PLEASE READ AND PASS ON

The Riverporter

COVERING THE NEWS FOR ST IVES AND AROUND

Issue 218: 2 October 2026

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

St Ives has much to celebrate

Yet again St Ives In Bloom win big. In this their 31st year, not only did they win a Gold Award for the ninth time in a row but they were also crowned the Best in Cambridgeshire.

On Thursday 24th September in the Burgess Hall, St Ives In Bloom gained more awards, including being the first ever County Champions.

This new award recognised St Ives as the strongest overall entry within the county, showing a level of excellence across the RHS three pillars of judging, Horticulture, Environment and Community.

St Ives was also awarded Gold in the Large Town category.

The Judges were very impressed by the number of people who came to support SIIB on the day of judging.



Pictured from left to right: *Kerry Maguire, Deputy Mayor, Jacqueline Spencer, Sue Street, Councillor Julie Kerr, Philip Davies (Chair, St Ives in Bloom), Councillor Philip Pope, Sarah Banks-Crang and Susan Bate (Norris Museum). Photo Anglia in Bloom.*

Spring Common Academy with the Norris Museum won best in class for the 12-18 young persons project, reflecting their hard work and commitment to wellbeing. Holt Island also won two awards. A Gold medal and the Best Wildlife Area/Nature Reserve 2016.

DIARY OF EVENTS

Please email: editor@theriverporter.uk

OCTOBER

Wednesday 7th - **'Home Energy - Conservation and Advice'** Engage Talk - 2pm, St Ives Library (donations welcome).

Friday 9th - **St Ives Snowman Festival starts**

Monday 12th - **St Ives Craft & Collectables Market.** St Ives Corn Exchange 9am - 1.30pm + Shirley's Community Café. Free admission.

Monday 12th -14th - **Michaelmas Fair** - in the town centre.

Wednesday14th - **Start of Snowman Trail** until 12 December.

Saturday 17th - **Huntingdonshire Philatelic Society Stamp and Post Card Fair** St Ives Corn Exchange 10am Free admission.

Saturday 17th - **Repair Café** see page 2.

Friday 30th - **Treble Trouble - Clarinet Trio** St Ives Free Church Free lunchtime concert at 1pm.

Friday 30th - **Chapel Arts - Stella Hensley's Magical Colours** Corn Exchange 7.30pm. Tickets www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents.

NOVEMBER

Sunday 8th - **Remembrance Sunday service** - Market Hill.

Saturday 14th - **Christmas Lights Switch On** - Market Hill.

Saturday 21st - **Artsfest Exhibition** in the St Ives Corn Exchange.

Saturday 21 - **Verdi Requiem. St Ives Choral Society**. Free Church 7.30pm. Tickets www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-ives-choral-society.

Friday 27th- **Chapel Arts Concert - The Lightwaves** - St Ives Corn Exchange 7.30pm. Tickets www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents.

Civic Sunday - another reason to celebrate

This year's Civic Service, when the Mayor, Councillors, dignitaries and residents gather for a formal church service of reflection, thanksgiving and celebration, was held on 20th September at All Saints Parish Church.

The service was followed by a parade led by the RAF Area Vountary Band. Pictured is the Deputy Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, Mr Daniel Schunmann MBE, DL taking the salute alongside the Town Mayor, Councillor Alexander Thompson.

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ST IVES AND INTERNATIONAL REPAIR DAY

Saturday 17th October 2026 is **International Repair Day** and you can be part of it right here in St Ives.

Repair Cafes started in Amsterdam in 2009 and are now a worldwide phenomenon. At the last count more than 4,000 of them were regularly mending stuff, doing their bit to change our throwaway society not just by saving household items from landfill, but by sharing their skills too.

On Saturday 17th October we in St Ives will be holding our 12th Repair Cafe 1-4pm at the Methodist Church. Over the past 4 years countless items - from electrical such as lamps, record players, sewing and coffee machines, to electronics, toys, bikes, clothes, bags, vases, jeweller and more - have been mended for free by our expert and friendly repairers who love to tinker while you watch. Home made cake and drinks are available and donations very welcome to cover overhears. Do come and celebrate the success of the Repair Cafe movement. We look forward to seeing you - as well as your dodge lamp, torn shirt and temperamental clock.

(Book by email: stivesrepaircafe@gmail.com voicemail 07377 014401 or just turn up)

Sellers setting up for the final Flea on The Quay for 2026



Chapel Arts Concert - something very special



As expected, last Friday's concert by Richard Exall (clarinet and sax) and Art Toper (piano) in St Ives Free Church proved very special.

Both are exceptional musicians in their own right and play in a number of different groups. For example the Richard Exall Benny Goodman Quartet, which opened last month's Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival includes a drummer and bass player, but this combination of just two musicians in the wonderful Free Church created a concert highlighting the talent of both musicians.

It is quite rare for Art to be able to play a grand piano, which perfectly complemented the acoustic tones of Richard' s saxophone and clarinet. Their ability to take a well-known tune and yet make it feel brand new, with each putting their own stamp on it, made for an exhilarating evening. The quality of sound was further enhanced by the wonderful acoustics that the Free Church Centrum provides.

There are just two more concerts in the Town Team's Chapel Arts series this year. On Friday 30th October **Stella's Musical Amigos** will be performing and on Friday 27th November the season ends with the always popular **The Lightwaves**. Both concerts are in the Corn Exchange and start at 7.30pm. Tickets can be bought from the Corn Exchange or online at: www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents. **Please note we have increased the number of tickets available for The Lightwaves,** but you will need to be quick as they're selling fast.



SSI Screen St Ives Community Cinema

Supported by BOONGATE KIA
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The Rose of Nevada

Thursday 5 November 2026 at 7:30pm
Doors open 7:00pm. Tickets £7
Director: Mark Jenkin (2025), 114m, Cert: 15

Three decades after vanishing at sea, the fishing boat Rose of Nevada mysteriously reappears in a remote, economically devastated village. Hoping to reverse their community's bad luck, the locals decide the ship must sail again. Joining the crew are Nick, a young father desperate to provide for his family, and Liam, a drifter eager to escape his past. After a successful voyage, they return to harbour only to discover they have been transported thirty years into the past. Stars *George MacKay* as Nick, *Callum Turner* as Liam, and *Francis Magee* as the skipper, Murgey.



Tuner

Thursday 3 December 2026 at 7:30pm
Doors open 7:00pm. Tickets £7
Director: Daniel Roher (2025), 107m, Cert: 15

Tuner is a 2025 crime thriller about Niki White, a gifted piano tuner with Hyperacusis whose heightened hearing makes him a talented safe-cracker. He is drawn into a life of crime by a gang of thieves in order to pay his mentor's medical bills, which threatens his budding romance with a fellow musician. Stars *Leo Woodall* as Niki, *Dustin Hoffman* as his mentor Harry Horowitz, and *Havana Rose Liu* as Ruthie.

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

ADVERTORIAL

It's important to live your life your way

At Care UK's Field Lodge in St Ives, every resident is supported to live their life the way they choose. Our experienced team takes pride in offering quality residential, nursing, dementia and respite care.



Elvina, a Care UK care home resident, shares how the care home's dedicated colleagues help to tailor her experience to her needs and wishes.

'I believe utterly in them'

Elvina first became aware of her local Care UK care home when her late husband Bill moved in. *'The team were so kind to him, and he thought it was wonderful here,'* she explains. *'It was such a relief to get him somewhere where I thought, 'he's safe, he's being looked after'.*

She joined Bill in the home after many happy visits enjoying activities and lunch together, and the pair shared a couples' suite. *'That was an absolute delight. We could snuggle down in our own place if we wanted to, or if we had something we were bursting to tell the other person they were just through their door!'*

Elvina's husband sadly passed away, but she continues to feel comfort, reassurance and kindness from the team. Elvina says, *'I believe utterly in them and all they did for Bill.'*

Highly trained teams offer a unique, tailored lifestyle

With the support of the care home team, Elvina continues to forge friendships with other residents and be actively involved in her local community. *'I love people. I love helping where I can,'* she explains.

Care UK teams are trained to get to know everything they can about each resident, so that they can make every aspect of their time enjoyable and meaningful. Knowing that Elvina is a former drama and English literature teacher - as well as a pantomime writer - the team went above and beyond to help her put on a pantomime in the home with a local school. *'The children loved it,'* she says.

The pantomime also brought back happy memories for Elvina, who remembers enjoying shows with her mum and brother. 'It was wonderful, absolutely wonderful!'

Trust us to care

We work hard to support residents to keep connected with their loved ones. We help families and friends to continue sharing special experiences whether that's in the home, through special trips and outings, or maximising technology so that distance is no longer an issue.

Care UK is a leading independent care home provider with some of the highest quality ratings of the UK's larger care providers, and over 40 years' experience of delivering high-quality care to older people.

For more information about Field Lodge in St Ives, call 01480 710673 or visit careuk.com/field-lodge

The Riverporter

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



Milly & Tilly love your letters.

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,

I'm glad 2 people brought up the subject about the seating on the Broadway (RP207). They only saw it after the council cleaned it up.



Here it is before the council get there at 5am. regards **Nick Boulding.**

Dear Milly & Tilly,

After September's excellent Eco Cafe hearing 'How to make our gardens more nature-friendly', we're moving indoors to keep warm this winter. I expect we can all learn more! So come along to our next Eco Café on **Saturday 10 October at St Ives Library 10am to noon** for tips and advice. We ask for a £2 donation which you could save on your bills! For updates please email: stivesecocafe@gmail.com. **Barbara.**

Dear Milly & Tilly,
Reference Dementia Support in St Ives

I wanted to let you know about the range of support available in St Ives.

The St Ives Dementia Friendly Community Group is a voluntary organisation with a mission to create a dementia friendly community, where people with dementia and their carers are understood, respected and supported.

We run and coordinate a wide range of activities, including the monthly Dementia Cafe, Memory Lane Singing Café, Friendship Lunch, and weekly reminiscing and Love to Move sessions.

We facilitate monthly meetings for Carers and also run a fabulous dementia friendly choir, the Riverport Singers.

We welcome everyone from our neighbouring towns and villages. For further info email Agi at agipeach@icloud.com

Thanks **Agi.**

Quiz Night for British Heart foundation

Jean Chandler has let *The Riverporter* know of a quiz night to be held in St Ives Corn Exchange on Thursday 22nd October. It is £5 per person to enter and the winning team will receive a case of wine. The quiz starts at 7.30pm and there will be a raffle and a bar.

Jean and her team will also be manning the Bridge Chapel again for people to light a candle for their loved ones. This will start on Sat 14th November and continue every Saturday and Sunday until 6th December. Last year they raised over £1,500 for the charity.

A Rallying Cry for St Ives In Bloom

For the last 12 years, St Ives in Bloom volunteers have carefully tended and improved the floral areas around St Ives. Sadly, the current committee can no longer continue doing the good work that they do. A new committee is needed, to organise the volunteers, liaise with the Town Council and work with Anglia in Bloom. The roles that need filling are: Chair, Vice Chair, Volunteer Coordinator and Secretary. Also, both the safeguarding and data protection roles will need to be filled.

Gardening and horticultural experience is not needed, just a sense of fun and enthusiasm. If you are interested, and can share some of your time, please email the team at siibinfo@gmail.com or message us on Facebook or talk to one of us.

However much time you have, please come to our **AGM on 20th October at 8pm in Burleigh Hill Community Centre.**

Our work parties are run on a turn up for as long as you are able to basis. So if you want to pop along to meet us and to see what we do we will be at the following locations over the next month.

- Sat 3 Oct. 10-12: Ramsey Rd Cemetery
- Tues 6 Oct. 2-4pm: The Waits
- Tues13 Oct. 10-12: Station Rd (Waitrose)
- Wed 21st Oct. 10-12: Broad Leas Cemetery
- Thurs 29 Oct. 10-12: St Ives Park and Ride.

In the last few years, St Ives in Bloom has transformed the areas around the Ramsey Road cemetery from areas of scrub to carefully tended beds. Without volunteers, these areas would simply not look the same.

Each autumn the team plants around 3,000 daffodil bulbs, bringing a glorious splash of yellow to our town welcoming in the spring. The highlight of recent years was winning the *Best in Class for Large Towns* in *Britain in Bloom*. And this year winning *Best in County*. A fantastic achievement.

Without a full committee, this year will be the last that the current team can do this. The beds won't go away, but they will be less weeded, less well managed and less wildlife friendly. So, can you spare time to enthusiastically lead or volunteer with this team to make St Ives a better place … **One plant at a time?**

OTHER NEWS

Civic Society Annual General Meeting

What Links the Ceremonial Life of Cambridge University with Bomb Disposal?

Find out at the Civic Society's October talk & AGM when Lucy Lewis will regale us with her experiences of being a bomb disposal officer and also the first female Cambridge College Constable on **Friday 16th October 2026 at 7.30pm at St Ives Corn Exchange. Members free - Guests £3**

If you have time to help us protect the town's heritage and respond to the significant planning challenges it faces, we have two trustee vacancies.

The evening will start with a short Annual General Meeting to share our achievements this year and our plans for the next. Nomination forms may be downloaded from www.stivescivic.org.uk. Any enquiries to chair@stivescivic.org.uk.

Why can't they work together?

On Tuesday I was invited to attend a conference in Peterborough Cathedral about Tourism in Cambridgeshire. This magnificent building was a brilliant setting for a talk shop, and was probably the reason it was so well attended. Combined Authority (CPCA) Mayor, Paul Bristow, who seems to hold all the purse strings these days, had hosted the Local Visitor Economy Conference (LVEP) and representatives from all parts of Cambridgeshire came to say how great it is to have everyone working together, after all *'when united we are greater than the sum of our parts'* was the message.

Therefore it seems very sad that at the same time Mayor Bristow was talking about partnerships a row has erupted over free parking in Huntingdonshire. In July CPCA and HDC announced free parking after 4pm in HDC car parks (see cartoon on page 2 RP212).

Earlier this week on BBC Radio Cambridge, Conservative Mr Bristow blamed HDC for *'showing utter disinterest'* and *'being grumpy'* and withdrew the offer of funding.

HDC Leader, Lib Dem Sarah Conboy, said that the deal had been agreed by the Council when Mr Bristow changed it from 4pm everywhere to 3pm in some car parks, meaning that the process to authorise it needed to restart.

Form an outsiders point of view it seems that politics between parties has been the main problem. Also the scheme seems a complete waste of money (a recurring theme lately) as free parking after 4pm, when market stalls have gone and shops will soon be closing, is unlikely to encourage shoppers or benefit the businesses. **ED.**

Care leavers set for new support

Care leavers in Huntingdonshire are set for extra support getting a job, according to local Lib Dem councillors who say they have secured the changes. Care leavers aged 19 to 21 are three times more likely to be out of work, education, or training compared to their peers and face bigger barriers to employment opportunities than other candidates. Now Huntingdonshire District Council has updated its recruitment policy, meaning care leavers who apply for a job and meet the requirements in the job description are guaranteed an interview. Nathan Hunt, Exec. Cllr for Resident Services and Corporate Performance said *This is another step towards building a fairer Huntingdonshire.*

Is Barclays our Graffiti artist's home?

The picture right was taken of the inside of the now infamous Barclays Bank building in Market Hill. Has someone been staying there? Judging by the poor quality of the graffiti it could be the same person who has sprayed elsewhere in the town. The scaffolding is still in a bad state and there is no sign of work starting on the building soon. Whilst HDC planners have been getting some of the blame *The Riverporter* has been told the delay is mostly due to the receivers not giving permission for work to restart.



Independent inquiry into C&C

HDC Corporate Governance Committee met to initiate the independent inquiry into the C&C regeneration programme and agreed the structure and process for setting up and overseeing the independent review which included: A joint Monitoring Group of Corporate Governance Committee + Overview & Scrutiny Panel members will oversee (not conduct) the review. Its role is to agree the scope, select the reviewer, monitor progress and see a final draft for factual accuracy only. It will have no influence over findings or conclusions. The actual review will be carried out by an independent external party, chosen competitively from three bidders.

The review is intended to be published in full/open session by the end of 2026 and only redacted into a confidential 'Part 2' item if there's a specific legal reason.

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ADVERTORIAL

Time to start buying presents

The Summer holidays are behind us and autumn is here with the weather remaining mostly warm and dry. Now is the time to pick up some bargains and even the odd Christmas present or two.

HYPERION 1960

There is still much to do and see in the town centre of The Old Riverport, St Ives. The interesting alleyways that lead down to the river and The Quay by the mediaeval bridge, still celebrating its 600th Anniversary.

The annual Michaelmas Fair will fill the town centre for three days and you will still be able to browse the stalls of up to 30 traders in The Courtyard, located by St Ives bus station.

Its cobbled courtyard is a quirky and unique market style shopping experience with a difference.

Each 'box' is managed by individual dealers offering speciality treasure troves to explore and on these increasingly autumn days you can see what each business has to offer.

There really is something for everyone!

Sit down at our coffee shop and relax and natter with a cup of artisan coffee and some homemade cake.

If you enjoy shopping, browsing or general mooching about then The Hyperion Courtyard is worth a visit. And if antiques are your thing, next door is The Hyperion Antique Centre, full of interesting items and even more potential presents for friends and relatives.

The Courtyard is open 7 days a week, so plenty of opportunity to get your shopping fix.

The Courtyard



Here are the auction dates for the rest of the year.

10th Oct	Antiques & Interiors
21st Nov	Antiques & Interiors
28th Nov	Fine Art & Design
12th Dec	Antiques & Interiors.