

The Riverporter

PLEASE READ AND PASS ON

COVERING THE NEWS FOR ST IVES AND AROUND

Issue I93: 26 September 2025

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

WHAT A SUCCESS!

The popularity of Heritage Open Day and The Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival saw record crowds come to St Ives and despite the weather being a little unpredictable there was a happy atmosphere throughout the Town.

St Ives held an outstanding Heritage Open Day on Saturday, 13th September, coinciding with the Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival. Both events attracting many visitors.

The St Leger Chapel on St Ives Bridge welcomed a record number of 360 guests, while the Norris Museum greeted 176 visitors - twice as many as a typical Saturday. Holt Island had an exceptional number of 196 visitors and received numerous positive remarks from them.

The Town Hall, Masonic Hall, Methodist Church, Free Church, Parish Church, Prayer & Education Centre and Sacred Heart Church were all busy greeting guests.

Town Councillors, building guides and volunteers took pleasure in talking about some of our wonderful



old buildings and discussing their history. Civic Society team members wearing bright pink HOD sashes handed out leaflets and welcomed visitors around the town centre on this annual celebration of the nation's history and culture. Meanwhile all 27 concerts of the Jazz & Blues Festival, which began

on Thursday evening and ran until 9pm Sunday evening, were packed with music lovers. The Saturday footfall figures showed nearly 21,000 people were in town, slightly less than the number that came for the 600 Celebrations in July. Such events are vital to the economy as all businesses benefit from the extra visitors, many stay locally for the whole Festival.

Left: Lulu of The 29th Funktion.

Next year's Festival will be from 10th to 13th September 2026, so many of the visitors, who come from around the UK can book their holiday now.

PLEASE NOTE: The Town Team are seeking people who would like to get involved with organising the Festival to secure it's future after 2026. If you are interested email townteam@stivescambridgeshire.co.uk

DIARY OF EVENTS

Please email: editor@theriverporter.uk

OCTOBER

Wed 1st October - Engage with Poetry. 2pm - St Ives Library. In the lead up to National Poetry Day, Stuart Henson reads from his new pamphlet 'A Handful of Wasps' (illustrated by Houghton artist Bill Sanderson) and from his recent collections 'Beautiful Monsters' and 'The Way You Know It'

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

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

NOVEMBER

Wednesday 5th - Cyber Crime and Fraud Awareness. 2pm - St Ives Library - Online spending increases at this time of year as we approach the festive period. Cambridgeshire Constabulary will join us today to educate us in ways that we can protect ourselves from cyber crime.

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

Saturday 15th - Christmas Market and Lights Switch On.

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

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.

The Band of the Welsh Guards who will be leading the Freedom Parade this Saturday in St Ives at 10.45am



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MOD Crown
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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



I'm Dreaming of a Green Christmas.

St Ives Eco Café invites you to its next event, on Saturday 11 October, 10.00am–12.00 noon, at the Guide Cabin, Station Road, PE27 5BH.

It will feature family-friendly craft activities, refreshments, and practical tips on celebrating in a more sustainable way. Special guests Cambridge Carbon Footprint will share advice on how to stay warm and save money this winter, and demonstrate the use of their thermal imaging camera.

The event is open to all - whether you drop in for a while or stay for the full session, you'll be warmly welcomed. For more information, or to join the Eco Café mailing list for updates on eco-events around St Ives, please email stivesecocafe@gmail.com.

Poppyman dies aged 101

Ed Kelly, well known for his service to the Royal British Legion and leading the annual Remembrance Day Parade died on 6th September aged 101. Ed was recently awarded the Freedom of the Town (See Riverporter 191) and last March received an MBE from His Majesty King Charles III at Windsor Castle, 70 years after being awarded the Airforce Medal from Queen Elizabeth II (Riverporter 181).

His modesty led him to say: 'I do talks about why you should wear a poppy and wear it with pride and say the heroes are the ones on the memorial. I'm one of the lucky ones who survived.'

His funeral, which will mostly be a family affair, will take place at St Ives Parish Church on Monday 13th October at 1pm. We believe there may be a memorial service for the town to celebrate Ed's life at a later date.



Stewart Denham funeral announced

We announced the death of Stewart Denham in our last issue but accidentally put the wrong date. Stewart died the same day as Ed Kelly on Saturday 6th September. Stewart was born in Boston, Lincolnshire in 1940 and qualified as an architect before changing in mid-life to take up graphic design, which was his love! He and his wife Elizabeth came to St Ives in 1970 where he became an active member of the Free Church, helping behind the scenes especially with publicity and displays. Stewart's funeral will be held in the Free Church on Tuesday 7th October at 2.45pm.

St Ivo Head to leave in December

The principal at St Ivo school, Tony Meneagh, has surprised many by deciding to leave the post at the end of this autumn term. He was appointed in September 2023 (see RP139) when the school was receiving many complaints.

During his time leading the school, he has secured a 'good' Ofsted rating, the 'best ever' GCSE results and overseen a state-of-the-art Sixth Form facility.

In a letter to parents he thanked the school community for their support and outlined he had decided to leave St Ivo at a time when it is 'in a very positive place'.

Tony said:

'I have thoroughly enjoyed the challenges and opportunities at St Ivo over the past few years. Although I will miss my amazing staff team, students and their families, I am proud to be leaving the school in a really positive place.'

'For me, leadership has always been

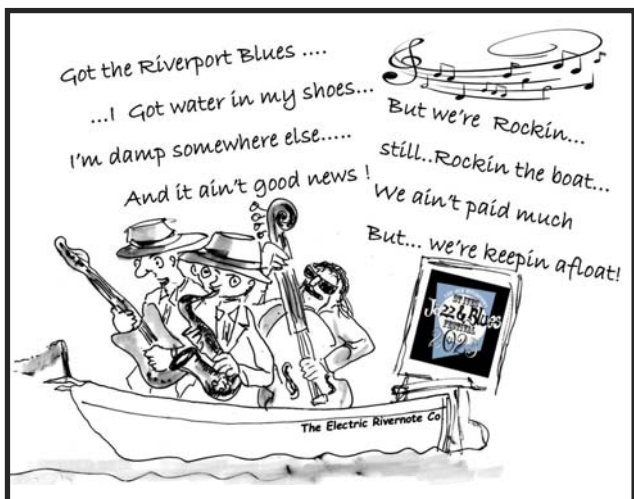
about getting the best out for our students. I strongly believe that a good education is the passport to a brilliant future, and giving students the opportunity to be their very best is the most important part of education.'

Describing Mr Meneagh as a 'dedicated leader', Rowena Hackwood, Chief Executive Officer of Astrea Academy Trust, said: *'On behalf of everyone at St Ivo, I would like to thank Tony for all the improvements he has made, from securing the school's 'Good' Ofsted, the fantastic GCSE results and a brand new Sixth Form centre for the young people of the community.'*

Tony has led St Ivo through so many

positive changes over the last two academic years, and we wish him lots of success in the future.'

The Riverporter asked Mr Meneagh about his future. He said he hadn't yet decided what to do. *'I might just go travelling for a while'* he told us. He also said that the Sixth Form intake this year had 74 pupils, above the target for 50 students that had been set and had 111 pupils in total. The recruitment of a new leader for St Ivo will now begin, with a view to the new principal being in post for the start of the spring term in January 2026.



SATURDAY 4TH OCTOBER 2025

ST IVES REPAIR CAFÉ

**ST IVES METHODIST CHURCH
THE WAITS, PE27 5BY
1PM - 4PM**

**TO BOOK A SLOT FOR REPAIR, EMAIL:
STIVSREPAIRCAF@GMAIL.COM
OR VOICEMAIL: 07377 014401**

**REPAIRING: BIKES • JEWELLERY • CERAMICS • TOOL SHARPENING
SEWING REPAIRS • COMPUTERS • ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES • BITS & BOBS**

Enjoy drinks and home made cake...
*You can bring broken items on the day for assessment ready for repair
at a later date and enjoy the café vibe*

WE WELCOME DONATIONS - CASH OR CARD

A poem inspired by a trip to Wells-Next-the-Sea and Holkham

By Kim Perry, a retired English teacher, and Head of Sixth Form.

The wind subsides. Sea aster, lavender
hunker down determined to keep a hold
in the mudflats on the foreshore behind
the shifting dunes and beneath the pines.

A happy place.
Breathe. Feel calm.
I'm delighted with it all.

Carpets of limonium with indigo buds,
edge the oceans of sea lettuce and mallow
which conceals a secret. Known to some.
Snow bunting, shore larks camouflaged on nests
of speckled eggs. They shoot up suddenly,
A straight line to the sky. A joy to behold.
I breathe it all in. This wondrous thing.
Nature to enthral.

A backdrop of Corsican pine with young
Holm oaks dappled between, searching for light.
Heaps of needles and squirrel nibbled cones
cushion the ground as Creeping Lady's Tresses
and creamy yellow honeysuckle catches our eye.
The elusive crossbill and twite flutter and flutter above,
whilst long tailed tits feed their young and chatter all day.
The sweet, dappled sunlight and sandy paths lead our way,
and, the sound of the sea is not far away.

Turn seaward and the magnificent dunes.
Shifting sandy sculptures can vanish, can
move a metre or so over a day.

Here, hunting wasps, solitary bees
and assassin flies search for their prey.
As rudder darters and little terns fly
busy and free, oyster catchers echo Peep Pip
Peep pip, peep pip in the sky.

Ringed plovers dabble along the shoreline
in comical sways, and grey seals, like tree trunks roll
in the surf.

And, behind all this, the salt marsh where sea
water meets fresh. A unique place, exquisite
and full of life. Spoonbills and brent geese fly in blue
skies whilst fluffy clouds meander by. Majestic and calm.

A curlew feeds silently just in front
and avocets sweep their way through the silt.
Here and there, hares box one another and deers
quietly graze,

knee deep in fresh water. A fabulous place.
I take a deep breath, close my eyes and open my arms
as wide as can be. My happy place by the sea.



having your say ...

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

Milly and Tilly reunited.

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,

'The nights are drawing in. It is no longer summer. Yet, the roadworks on the road to Huntingdon Station are far from complete. They were due to be finished by summer 2025. That has been passed. The odds for completion by summer 2026 are not that good. ...'

Name withheld

Dear Milly and Tilly,

I wanted to say thank you to St Ives Eco Café and Elisabeth Goodman for her talk on Climate Anxiety... a reminder that little steps count.

Join StAR for a Litter pick anyone?

Saturday 27th Sept 10.30am - 11.30. Meeting at the corner of Needingworth Rd and Great Farthing Close. **Great Auntie Bulgaria**

Dear Milly and Tilly,

An email I received, questions where Joe Bugner lived. Houghton and Wyton have always claimed Joe Bugner as one of theirs. Where did he live in St Ives?? **Stringer Jack**

Major concern over sluice gates

The good people at Jones Boatyard have again raised the failure of the EA to repair the sluice gates. Their latest online report is very worrying on many fronts and has seen lots of comments urging our MP to help get the EA to do something.

Only 1 of the original 7 sluice gates at St Ives appear to now be functioning. That's just 14% of the designed capacity of the staunch.



The latest failure means:

- Six gates have now failed – one after another – and nothing meaningful has been done to stop the collapse.
 - The last remaining gate, never designed to carry the full flow alone, is now under stress.
- To put this in context:
- In 2024, the EA flood modelling was based on 4 working gates (57%).
 - Later that year it dropped to 3 (42%), then recently 2 (28%).
 - Now, we're down to 1 of 7. That's just 14%. It had three times that capacity during the floods of 2024.

If this final gate fails or simply needs to be closed for safety the Great Ouse will effectively be dammed at St Ives, with only minimal

ability to discharge downstream from over-topping the gates.

Both St Ives and Brownhill have been operating at significantly reduced flow capacity for some time. We believe both restrictions must be addressed to allow the river to drain naturally during periods of heavy rainfall.

Repairing one site while leaving a major downstream constraint in place would be illogical, as it would only shift the problem further along the system.

Despite EA assurances in September 2024 that 'moderation repairs' would begin within 9 months, no work has happened to address the decline.

To be clear:

- The EA officially claims this structure provides 'no significant flood protection.'
- Yet its own guidance on watercourse management says: 'You must let water flow naturally... or you may have to pay damages if you do not remove blockages that reduce flow or cause flooding to others' property.'

We urge local representatives, councillors, MPs to step up pressure on the EA before the structure becomes beyond repair.

The Riverporter

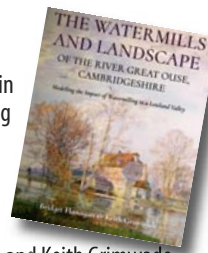
To listen to the latest **Riverport Radio Podcast** go to <https://riverportradiopodcast.buzzsprout.com>

OTHER NEWS

WOW Day to be repeated

One of The Great Ouse Valley Trust (GOVT) aims to make the Ouse Valley Way an official National Trail for the 151 miles from Syresham in Northamptonshire to Kings Lynn in Norfolk. They are already planning for next year's WOW Day, following this year's success. The date is Sunday 12th July when the public will be encouraged to walk alongside our beautiful river.

GOVT has also produced a new book that reflects on the influence of the mills on our river valley. It is the work of author, Bridget Flanagan and Keith Grimwade, an historical geographer and Past President of the Geographical Association. They have copies available at £16 + £4.50 p&p. Please contact them direct: tobridget@hotmail.com, or keith.grimwade@btinternet.com



Taproom launches evenings with music



Following the success of its breakfast, brunch, and lunch menu, The Taproom is now bringing its signature quality and community focus to Friday and Saturday evenings with a new 'small plates' offering. Every Friday and Saturday from 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM, guests can enjoy a refined tapas-style menu, featuring dishes such as ox cheek and croquettes, perfect for sharing with family, friends, or colleagues. The early evening sessions cater to families and those finishing work, while later sittings transition into a lively evening with live music and vinyl DJs.

Music kicks off every Friday with a live band at 8:30pm, spanning jazz, funk, soul, pop, classics, and covers. Saturdays see Vinyl DJ's from 9pm. To celebrate the launch, The Taproom is offering a free bottle of Prosecco for online bookings of three or more guests until the end of October.

For bookings or more information, visit www.thetaproom.co.uk or call 01480 452899.

AI training available in St Ives

Britain stands at a turning point, with unemployment hanging steady at 4.7% and working patterns changing faster than days can pass. The really big question is not whether artificial intelligence will change our economy, but if our workers can keep up and can profit from it. From assembly lines in Manchester to walking down the city streets in Cambridge, AI is silently transforming how work goes on. Today, the highest-valued employees are those who know how to successfully work with, or activate, AI tools. It is really more about clear thinking and good judgment than it is about coding skills. Unlike previous tech revolutions that demanded retraining over long periods, just weeks can suffice to learn many AIs. If you or your company want to know more about AI, contact St Ives based, London AI Studio, which offers hands-on AI online training for both and teams.



Aravind Sakthivel is a technology consultant and the founder of London AI Studio. See www.londonaistudio.com

Town Council to relaunch The Bridge magazine

St Ives Town Council's magazine, The Bridge, that was last published in 2022 is due to be relaunched this autumn and is likely to see three issues produced next year.

The very first issue (right) was printed in Spring of 1997 and asked residents to give it a name. Initially there were 2 issues a year. It was the first attempt to keep residents informed of the work of the Council and was edited by Bob Burn-Murdoch, then Curator of the Norris Museum and designed by the newly elected Town Councillor, John Souter, who has gone on to much bigger things, such as *The Riverporter*!



Milly and her chums are hoping for a special offer after the Greggs upgrade



NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF A PREMISES LICENCE

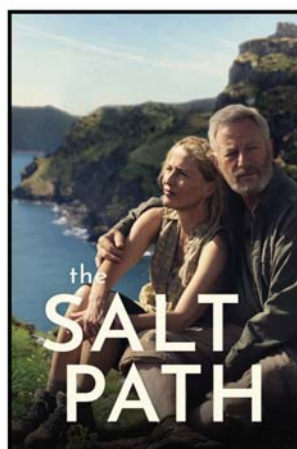
Notice is given that Snugco Limited has on the 16th September 2025 applied to Huntingdonshire District Council to Vary a Premise Licence for The Snug Micro Pub, 3 Free Church Passage, St Ives, Cambridgeshire, PE27 5AY

If granted the variation will permit the following: The sale of alcohol and playing of live and recorded music outside in the courtyard at the front of the pub for special events. This will be allowed Monday to Sunday from midday until 11pm.

Persons wishing to inspect the register or the record of this application may do so by visiting the public register online <https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/licensing/public-registers/>

Anyone wishing to make representations concerning this application should do so in writing online via the public register above or by email to licensing@huntingdonshire.gov.uk or by post to Huntingdonshire District Council, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon PE29 3TN. Representations in respect of this application must reach the Licensing Authority by 13th October 2025.

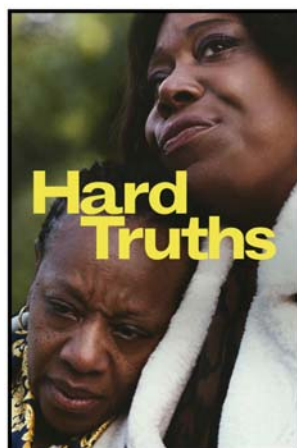
It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application, the maximum fine for which on summary conviction is unlimited.



The Salt Path

Thursday 2 October 2025 at 7:30pm
Doors open 6:30pm. Tickets £7
Director: Marianne Elliott, 115m, Cert: 12A

Synopsis: Based on the (disputed) memoirs of Rayner Moth this is the story of husband and wife, Raynor (Gillian Anderson) and Moth (Jason Isaacs) Winn's 630 mile trek along the beautiful but rugged Cornish, Devon and Dorset coastline. After being forcibly removed from their home, they make the desperate decision to keep walking in the hope that, in nature, they will find solace and a sense of acceptance. With depleted resources, a tent and the bare essentials, every step along the path is a testament to their growing strength and determination. The Salt Path is a journey that is exhilarating, challenging, and liberating in equal measure. A portrayal of home and how it can be lost and rediscovered in the most unexpected ways.

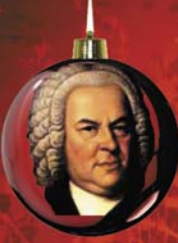


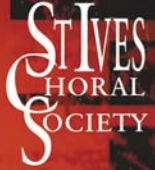
Hard Truths

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

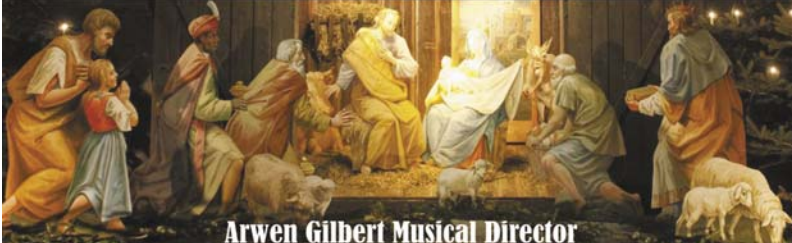
Synopsis: Hard Truths is a 2024 comedy-drama film written and directed by Mike Leigh, starring Marianne Jean-Baptiste, Michele Austin, and David Webber. Set in London, its plot follows the plight of a depressed and nay-saying woman (Jean-Baptiste) and the relationship with her jovial sister Chantelle (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.

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


Johann Sebastian
Bach



Christmas Oratorio



Arwen Gilbert Musical Director

Susanna MacRae - Soprano
Sarah Anne Champion - Alto
Owen Winter - Tenor
Jeremy Burrows - Bass
With The Medlock Sinfonia

Saturday 15 November 7.30pm, FREE CHURCH, ST IVES
Tickets £18 (accompanied children under 12 free)
BOOK YOUR TICKETS ONLINE AT WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/ST-IVES-CHORAL-SOCIETY
Registered Charity No. 291640

Next auction: **Saturday 4th October**

Antiques & Interiors Sale to include Ceramics, Collectables, Silver, Jewellery and Furniture



HYPERION

Here is a guide on the ways you can bid on our lots from our Antiques and Interiors auctions:

In Person

You can attend our auction, we are open from 9am on the morning of the auction for viewing and the auction starts at **10am**. Please keep your bidder's number (paddle) and show it to the auctioneer if a lot is knocked down to you.

By Telephone

We accept telephone bids on items valued at over £100, we can accept bids up to and including the start of the Auction

By Commission Bid

You can create an online account via our website and login to place bids directly from our online auction catalogues.

Place the maximum amount you are willing to bid and we will bid on your behalf

Live Online Bidding

You can register to bid live with easyliveauction.com or the-saleroom.com. for bidders unable to attend but would like the experience of live bidding

To bid online you will need to register for the auction at:

the-saleroom.com or easyliveauction.com

Once registered you can watch the auction in real time, simply click the bid button to place a bid.

Where? Station Road, St Ives, PE27 5BH

When? Start time: 10am

Our website: www.hyperionauctions.co.uk

Contact us: 01480 464140 or info@hyperionauctions.co.uk

Scan this QR code to view our online catalogue →

