

# The Riverporter

COVERING THE NEWS FOR ST IVES AND AROUND

PLEASE READ AND PASS ON

Issue 202: 13 February 2026

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

## Film of the 600 - free to see

**O**n Thursday 26th of this month St Ives Town Team are showing films about last year's anniversary celebrations, including the re-enactment by the English Civil War Society of the bridge being blown up in 1645.

The film show will take place in the Corn Exchange at 7.30pm. This free to attend event is expected to be very popular and to ensure everyone who wants to see it can attend, you should reserve a ticket, either in person from the Corn Exchange or online at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives).

As well as showing films of the anniversary celebrations there will be a chance to see films of other recent events in St Ives, such as the building of the bandstand and a fascinating old film about the River Great Ouse.

Pic A Bennett



## You just couldn't make it up!

Last Saturday at around 12.40am another car became stuck in our infamous car trap. So not unusual. Except that it was a police car responding to an emergency and it was going into Station Road from Harrison Way. The vehicle was recovered at around 3am and a spokesperson for Cambridgeshire



Police said the officer has been suspended from driving while an

investigation takes place. Of course local media was rife with comments, including:

*You can't park that there mate.  
After all the press on the trap, this surely has to be Al.  
In hot pursuit?  
Should go to Specsavers.*

## Rangers seek volunteers to save tournament

St Ives Rangers FC has issued an urgent call for volunteers to help ensure its popular Summer Tournament goes ahead this year. The two-day tournament, held at One Leisure Outdoor and scheduled for 13–14 June, is a major highlight in the club's

calendar, attracting young players, families and visiting teams from across the region. However, organisers say the event is now at risk unless more off-the-pitch support is secured in the coming weeks.

The club is appealing to locals who

can help with planning and administration in the lead-up to the tournament, rather than just on the weekend itself. Roles include team registration, recruiting and organising volunteers, updating the club website, and assisting with other administrative tasks.

Chairman Ed Goodman said the situation was critical but he remained hopeful the community would step up: 'We're asking anyone with the right skills to get involved.' He added that even a small amount of time could make a big difference.

**Anyone interested in volunteering is encouraged to contact the club as soon as possible at:**  
[stivesrangersfc@gmail.com](mailto:stivesrangersfc@gmail.com)



## DIARY OF EVENTS

Please email: [editor@theriverporter.uk](mailto:editor@theriverporter.uk)

### FEBRUARY 2026

**Friday 20th - COSI lunchtime concert** - featuring the Ermine Street Band wind quintet. A free concert, 1pm St Ives Free Church.

**Friday 20th - Civic Society - St Ives Historic Houses through time.** With local historians, Keith Grimwade and John McKinnie. 7.30pm at the Free Church. Members free, visitors £3.

**Thursday 26th - Town Team Film of the 600** - FREE event Corn Exchange 7.30pm. Tickets from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives).

**Friday 27th - Chapel Arts Concert - Kim & Lee.** Eurovision winning musician and songwriter. St Ives Corn Exchange 7.30pm. Tickets £10 from the venue or [www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents).

**Saturday 28th - St Ives Corn Exchange - The Tomb Raiders Band** 7.30pm. A night of blues in the Riverport Café. Tickets £10.

### MARCH

**Sunday 1st - Hemingford Ladies Choir** at 3.00.p.m. St Ives Free Church. Tea, cake and song. Free - collection for Church Refurbishment.

**Wednesday 4th - Engage Talk: Women's Suffrage in Cambridge** 2pm - St Ives Library (donations welcome).

**Wednesday 11th - Saturday 14th - St Ives Youth Theatre presents Cluedo** at the Free Church. Doors open 7pm. £12 general admission, £8 concessions, £32 family (2 adults + 2 concessions). Tickets from [www.siyt.co.uk/box-office](http://www.siyt.co.uk/box-office).

**Saturday 14th - St Ives Eco Café** is hosting a talk by the charity 'Climate Change Gardening'. Come along to the Free Church, 10am to 12pm, refreshments from Tookeys Café, entry by donation (sug. £3).

**Friday 20 March - ADHD + Autistic Ives Neurodiversity Celebration week** St Ives Corn Exchange 10.30am. Panel discussion and Q & A from the audience 11am. No need to book just turn up.

**Friday 20 March - Civic Society - The Enduring Art of Stained Glass in Huntingdonshire.** A presentation by local author Reverend Stephen Day. 7.30pm at the Free Church. Members free, visitors £3.

**Saturday 21 March - Table-top Sale in Free Church.** From 10am to 3pm. Tables available from £7 (set-up from 8am). Visit church office or [office@stivesfreechurch.org](mailto:office@stivesfreechurch.org) to book.

**Saturday 21 - St Ives Choral Society concert** - Schubert Mass in G and Rutter Magnificat, Free Church 7.30pm. Tickets from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-ives-choral-society](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-ives-choral-society)

**Friday 27th - Chapel Arts Concert - Marina & Johnny.** An evening of Country music. St Ives Corn Exchange 7.30pm. Tickets £10 from the venue or [www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents).

### FRIDAY 27TH FEBRUARY

## KIM & LEE

Chapel Arts  
@ the  
Corn Exchange



Singer-songwriter, Kimberley Rew is a rock great. Not only was he a member of Eurovision winners Katrina and the Waves, he wrote *Walking on Sunshine* and *Love Shine a Light*. Now living in Wales - here is a chance to see him with his partner Lee Cave-Berry, whose performances are described as charming, intimate, lyrical and often humorous by critics.

Concert starts at 7.30pm in The Riverport Bar, St Ives Corn Exchange. Tickets just £10 from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents) or the venue.

Read on-line at [www.theriverporter.uk](http://www.theriverporter.uk) or see our Facebook page. Email: [editor@theriverporter.uk](mailto:editor@theriverporter.uk)

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# Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival

Next September's line-up has been published and features 31 concerts in 16 locations, all in the town centre. There are eleven new bands for the Festival.



## THURSDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER

6pm	Golden Lion Hotel	Richard Exall's Benny Goodman Quartet	The music of Benny Goodman
6.30pm	Amore Restaurant	Chris Newman & Humfry Finkel	Ragtime
7pm	Oliver Cromwell	The Lightwaves	A bit of everything
7.30pm	The Taproom	Brooks Williams & Aaron Catlow	UK folk and Americana
8.30pm	Nelson's Head	Lexie Green & Johnny Wright	Soulful Country & Vintage Blues
10pm	The Corn Exchange	Santiago & The Soul Movers	Rock & Soul

## FRIDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER

5.30pm	Floods Tavern	Split Whiskers	Chicago Blues
6.30pm	Golden Lion Hotel	Shufflepack	Shuffling Blues
7pm	Broadway Cellars	Trio Plus	Jazz, Funk
7.30pm	The Taproom	Greg Brice	Acoustic Blues
8.30pm	Ivy leaf Club	Max & Veronica	Vintage Blues, Jazz & Ragtime
10pm	The Corn Exchange	The Kendall Connection	Blues-Rock

## SATURDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER

11am	Sheep Market	The Barefoot Doctors	Electric Blues
12.30pm	Whisky Café	Gravy Train Trio	Funk, Soul, Jazz
1pm	The Bandstand	RUBY MUSE	Folk, Blues and Americana
2pm	The Quay	GETNOTGOT	Groovy Jazz-funk
4pm	The Corn Exchange	The Gray Project	Jazz and Soul
5pm	Floods Tavern	Johnny Wright & Marina Bush	Feisty Country
6.30pm	The Taproom	Will Sketches Quartet	Funk, Soul, Blues
7pm	Golden Lion Hotel	Blues Boy Kings	Blues
8.30pm	Ivy leaf Club	Chris Lord & her Blues Express	Rhythm & Blues
10pm	The Corn Exchange	Thomas Atlas	Contemporary Blues & Soul

## SUNDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER

11.30am	Golden Lion Hotel	M G Boulter & Jenny Sturgeon	Indie Folk
12.30pm	Ivo Lounge	Django's Tiger	Gypsy Jazz
1pm	The Quay	The 29th Funktion	Rhythm & Blues
2.30pm	The Free Church	Upbeat Big Band	Big Band Swing and Jazz
3pm	The Taproom	Dan Walsh	Banjo Virtuoso
3.30pm	Broadway Cellars	Myke Clifford Quartet	Pure Jazz
4pm	Oliver Cromwell	Jonno's 3 piece Blues Quartet	Blues
4.30pm	Nelson's Head	Rich Young & Chris Newman	Roots
6.30pm	The Lounge	Mr Griff & The Grifters	Dynamic Soul Fusion

Programme may be subject to change [www.stivescambridgeshire.co.uk](http://www.stivescambridgeshire.co.uk)

One of the new bands is

## Trio Plus

Who will be playing at the Broadway Cellars on Friday 11th September at 7pm

We expect Trio Plus to be one of the most exciting bands at this year's Festival as it features guitarist Keith Winters (below) of Shakatak fame. Shakatak are an English jazz-funk band founded in 1980. An initial white label release, 'Steppin', caught attention by Passion records owner Les McCutcheon and Northern Soul DJ Kev Roberts. They chose the band's name derived from a Soho record store called 'Record Shack'.

They scored a number of chart entries, including two Top 10 hits in the UK Singles Chart plus a further 12 entries in the Guinness Book of British Hit Singles.

The group is still active and popular throughout the world, particularly in Japan and the Far East, and generally produce a new album every two years on JVC Records. Trio Plus features Keith Winters on guitar, Martin Hallmark on piano, Alan Carruthers (of Spiral G's) on bass, Stuart Pringle on drums and our very own Festival favourite, Myke Clifford, on Sax and flute.



## TWO FUNDRAISING CONCERTS

Tickets from the Corn Exchange or [www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents)

Friday 29th May

**THE HOUNDOGS**

Saturday 4th July

A double header with  
**FRED'S HOUSE**  
&  
**THE 29TH FUNKTION**

## Could monster logistics park affect St Ives?

Plans for a Logistics Park, near the Spittals roundabout in Huntingdon (see below), has raised concern by residents because of the size of some of the warehouses, which could be up to 24 metres tall.

District Councillors are due to meet on Monday to decide whether the development can go ahead.

Developer, Newlands Property Developments (Huntingdon) Ltd, wants to create up to 205,000 sqm of storage and distribution space, and a bus depot.

Plans state the maximum building heights (18.5m to 24m), reflect

market demand and respond to the 'surrounding landscape context', while accommodating modern standards for storage facilities.

A new access road is proposed to be created off the A141 and the developer has said it hopes to start work on the site in 2026 and complete in 2033.

It would be surprising if the objection to the development, based on it being an eyesore, is successful as this site, next to a commercial development and Huntingdon Racecourse, is hardly a beauty spot.

For a distribution centre this location is good as large vehicles can access the A1 and A14 easily. So why it could affect St Ives?

The size of this project would see a lot of vehicles coming and going throughout the day and possibly through the night.

Should either the A1 or A14 be blocked (as often happens), then large lorries could be re-routed through St Ives to go Eastwards. And we all know what effect that could have for St Ives.

Shouldn't alternative routing be considered in advance of approval?



## Group celebrates 1st birthday

Did you know that St Ives had an ADHD + Autistic Neurodiversity group? The group which meets regularly at the River Terrace Café was formed last year by Kevin Bryant and Sarah Bateman and has grown to around 90 members, ranging from 19 to 86 years old. Around 1% of the population are Autistic and 5-6% have ADHD meaning that there are probably 1,400 people in St Ives who are neurodivergent.

The group will be celebrating its first anniversary, see poster below, which corresponds with the national Neurodiversity Celebration week. To contact Kevin or Sarah email: [autisticives@outlook.com](mailto:autisticives@outlook.com).







Jeffery, our new News Hound. Milly and Tilly are busy training him.



having your say . . .

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

# The Riverporter

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<https://riverportradiopodcast.buzzsprout.com>

## OTHER NEWS

### Good Friday Beer & Cider Festival

The Old Riverport Beer & Cider Festival will be taking place over Easter in the Corn Exchange on Friday 3rd & Saturday 4th April.

Across the two days you can enjoy:

**30 beers from independent brewers across the UK, 10 ciders, A wine, gin & spirits bar, Tasty food options and Live music to keep the atmosphere buzzing**

Whether you're a craft beer fan, a cider lover, or just looking for a relaxed weekend event with friends, this is one to get in the diary.

Two days of great drinks, good company and a lively Corn Exchange atmosphere

### Morris dancers on Easter Saturday

As well as enjoying a beer Festival visitors to St Ives will be able to watch (and join in) with some traditional Morris Dancing, as sides from the area come to dance in the town centre. on Saturday 4th April.

Right: *Fenstanton Morris at the Bandstand*



## Town Council fund local groups

St Ives Town Council had a difficult task in choosing which community groups to support as there was only £35,270 allocated for grants after funds for the Norris museum were committed.

The grant for the Museum is historic and one where the Town Council is acting in its role as Sole Trustee of the Charity.

They have a duty to support the museum and the money is reducing each year. Last year the Norris museum received £33,000, which must be used for running costs for the museum - not for salaries.

The total requested by organisations from the Council amounted to £96,543, so some groups were unable to be supported.

**In the end councillors agreed the following grants:**

Festival Events St Ives	£8,625.00
Hunts Voluntary Centre	£3,500.00
St Ives Carnival & Music Festival	£7,142.00
St Ives In Bloom	£3,600.00
St Ives Town Team	£6,500.00

Citizens Advice Rural Cambs wasn't awarded a grant but free space at the Burleigh Hill Community Centre would continue to be available.

Requests for funding from Hemingford Fireworks, the Free Church and St Ives Hockey Club were all declined.

## Welcome To The Farm

St Ives newest and only brewery IVO, is opening its doors to the public for the very first time in March 2026 at Burleigh Hill Farm off Somersham Road. There will be several IVO beers to try, all brewed on site, alongside some selected craft ales from other local brewers.

This event will allow members of the public to take a look at IVO's new facility with free brewery tours taking place over the 2 day event. IVO will have food trucks on site serving pizzas from Pizza My Heart on Friday and sourdough flatbreads from Nomadough on Saturday.

Children and dogs are welcome and there will be a range of non alcoholic drinks available. Anyone wishing to attend should

purchase a ticket from IVO's website [ivobrewery.co.uk/events-1](http://ivobrewery.co.uk/events-1) The £5 ticket includes a limited edition cup and your first pint.

You do not need to purchase tickets for children or any designated drivers.

IVO Brewery Ltd was formed in 2020 by next door neighbours and friends Charles Abbott and Jason Jones. Having won several awards as home brewers they decided to start a commercial brewery at 10 Church Street, Somersham. Due to demand outstripping production the Brewery has now moved into a larger facility at Burleigh Hill Farm, Somersham Road, St Ives.

Their bottles can be found in The Bottle

Bank, The Whisky Café and The Taproom.

### PLAYERS WORK 9 to 5

Following on from their recent successful production of Sleeping Beauty, the Centre Theatre Players have wasted no time in starting to prepare for their Spring show, Dolly Parton's smash-hit musical 9 to 5, which they are staging in the Burgess Hall of One Leisure, St Ives on May the 6th – 9th.

With music and lyrics by Dolly Parton and a book by Patricia Resnick, the show is based on the 20th Century Fox motion picture and was originally produced on Broadway in 2009. As well as some great musical numbers this is a hilarious story of friendship and revenge, thought provoking, with a touch of romance.

Matthew Wilson and Amy Barker will be jointly directing this production for the Players with musical direction by Nick Thompson and Cherry Havard and choreography by Martha Hiscock. Tickets for the show are already on sale and can be purchased online from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/burgesshall](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/burgesshall) or from the One Leisure main reception.

### Have your say on reorganisation

Public consultation has opened on Cambridgeshire reorganisation and Cllr Bulat would like you to back Option E (a Huntingdonshire-only authority). Consultation ends on 26th March. The County Council have increased their portion of the Council Tax by 4.99% up £84.78 on a band D. Meanwhile St Ives Town Council have increased their share of the Precept by 9% (up £16.38) making a band D property about £202, which is £19 more than St Neots and £84 more than Ramsey, but £84 less than Huntingdon.

**WELCOME TO THE FARM**

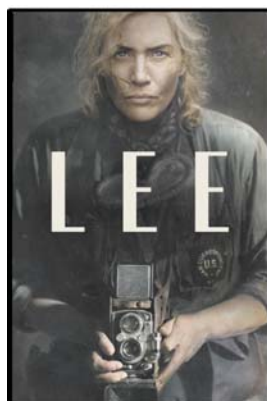
Friday 27th March 5pm - 9pm  
Saturday 28th March 12pm - 9pm

Beer • Food Trucks • Brewery Tours

**Burleigh Hill Farm, St.Ives PE273LY**  
visit [ivobrewery.co.uk/events](http://ivobrewery.co.uk/events) for tickets  
and more details

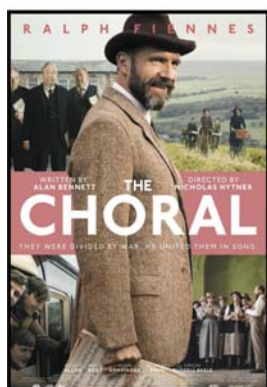






**Lee**  
**Thursday 5 March 2026 at 7:30pm**  
**Doors open 6:30pm. Tickets £7**  
**Director: Ellen Kuras (2023), 117m, Cert: 15**

**Lee** tells the story of American photographer and war correspondent **Lee Miller** (*Kate Winslet*), who was determined to document the truth of the Nazi regime during World War II. Defying expectations for women at the time, she travelled to the front lines for *Vogue* magazine, capturing some of the most significant and horrific images of the war, including the liberation of the Dachau concentration camp. The film, a passion project for star *Kate Winslet*, explores her journey from a celebrated fashion model to a fearless photojournalist and the immense personal trauma she endured from what she witnessed. The narrative is framed by a later-life interview as Miller grapples with her past and the price of bearing witness to history's atrocities.



**The Choral**  
**Thursday 9 April 2026 at 7:30pm**  
**Doors open 6:30pm. Tickets £7**  
**Director: Nicholas Hytner (2025), 108m, Cert: 15**

**The Choral** is set in a fictional Yorkshire town in 1916. The Choral follows a local choral society depleted by men leaving to fight in World War I. The ambitious committee hires the demanding Dr. Henry Guthrie (*Ralph Fiennes*) as the new chorus master. Despite suspicions about his time in Germany, Guthrie recruits local teenagers to fill the ranks. The group prepares for a performance of Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius*, chosen because it wasn't composed by a German. The film explores themes of community, resilience, and the power of music as the young men face impending conscription and the community grapples with wartime loss.

Tickets at [screenstives.org.uk](https://screenstives.org.uk) or in the Corn Exchange

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