

The Riverporter

PLEASE READ AND PASS ON

COVERING THE NEWS FOR ST IVES AND AROUND

Issue I79: 7 March 2025

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

Hunt's Shopmobility Announces Closure

Hunt's Shopmobility, a charity that has supported people with limited mobility in Huntingdon since 2006, has announced that it will cease operations on 1 June 2025, with its last day of service on 29th March 2025.

The decision to close follows a comprehensive review by the trustees, who concluded that declining demand, make it no longer viable to continue operating.

Hunt's Shopmobility was established to provide mobility scooters and equipment to ensure that people with mobility challenges could continue accessing local shops and services. However, in recent years, demand for the service has significantly declined due to shifting shopping habits, availability of personal mobility scooters, and improvements in accessibility.

Despite efforts to secure alternative funding, including advice from Huntingdonshire District Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority; the trustees have determined that closure is the most responsible course of action. Hunt's Shopmobility expresses its deep gratitude to all those who have supported the charity over the years, including volunteers, trustees, staff, funders, and members. Over the coming months, the charity will work to ensure an orderly closure, informing all stakeholders and supporting existing members.



St Ives Town Team held Mobility Grand Prix races in St Ives Town Centre to raise money for Hunts Shopmobility. Pictured is Nick Dibben starting the eventual winner Bob Marston in 2016.

St Ives Library have a new Men's Book Group
Read, chat, and meet new people in a relaxed space at our lovely local library.
Starting Saturday 5th April 10:30am - 12 noon.

If you would be interested in joining the group, drop in to the library and ask at the front desk for more information, or email stives.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

DIARY OF EVENTS

If you wish to inform us of your events please email: editor@theriverporter.uk

MARCH 2025

Saturday 15th - Spring Serenade Concert by St Ives Choral Society. Free Church, 7.30pm. Tickets www.ticketsource.co.uk/m/st-ives-choral-society.

Thursday 20th - Annual Town Meeting see page 3.

Friday 21st - Karaoke Night, St Ives Corn Exchange, 6:30pm. Tickets £5 www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents or from the venue.

Thursday 27th - Reggae Ray, A Caribbean British story with a twist Riverport Lounge Bar, 7:30pm. Tickets £5 www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents.

Thursday 27th - Rotary Club of St Ives Inter-Pub Charity Quiz. 8pm.

Friday 28th - Chapel Arts Concert with Soloman Smith see p2.

Saturday 29th - Live Music Lounge with The MJs cover band.

Riverport lounge Bar, St Ives Corn Exchange, doors open 7:30pm. Tickets £5. www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents or from the venue.

APRIL 2025

Saturday 12th - Shuffle & Stomp with DJ Orv in the St Ives Corn Exchange, 8pm, tickets £9 www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents or from venue.

Tuesday 15th - Go Awesome Kids Easter Event St Ives Corn Exchange. 2pm, tickets £8.50 per child, book before 31st March for £7.50 per child. www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents or from the venue.

Friday 25th - Chapel Arts Concert with Greg Brice see p2.

MAY 2025

Wednesday 4th - Mayor Making - details to follow.

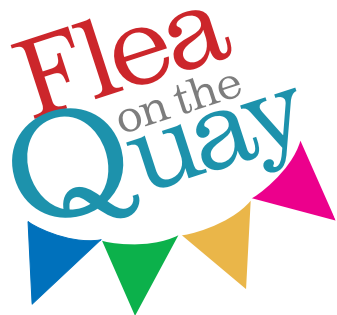
A Sunday Market on The Quay

1st Sunday of each month - May to August
10am to 2pm

To reserve a table please contact Sandra Souter:

07913 346845 or

email: townteam@stivescambridgeshire.co.uk



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



Boxing Night a sell out

Last Friday St Ives Boxing Academy held a fight night at St Ives Corn Exchange. Steve Whitwell, who runs the club said,

'What an incredible night it was; packed with some of the best rising stars in the county getting some great experience in the ring. A huge thank you to everyone that came along to support, those who sponsored and of course the amazing boxers from Team St Ives and other clubs who made it such a special night.'

The Corn Exchange was completely buzzing, as Kimberley Rew & Lee Cave-Berry's Chapel Arts concert also played to a full house in the Tony Burgess room. It was great to see the Corn Exchange full and earning the funds that will help it remain a wonderful community centre.

Read on-line at www.theriverporter.uk or see our Facebook page. Email: editor@theriverporter.uk

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28th March Soloman Smith



Singer songwriter accompanied by Chris Newman and Mal Hyde-Smith. Folk, Soul and Blues.



25th April Greg Brice

Greg's performance will leave you wanting more. *'The most exquisite finger-picked acoustic blues you could wish to hear.'*



30th May Karen Hubbard String Quartet



An evening of music from the past 600 years! Part of the 600th Anniversary celebrations of our famous bridge. **PLEASE NOTE:** this concert will be held in the Bridge Chapel and although free to attend tickets must be booked from www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives.

27th June

Lexie Green and Johnny Wright

Lexie's superb voice and Johnny 'Magic Boy's sublime playing, combine for a superb evening of Americana and Vintage Blues.



11th July Four Winds Sax Quartet



Four exceptional saxophonists performing a range of music through the past 6 centuries. There will be two performances at 7pm and 8.30pm. **PLEASE NOTE:** this concert will be in the Bridge Chapel. Although free to attend tickets must be booked from www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives.

29th August Johnny and Ranjan

Johnny Wright and Ranjan Vasudevan last played here in 2023 and will be making a welcomed return to once again delight us with their brilliant playing. Two superb guitarists and entertainers.



29th November Stella Hensley's Magical Colours



Featuring Stella Hensley, vocals; Myke Clifford on Duduk, wooden flute, saxophone and vocals; Art Tope, keyboard, Malek Hyde-Smith, percussion and Chris Newman on guitar and vocals. Five of our finest musicians will not fail to provide the very best entertainment for a Friday evening!

Unless otherwise stated doors open at 7pm. Concerts start at 7.30pm. Tickets £10 from the venue or www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents

U3a Open Day

The perfect opportunity for adults coming up to their retirement years to explore a diverse range of creative, educational or social interest opportunities.

They will see how they can develop their interests, make new friends and have fun.

Visitors will have the chance to meet existing members and explore the variety of groups on offer including arts, sciences, humanities and sport.

From painting to philosophy, languages to digital skills, the u3a offers something for everyone, no matter their backgrounds.

Highlights on the day will include opportunities to discuss retirement, demonstrations and entertainment from the singing and music groups. Free refreshments also available.

'At u3a we believe that sharing interests and hobbies leads to new friendships and opportunities,' says Peter Cooper, Chair of St Ives u3a. 'Our Open Day is an ideal chance to see what's on offer and how you can get involved.'

'We are especially hoping to see people who are already semi-retired, working part-time or who find they have more time on their hands, to see how joining U3a now will enhance their retirement and may even inspire some to start a new group. With over 900 members and 60+ groups, many are full or have waiting lists, so new ideas from enthusiastic individuals are always welcome. We all work together to make groups a success with a support team on hand and plenty of volunteers to help.'

To learn more about the U3a and our Open Day please visit: <https://u3aivo.uk/open-day-2025/>
We look forward to welcoming you and sharing the joy of lifelong learning!

- Spare time?
- Retiring soon?
- No longer fully employed?
- Skill to share?
- Retirement planning?

u3a OPEN DAY

APRIL 29th 2-4pm

ST IVES CORN EXCHANGE



Find out how 900 members in St Ives organise and enjoy interest groups, social events, outings and speakers. Meet us, or email: info@u3aivo.uk



SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Art * Literature * Games * Humanities * Languages * Music Dance * Science * Nature * Sport



learn laugh live

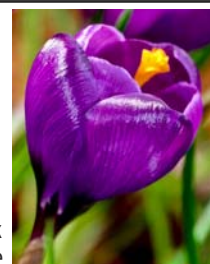
Have you seen the purple crocuses?

Do you know the significance of the purple crocuses that the Rotary Club of St Ives have planted around the town?

Rotary International has, for the past 30 years, been working towards eradicating polio around the world and had succeeded in all but two countries. When children have their vaccinations, they are identified by a small purple spot on their little finger and Rotary's Purple4Polio campaign plants millions of purple crocuses to reflect that purple spot and to raise

awareness of this programme. Recent wars have prevented vaccinations in some parts of the world and it is becoming more widespread again. The recent reduction in USAID spending will also have a negative effect on the programme, though Rotary is working hard to continue as before. Last year, children from Westfield Junior School learned about polio and the campaign, then helped the Rotary Club of St Ives to plant purple crocuses at the entrance to the park

opposite their school. You might also see some at the back of Waitrose and in the Rotary flower beds as you drive into town. Rotary St Ives donate to 'End Polio now' every year; if you would like to help raise funds to donate, please contact them at: secretary@stivesrotarycambs.org.uk



HOLYWELL CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL 150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS



The School are looking to create a MUGA (multi use games area) as part of their 150th anniversary celebrations this summer

The school have secured grants from Living Sport and are being supported by the parish council, school and pre-school committees and currently have around £26,000

We would also like to ask the local community and businesses to help us reach our total goal of £40,000 by scanning this QR code



or visiting <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/holywellschool150thann>

Holywell Primary celebrates

Holywell Church of England Primary School in Needingworth is celebrating 150 years of Education this summer.

The village school which originally opened in 1875 has gone through many changes over the years but still remains the heart of the community and has recently been rated 'Good' by Ofsted.

Celebration ideas for the anniversary include a special birthday assembly with the Bishop of Huntingdon in attendance, a victorian street party, a commemorative school magazine featuring interviews with past pupils and staff, a victorian themed sports day and summer fair and a school competition organised by the local Yarn Bombers group.

The school have also set themselves the massive challenge of redeveloping a piece of land on the school site into a MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) which involves a fundraising target of £40,000. We have managed to secure a grant from Living Sport and are being supported by the parish council, school and pre-school committees and currently have around £26,000.

We are looking for help raising the remaining £14,000 so would ask local residents and businesses to please visit: www.justgiving.com/campaign/holywellschool150thann and donate whatever they can. Anyone who donates over £250 will be offered the chance to have a plaque near the court as a thank you.

After a century and half of educating children from the local villages it would be great to leave the legacy of this new outdoor area for the children to enjoy in the future.

Riverport Singers celebrated fifth anniversary in style



Over 80 singers, careers and volunteers gathered to reminisce, sing of course, and dance together, led by their inspirational choir master Agi Peach.

Agi said, *'I'm so, so proud of our choir and what we have achieved together over the past five years. Got through Covid, keeping in touch on Zoom, and sang in eight fabulous concerts since restrictions lifted.'*

Currently with 62 members, the choir continues to grow from strength to strength. But Riverport Singers is much more than a choir. We are family. There is so much love in this group, and the joy of singing together lifts us every Thursday morning.

And the Choir is just one feather in the cap of the wonderful Dementia Friendly Community Group of St Ives. Sadly, there is still no cure for dementia, but we all agree that singing together is one of the best medicines. I would also like you to acknowledge Jinty Garbutt, our brilliant accompanist.

The Riverporter



having your say ...

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



Milly and Tilly take on Erik's role.

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

OTHER NEWS

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 Editor (Milly and Tilly),

Here is one answer to your wholehearted support for solar farms and your full throated criticism of our MP.

They should be tucked away somewhere out of view. Then local folk and passers-through who prefer unobstructed views of the English countryside don't have to take in their rank ugliness each and every day. **Ian Dobson**

Dear Ian,

I need to correct your comment. The Riverporter did not give 'whole hearted' support for solar farms, we printed a letter from a reader. Neither did we give 'full throated criticism of our MP'. We asked MP Ben Obese-Jecty for the evidence that solar farms directly impact on wildlife (he hasn't replied by the way). We did note the praise that he has received and the success of the business fair he had been involved in.

Regarding ugliness of solar panels, isn't that in the eye of the beholder? In the 17th century there were complaints about mill chimneys that were built during the industrial revolution. These are largely considered a charming feature of the landscape now! **Ed.**

Dear Milly and Tilly,

Subject: Booze in Pews

Disgusting, on holy ground, don't think Goodwill [God?] be pleased.

I won't go to this church, this abomination is the main reason. Does the church think it is good to encourage alcoholics? And drinking. Seeing portaloos on gravestones, awful.

Jennifer

The next Eco-Cafe will meet on Saturday 15 March, 10am at the Norris Museum. Due to limited space you need to book via stivesecocafe@gmail.com SEE ADVERT ON PAGE 4

Dear Milly and Tilly,

Subject: Trump

So in the past four years nobody has done a single thing to stop the war in Russia/Ukraine, Trump in power for a few weeks and peace talks are under way. Oh, how terrible he must be, I think not. **Jennifer**

Dear Milly and Tilly,

Subject: Fumes

It's a nice, comfortable settee they provide just inside the entrance to One Leisure St Ives Indoor while waiting for a compatriot in another dose of healthy exercise.

The only trouble is that mid-afternoons you're often breathing in whiffs of carbon monoxide.



The irony wasn't lost on me just before Christmas and - after 15 minutes of fume-filled waiting (he was late) and with nothing better to do - I phoned much-respected, long-established Kiddles Coaches who had several of their vehicles in the line-up outside the door, all with their engines running.

They do a great job, reliably and safely transporting groups of schoolchildren using the leisure centre and queue outside apparently waiting for gates to open somewhere round the back.

The lady at the other end of the line said they kept their engines running to keep the coaches warm for the youngsters. Bless. But she agreed to 'have a word' with the drivers, and promptly contacted the leisure centre to get the gates open.

Only trouble is, they're still doing it (pictured this week). Whether they're emitting fumes at the ever opening and closing door to the centre, or along the side road when the café windows are open ... come on guys - open the gates earlier or cut the engines. Please. **Peter**

Town Council's Annual Town Meeting

On the panel for the Annual Town Meeting to be held in the Corn Exchange at 6pm on Thursday 20th March will be the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, the Town Clerk and the Principal of St Ivo Academy. There will also be representatives from HDC, the police and the Flood Action Group.

This is the opportunity for residents to question councillors. Tony Meneagh, the Principal of St Ivo Academy will be making a presentation and you can hear an in depth interview with him on our Riverport Radio Podcast at <https://riverportradiopodcast.buzzsprout.com/> Before then, at next weeks Full Council meeting, Councillors will be electing a replacement Councillor following the resignation of James Cantwell. Four people have put themselves forward for the position; Martin Gill, Angie Walters, John Kennedy and Laura Thompson.

1,400 charging sockets at UK schools

School teachers and EV drivers can charge their electric cars more easily with 1,407 sockets now outside schools and colleges in the UK. Future of Roads Minister Lilian Greenwood said 'Schools are the beating heart of our towns and communities, and rolling out chargers here shows we are building a practical and reliable charging network designed around people's daily lives.'



While the Government is investing almost £300m to build 300 miles of new cycle and footways to encourage more children, parents and teachers to cycle, walk and wheel to schools, today's announcement will also make greener journeys easier and more accessible for drivers.

Fresh out of the box and still creased

The new Town Council gazebos add a welcome splash of colour in the sunshine of the first Farmers' market of Spring. Photo Luka That.



Sue Ryder launches spring clean appeal

National palliative care and bereavement charity, Sue Ryder, is urging the public to embrace the joy of Spring after a long Winter and get 'spring cleaning' to fund its expert end-of-life care and grief support. The charity is hoping that people will feel motivated to clear the cobwebs by decluttering their winter wardrobes, purging their cupboards and taking the opportunity to donate any well-maintained furniture they have fallen out of love with. To find out more about donating items to Sue Ryder, visit sue Ryder.org/collection to arrange a furniture collection.

First River to have its rights recognised

The Sussex River Ouse is the first to have its rights recognised by a council. Whilst not yet legally binding, the Charter provides a visionary framework that reflects both the essential needs of the river to be healthy, and local communities highest aspirations for it. Such rights include the right to biodiversity, be free from damaging pollution and the right to a say in decisions which affect it. It sets out the river's essential rights, alongside human's responsibility to uphold these rights. Couldn't our River Great Ouse benefit from such a charter?

A141 and St Ives Improvements Scheme

The consultation feedback on the A141 and St Ives Improvements Scheme is being analysed in March. The consultation closed at the end of November so it will be 6-7 months for feedback, quite a while, considering the government requires local authorities to report on consultations at the earliest opportunity. Perhaps they could summarise responses sooner.

How to make America Great Again! Part 2

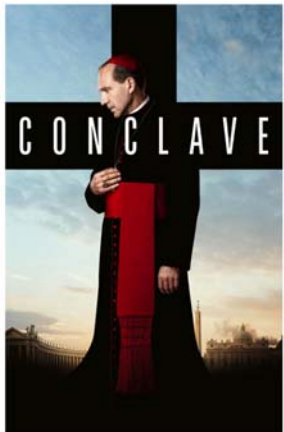




All We Imagine As Light

Thursday 3 April 2025 at 7:30pm
Doors open 6:30pm. Tickets £7
Director: Payal Kapadia, 118m, Cert: 15

Synopsis: Payal Kapadia's second film after the acclaimed *A Night of Knowing Nothing* (2021) is a gentle, loving story of friendship and female independence set in Mumbai. Prabha (*Kani Kusruti*) and Anu (*Divya Prabha*) are two Malayali nurses who live and work together, each having her own rhythm when it comes to relationships and daily routines. Yet, they meet every night in the kitchen and take turns gazing at night-time Mumbai—a place that signifies different things for both of them. The first film from India to compete in the Cannes Film Festival main competition since 1994, *All We Imagine as Light* won the Grand Prix. A beautiful, comforting film to revel in.



Conclave

Thursday 1 May 2025 at 7:30pm
Doors open 6:30pm. Tickets £7
Director: Edward Berger, 120m, Cert: 12A

Synopsis: From director *Edward Berger* (*All Quiet on the Western Front*), *Conclave* follows one of the world's most secretive and ancient events -- selecting a new Pope. Cardinal Lawrence (*Ralph Fiennes*) is tasked with running this covert process after the unexpected death of the beloved Pope. Once the Catholic Church's most powerful leaders have gathered from around the world and are locked together in the Vatican halls, Cardinal Lawrence finds himself at the centre of a conspiracy and discovers a secret that could shake the very foundation of The Church. Also stars *Stanley Tucci*, *John Lithgow* and *Isabella Rossellini*.

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

SATURDAY 15TH MARCH 2025



**AT THE NORRIS MUSEUM
ST IVES, PE27 5BX
10am - 12PM**



HOW TO SAVE MONEY · INSULATION
RENEWABLE ENERGY · ELECTRIC VEHICLES
GRANTS · UNDERSTAND YOUR ENERGY BILLS
CREATE A COSY HOME

Join us at the St Ives eco café for a discussion on Home Energy led by Peter Bates from East Cambs Climate Action Network



If you would like to book your place on the discussion or to come to future eco café events, please email stivesecocafe@gmail.com

THIS MONTH'S TOPIC @ THE ECO CAFÉ · THIS MONTH'S TOPIC @ THE ECO CAFÉ · THIS MONTH'S TOPIC @ THE ECO CAFÉ

Home ENERGY

REDUCING CARBON EMISSIONS WHILE CREATING COSY HOMES FOR EVERYONE

St Ives Eco Café is an initiative of **eco action**



THE COURTYARD, a hidden gem in the heart of St Ives.

An eclectic mix of traders and pods. Situated between St Ives Bus Station and Hyperion Auctions on Station Road.



Step into our unique courtyard, where vibrant traders and eclectic pods offer one-of-a-kind treasures. Explore a charming array of hand-crafted goods, rare finds, and artisanal delights – all from passionate vendors eager to share their stories.

Whether you're searching for gifts, unique home décor, or simply a delightful stroll, The Courtyard has something for everyone. You can also check out the collectibles in the Hyperion Antique Centre.

Whilst you are browsing enjoy a cup of freshly made coffee and a tasty bacon roll from Kate's Coffee Pod.

Open 7 days a week Monday to Saturday 9-5 and Sunday 10-4.

Here at The Courtyard, we feel incredibly proud of our work and supportive local community. Thank you so much to you all for your kind words and continued support.