143 and 144) but was keen to return.

fen mobility centre

Google ★★★★★



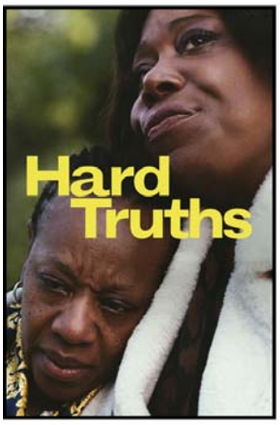
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Screen St Ives Community Cinema

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Hard Truths

Thursday 6 November 2025 at 7:30pm
Doors open 6:30pm. Tickets £7
Director: Mike Leigh, 97m, Cert: 12

Synopsis: Hard Truths is a 2024 comedy-drama film written and directed by *Mike Leigh*, starring *Marianne Jean-Baptiste*, *Michele Austin*, and *David Webber*. Set in London, its plot follows the plight of a depressed and nay-saying woman (Jean-Baptiste) and the relationship with her jovial sister Chantelle (Austin). Two polar opposite sisters navigate the world in different ways in the wake of personal hardship. This contemporary British tragicomedy tackles serious topics such as grief, family disputes and healing.



Opera: Puccini's La Boheme

Thursday 20 November 2025 at 7:30pm
Doors open 6:30pm. Tickets £10
Director: Richard Jones, 118m, Cert: N/A

Synopsis: A Royal Opera House Production.
Sonya Yoncheva and *Charles Castronovo* lead an award-winning cast in *Richard Jones*'s acclaimed 2020 production of Puccini's most heartrending opera. *Emmanuel Villaume* conducts the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House and the Royal Opera Chorus in some of the composer's most luscious and memorable music. Spectacular designs by *Stewart Laing* for this Royal Opera production set the passion, friendship, comedy and tragedy in late 19th-century Paris. The production evokes the vulnerability of youth amid the harshness and glamour of the big city, and contrasts the poverty of the bohemians's attic home with the splendour of Paris's shopping arcades on Christmas Eve.

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
TO CLEAR AND PLANT THE THICKET FOR A BEAUTIFUL SPRING BULB DISPLAY



PLEASE JOIN US ON

Wednesday 29th October 2025 at 7pm
St Mary's Centre, Chapel Lane, Houghton, PE28 2AY

TO CREATE THE THICKET WOODLAND IMPROVEMENT GROUP AKA TWIG!
TO HELP SUSTAIN OUR MUCH-LOVED WOODLAND
GREEN FINGERS, MUSCLES AND FUNDRAISING SKILLS MUCH APPRECIATED!
FREE ENTRY. REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

Supported by St Ives Civic Society, H&W Parish Council & HDC Countryside team
contact: Chair@stivescivic.org.uk 07738 479153
clerk@houghtonwytonparishcouncil.gov.uk 01480 467209

CIVIC SOCIETY OF ST IVES (CAMBS) · Houghton and Wyton Parish Council · HDC

The COURTYARD St Ives
Open-air boutique market, run by independents

Join Us for the Courtyard's Wear It Pink Fundraiser to Support Breast Cancer Awareness

Friday the 24th to Sunday the 26th of October

How You Can Get Involved

Wear Pink!
Show your support by wearing pink throughout the event. Whether it's a t-shirt, a scarf, or even socks, your physical support is very much appreciated in any way you can.

Make a Donation
Every donation counts. In our courtyard now we have a pod (Pod 99) selling lots of different trinkets, perfect for a present for a loved one or even for yourself, and all of these proceeds go to Breast Cancer awareness! This pod will be open from now until the event finishes so please pop down and see what you can buy. On the days of the fundraiser, all of the proceedings of the activities such as the cake stall etc, will be going to Breast Cancer Awareness too!

Spread the Word
Help us grow our community by sharing event details with your friends and family. Use your social media platforms to encourage others to join us. Tag us @thecourtyard and @hyperionauctioneers on Instagram and Facebook, we would love to see your help spreading the word!

What to Expect at the Event:

The "Wear It Pink" fundraiser promises a range of exciting activities aimed at entertainment and education.

-Live music from Jason
-Tombola
-Cake stall
-Kids tattoo's and face painting
-Pick a lolly pop

Location: The Courtyard, Station Road, St Ives, Cambs, PE27 5BH
Time: 9Am-5PM, Friday 24th - Sunday 26th

Breast cancer affects approximately 1 in 15 women in the UK, and it significantly impacts families worldwide. Raising awareness is critical in our ongoing fight against this disease. By participating in our fundraiser, you contribute to vital research and resources that support those battling breast cancer.