PLEASE READ AND PASS ON

# The Riverporter

COVERING THE NEWS FOR ST IVES AND AROUND

Issue 210: 12 June 2026

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

## Piano to be in The Chapel again

**Following the success of having a piano for people to play in The Chapel at the beginning of May the Town Team and AkcentMedia are doing it again. From Monday 22nd until Sunday 28th June musicians can come and enjoy playing their music in this very special venue.**



During the week in May around 100 people came and played the piano and 1,000 visitors came and looked around this unique building that is 600 years old this year. The players ranged from young children to professional pianists, including St Ives own Pianoman, Paul Dodson. Fifteen year-old Stan Wright (see below) brought his saxophone along and played to crowds on The Quay from balcony. His performance on the Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival Facebook page has been seen by over 47,000 people.

You can see Stan again at this year's Jazz & Blues Festival as he has agreed to play on the balcony on Sunday 13th September from midday. Also returning is Oksana King (above), who was the last pianist of the week. Trained in St Petersburg, her phenomenal performance has been seen by over 5,000 people. She will come and play in The Chapel on Sunday 28th and may also play a full concert in The Free Church in August. Of course we will let you know when a date has been agreed.

## 600 Chapel anniversary - events

**Here are some events, organised by the Norris Museum, celebrating the consecration of our Chapel, including a rare opportunity to hear from someone who knows this building intimately.**

THE NORRIS MUSEUM
Wherever Your Curiosity Takes You

**Friday 3rd July -7pm at St Ives Corn Exchange.**

Former Norris Museum curator Bob Burn-Murdoch returns to share what he knows, and what he doesn't know about one of our most remarkable buildings!

When was the first bridge constructed and what were the Roundheads trying to achieve when they broke it in 1645?

Come along and hear how an expert at not knowing things spins that into an evening's entertainment!

### Workshops

**Sketching & Drawing Essentials:** The Art of Observation - Workshop by Ernie Butler, *Sat 20th June* 10am-3:30pm Norris Museum. Unleash your creativity, one pencil stroke at a time

**Expressive Pen & Wash** - Workshop by Ernie Butler, *Sat 4th July* 10am-3:30pm Norris Museum. Explore your creative side with ink and watercolour to combine precision with fluid beauty.

**Discover the Magic of Watercolour:** Unleash your creativity and embrace the flow! - Workshop by Ernie Butler, *Sat 5th Sep* 10am-3:30pm Norris Museum. An immersive watercolour workshop, specifically for adults.

**About your tutor: Ernie Butler**

Ernie Butler is an internationally exhibited and collected artist based in Elsworth. He trained under William Calladine and has spent his career mastering the techniques of the old masters.

His own artwork displays a distinctive sense of light and atmosphere, and held in international collections.

He has exhibited widely, including solo shows in Chelsea and Venice.

For tickets to all these and other events go to the Norris Museum or buy online at: https://buytickets.at/norrismuseum



Stan Wright playing on the Chapel balcony.

## BREAKING NEWS

**Police arrested a man with a knife in Market Hill. Officers were called to Market Hill at around 4.25pm on Wednesday when a 29-year-old man from Fenstanton was arrested on suspicion of possession of a knife in a public place, of criminal damage, failing to provide a breath test and public order offences.**

**Cambridgeshire Police confirmed he remains in custody.**

Flea on the Quay

NEXT ONE THIS SUNDAY

**Fom 10am to 1pm on 2nd & 4th Sunday of each month - May to September**

To reserve a table for just £5 call Sandra on 07913 346845 or email: townteam@stivescambridgeshire.co.uk

Enjoy breakfast at THE TAPROOM

**Visit the Town Team stall and collect your voucher to get 20% off a bacon or sausage bap and coffee.**

COLLECTABLES • CURIOUS ITEMS • CRAFTS • OBJETS D'ART • ANTIQUES

## DIARY OF EVENTS

**Please email: editor@theriverporter.uk**

### JUNE

**Sunday 21st** - **Picnic in the Park** - Warners Park from noon. FREE

**Tuesday 23rd** - **Armed Forces Day Service** - 11am War Memorial.

**Saturday 27th** - **St Ives Choral Society Summer Medley.** Free Church, 7.30 Ticketsource.co.uk/st-ives-choral-society.

### JULY

**Every Sunday** - **Music on the Waits** - The Bandstand 2 pm to 4 pm.

**Saturday 4th** - **St Ives Community Choir's Summer Concert** 7.30pm St Ives Free Church.

**Saturday 11th** - **Songs from a Big Country** - a concert by the Meridian Singers at St Mary's Church Bluntisham at 7pm. Tickets £10.

**Saturday 11th/12th** - **St Ives Carnival and Music Festival**.

**Saturday 11th** - **COSI Summer Concert** 7.30pm at the Free Church. Tickets £10, www.ticketsource.co.uk/chamber-orchestra-of-st-ives or on the door. Under 16s free.

**Sunday 12th** - **WOW! Day** Walk The Ouse Valley Way between St Neots and Earith, a FREE event. Details - greatousevalleytrust.org.uk.




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Fundraising concert with

Fred's House & The 29th Funktion

St Ives Corn Exchange

Saturday 4th July

Tickets £15 from the venue or www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents

www.stivescambridgeshire.co.uk


# St Ives Great Big Green Week starts in the rain

**Organisers of the St Ives Great Big Green Week have said they have had a GREAT week so far, with a few more events to go this weekend.**



Come and watch **Fenstanton Morris** at 7.30pm on the Quay on Friday evening; think seriously about planning for our future at the **People's Emergency Briefing** on Saturday morning at the Free Church; learn about our past with an **expert willow-basket maker on Holt Island** all day on Sunday; and have your growing questions answered at a **Community Event at Hill Rise Allotments**. There will be a **pilgrimage walk to Holywell** on Sunday afternoon, to finish the week.

All the schools in St Ives have been involved in activities - but adults as well as children have been learning about how to live sustainably and support biodiversity and nature.

Look at the Community Hub or the week's timetable for all the details https://www.stivesinbloom.co.uk/st-ives-green-week/.



*Unpredictable weather last Saturday didn't stop the audience enjoying a concert organised by the Town Team, featuring the superb Native Oyster Band (below), who performed in The Free Church instead of at the bandstand.*



## St Ives Swimmers top the table in the third round of youth league

The club secured the win in the Junior Fenland League at One Leisure St Ives, narrowly beating teams from Wisbech, March Marlins, and Bottisham.

A spokesperson for St Ives Swimming Club thanked all the volunteers, club captains, committee members, coaches and parents who made a very successful and enjoyable event possible.

The event saw young swimmers aged nine to thirteen compete in a lively evening of racing.

St Ives finished with 124 points, ahead of Wisbech on 118, March on 117 and Bottisham on 72.

The club also thanked the staff at One Leisure St Ives for their support in hosting the event.

# Swifts in the Belfry!



Swifts returned to St Ives at the end of April after their remarkable journey from Africa. Thanks to funding and support from the All Saints Parochial Church Council (PCC) through funds from their Booze in the Pews festival, volunteers from St Ives Eco Café, Holt Island and St Ives in Bloom have been able to install 18 swift nest boxes in the church tower. Expert guidance and help came from Action for Swifts https://www.actionforswifts.com, helping to ensure the project gives the birds the best possible chance of success.

The initiative came from last year's St Ives Green Week and comes at a crucial time. Swifts are a red-listed species in the UK, with a reported decline in numbers of 72% between 1994 and 2023. A main reason is loss of nest sites. This is why nest boxes in suitable places such as churches is so important. Successful colonies have been established in other Cambs churches, and we hope to join them.



Each nest box has been carefully prepared, complete with a ready-made 'nest form' that stops the eggs from rolling out. We've tried to think of everything!

**It might take a couple of years before the swifts use our nest boxes.**

We've installed a 'swift caller' to let them know there is a 'des res' in the tower. If you listen carefully, you might be able to hear it early morning and early evening. With a bit of luck young swifts, who have yet to breed, will remember the site and set up home when they return next year.

You will often see swifts circling above the town, but you will probably hear them first. Swifts are known as 'screechers' for a very good reason! As they chase insects and each other, they scream loudly. For many this is the sound of summer. By the end of July they will be gone, heading back to winter in Africa.

A swift covers about 14,000 miles a year, and they can live for 20 years. They spend almost their entire lives on the wing. The only time they land is to nest. It's great that we have been able to help this amazing bird.

To find out more, follow Swift Awareness Week, 27th June to 5th July https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/news/swift-awareness-week.

Photos K Grimwade.



## Milly, Tilly and Jeffrey want to ensure that they like at least one of the recipes in the new St Ives Cook Book!



# The Riverporter

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




Jeffrey, responds to a good whistle!
He's barking mad you know!

## having your say . . .

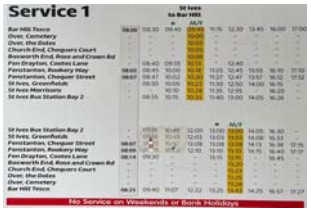
**Get it off your chest email Milly at:**
**editor@ theriverporter.uk**

**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 nor condemns the opinions expressed.**

**Dear Milly & Tilly,**

What a shame that the very useful 67 bus service to Papworth Everard and St Neots has been withdrawn due to lack of use.

Maybe this was because not many people even knew it existed. As far as I know there was never any publicity or any timetable displayed at the bus station. In fact there is very little information on the notice boards at the St Ives bus station, and some of what is there is 18 months or more out of date giving details of services that no longer exist! See the pictures below that I just took. People cannot use buses that either don't exist or they know nothing about. Better publicity of all existing services by displaying proper route maps and timetables is very much needed. Just having an electronic display of forthcoming departures isn't really enough. **Tony**




**Dear Milly & Tilly,**



Victor (right), who died in May was so very much loved not only by his family, but also as a PAT (pet as therapy) dog, making so many people smile on his visits to St Ives dementia group.

Loved by all the staff in the many, shops, bars, cafés, thank you all, for the treats and cuddles... especially you Dan.

Thank you, to all our friends, who he loved visiting, and who became surrogate parents, if we were away. Huge hugs especially for Helen.

A big thank you too, to everyone at Riverport Vets, for their understanding and care especially in his last week's, everything was about what was best for Victor, not, about making money as I know happens at some other practices.

Victor truly was a one off, known by, and brought so much joy, to so many people.

With thanks Sue Hetherington . . . or Victors mum, as everyone knows me.




## OTHER NEWS

### The Free Church needs an organist

The The Free Church (URC) St Ives is looking for musicians, organists or pianists, who are willing to commit to supporting our weekly Sunday worship. Music is an important aspect of worship and enhances worship.

You must be able to accompany hymns/worship songs to support the congregational singing, open to different styles of worship, have an understanding of faith and be willing to assist worship leader in introducing new tunes/songs.

Piano or organ are available, both instruments are kept tuned and maintained.

The position involves playing before, during and after our weekly worship - hymns and worship songs are chosen by the worship leader. There will also be occasional mid-week and Saturday requests (special services, weddings & funerals). An Honorarium /payment is negotiable. This could also be considered as a shared position. Expressions of interest to be sent to office@stivesfreechurch.org by the end of July.

### COPE Annual General Meeting

Monday 13th of July 2026 at 10:30am at St Luke's Community Centre, Victoria Road, Cambridge, CB4 3DZ. The event is free and open to all COPE members to attend. There's always a lot going on at COPE ST IVES - meetings are held at the Corn Exchange on the third Thursday of each month from 2pm – 4pm.

### Can you save a life?

Local Police are asking if you can help keep Huntingdonshire safe from drink and drug drivers. During the last mens football tournament (Euro 2024) they arrested nine people on suspicion of drink or drug driving. If you suspect someone is about to leave the pub intoxicated and drive home, or you've seen erratic driving on the roads, call us immediately on 999. We also have a dedicated confidential hotline you can call, 0800 032 0845 - and it is available 24/7. One call could save a life.

### Date set for Anglia in Bloom judging

David White, President of Anglia in Bloom and fellow AIB member, Margaret Spencer will be judging St Ives between 10:30am and 2:30pm on Thursday 2nd July.

### More details emerge about ex councillor

*The Riverporter* has again been sent documents about ex councillor Ryan Fuller that took place in St Ives. Details that, if widely known, might have affected his political career. In 2007, following the failure of his Riverside Café business, Mr Fuller was reported to the police for criminal damage and was taken to court for non payment of rent. The County Court judgement ordering to him to pay £9,269.11 remains unpaid.

### Have your say on policing

The quarterly online policing meeting, taking place on 22 June from 7pm to 8pm is your chance to get involved, share your views, and play a part in shaping the policing priorities for Huntingdonshire. To join in go to www.cambs.police.uk.

### Coming Up at the Corn Exchange

**June**

**Wed 17th –** World Cup: England vs Croatia
**Sat 20th –** Jubado's Comedy
**Tue 23rd –** World Cup: England vs Ghana
**Sat 27th –** Like The Beatles [SOLD OUT]

**July**

**Thur 2nd –** Screen St Ives: One Battle After Another
**Fri 3rd –** Mysteries of the Bridge and Chapel
**Sat 4th –** Craft and Gift Fair
**Sat 4th –** 29th Funktion & Fred's House
**Thur 9th –** Quiz Night
**Fri 10th –** Friday Night is Dance Night
**Fri 10th –** Open Mic Night
**Tue 14th –** Poetry Night
**Sat 18th –** Jubado's Comedy
**Sun 19th –** Fenland Record Fair
**Sun 19th –** World Cup Final
**Sat 25th –** School of Slam Wrestling

### UK Town of Culture shortlist to be announced by the end of July

The organisers of the UK Town of Culture 2028 competition have written to say they are delighted by the energy and enthusiasm it has generated amongst towns. They wrote …

*'We previously told you that we would announce the shortlist in Spring. As a result of the exceptional response we have received, the expert advisory panel require additional time to assess all of the bids, and we will now announce the shortlisted towns by the end of July'.*

*'You will receive an email with the outcome of your application, and shortlisted towns will receive further information on the next steps of the competition. Kind regards, UK Town of Culture Team'.* **Fingers crossed!**

Screen St Ives Community Cinema

Supported by
BOONGATE KIA
Peterborough PE1 5UA. Tel: 01733 344344




**One Battle After Another**
**Thursday 2 July 2026 at 7:30pm,**
**Doors open 7:00pm. Tickets £7**
**Director: Paul Anderson (2025), 115m, Cert: 15**

**One Battle After Another**, directed by Paul Thomas Anderson, is a dark satire following Bob (*Leonardo DiCaprio*), a former left-wing revolutionary living quietly until his daughter is kidnapped. Set in a fascist, dystopian America, Bob is hunted by "Lockjaw" (*Sean Penn*), a manic military man obsessed with Bob's former partner. The film is a chaotic, comedic thriller exploring generational trauma, the failure of 60s radicalism, and surveillance culture as Bob attempts to rescue his daughter.




**Song Sung Blue**
**Thursday 6 August 2026 at 7:30pm**
**Doors open 7:00pm. Tickets £7**
**Director: Craig Brewer (2025), 132m, Cert: 12**

Based on a true story, **Song Sung Blue** follows Mike and Claire Sardina (*Hugh Jackman* and *Kate Hudson*), two down-on-their-luck, middle-aged musicians in Milwaukee. Struggling with personal baggage and career setbacks, they find love and success forming a Neil Diamond tribute band named "Lightning & Thunder". Their journey takes them from dive bars to opening for Pearl Jam, before personal tragedy and a life-altering accident threaten to destroy their bond. The musical drama highlights their resilience and enduring love through music, proving it is never too late for a second chance.

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




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Scan me to find a day & time that works for you!

*When you commit to 6 or 12 weeks of group support. At participating groups.
Offer available 14th June to 4th July 2026. Visit our website for terms and conditions.

ADVERTORIAL

# A business that has been at the centre of St Ives for centuries

HYPERION

**Since its very earliest days St Ives has held fairs and auctions. The famous cattle market that was once held in the streets moved to the Cattle Market in 1886 and auctions have been held there ever since.**

In the 1960's Ekins, Dilley & Handley held auctions in their buildings on the corner of Station Road and Market Road, where today Hyperion has continued this trade since 1995.

It is fair to say that this is a business that not only carries on this tradition, it has grown to offer much more with its Antique Centre and the Courtyard, important businesses in the town centre.

Of course the auction business has changed considerably over the years and latterly has been transformed with on-line bidding. This means bidders can be anywhere in the world and of course more bids usually means better prices for the seller.

We know that many retail businesses are struggling due to several factors, largely beyond their control, and it is important that places like St Ives maintain as many shops as possible.

So it is great news that Hyperion's auctions are able to attract good prices. Lester, who has been with the company since its early days says that the Antique market is pretty good at the moment and auction sales have doubled, mainly due to online bidding.

Another benefit of having online bidders from anywhere is that they can sell almost anything. It used to be that specialist items needed specialist auction rooms but that is not necessarily the case now.

Antique programmes on TV remain very popular and the antique market remains strong. Lester says that buyers are a bit more sophisticated and are looking for better quality antiques.

Gold and silver jewellery always sell well as do more recent nostalgic items such as toys and games, however the price of Georgian and Victorian items has plummeted.

Hyperion hold two types of auctions, either for Fine Art & Design items or Antiques and Interiors.

**This year's auction dates.**

| | |
|---|---|
| 13th June | Fine Art & Design |
| 27th June | Antiques & Interiors |
| 18th July | Antiques & Interiors |
| 8th Aug | Antiques & Interiors |
| 29th Aug | Antiques & Interiors |
| 19th Sept | Antiques & Interiors |
| 10th Oct | Antiques & Interiors |
| 21st Nov | Antiques & Interiors |
| 28th Nov | Fine Art & Design |
| 12th Dec | Antiques & Interiors |

Below Lester taking the bids.

