

The Riverporter

COVERING THE NEWS FOR ST IVES AND AROUND

PLEASE READ AND PASS ON

Issue 213: 24 July 2026

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

Are buses making a comeback?

Following the article in the last issue of *The Riverporter* about the Town Council's new easy-to-use bus information leaflet we have been made aware of new routes and even had a letter praising the 302 service to March (see Get it off your chest p3).

Families in St Ives and across Cambridgeshire can make the most of lower travel costs this Summer, thanks to a range of bus fare schemes designed to help people travel for less.

Summer bus savings for families and young people

Throughout August, children aged 5 to 15 travel free on local bus services across England as part of the Government's Great British Summer Savings initiative. The scheme runs from 1-31 August, with no registration required, making it easier and more affordable for families to enjoy days out during school holidays. For Cambridgeshire's young people the savings don't stop when Summer ends. Anyone under the age of 25 can apply online, free of charge, for a Tiger Pass, which allows them to travel on buses across Cambridgeshire and

Peterborough for just £1 per journey. The scheme is available on all buses in and from St Ives, helping young people travel affordably to school, college, work, training or to meet friends (see p2 for services from St Ives).

More good news for passengers

The Burnham Government has just announced a £2 bus fare cap from January and throughout 2027, it is currently £3.

Meanwhile, older residents of State Pension age can continue to enjoy free off-peak bus travel with an Older Person's Bus Pass.

Whippet announce new service

Whether you're planning family adventures during the school holidays, commuting, or simply exploring the local area, there has rarely been a better time to leave the car at home and take the bus. Whippet are once again running direct buses to the coast this



summer – with their Hunstanton route re-starting and running every weekend through to 13 September, and a new second route to Clacton also running twice a week throughout the school summer holidays. Both routes pick up in St Ives bus station – and return tickets are £14 (children or concessions) and £17 (adults). Just pay on the bus, and enjoy some fresh sea air! Find out more on their website - www.whippetbus.co.uk

INDIAN CLASSICAL CONCERT AT THE CHAPEL

Last Friday saw a first for St Ives as Ranjan Vasudevan, one half of The Lightwaves, presented Kaveri Blues, an Indian classical music experience in The Bridge Chapel. Ranjan was accompanied by Abhi Sahathevan on Mridangam (drum) and Vivek Dinesh on violin. A full house (just 27 people) enjoyed this unique and intimate concert which the Town Team had organised as part of the 600 celebrations of the Chapel.



A FREE lunchtime Piano recital at 12.30pm in St Ives Free Church with **OKSANA KING** SATURDAY 1ST AUGUST



The programme will include works by Bach, Beethoven, Tchaikovsky, Mendelssohn and Benjamin Britten. Oksana has performed as a soloist throughout Russia and the Czech Republic.



St Ives Town Mayor Cllr Alex Thompson will be in attendance as there will be a collection at the end with all profits going to the Mayor's Charities.

DIARY OF EVENTS

Please email: editor@theriverporter.uk

Every Sunday throughout July and August -

Music on the Waits at The Bandstand from 2pm to 4pm JULY

Friday 31st - Double and Squeak concert by talented quartet of multi-instrumentalist woodwind players. St Ives Free Church 1pm.

AUGUST

Saturday 1st - Lunchtime Piano Recital with Oksana King. See above.

Sunday 9th and 23rd - Flea on The Quay - 10am until 1pm.

Wednesday 26th - Acappella Men's Barbershop Chorus Free Open Rehearsal in St Ives Free Church at 7.30pm.

Friday 28th - Percussion evening - Derek Scurl in The Chapel.

SEPTEMBER

Thursday 10th - Sunday 13th - The Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival - for details: www.stivescambridgeshire.co.uk.

Saturday 12th - Heritage Open Day - visit St Ives historic buildings.

Saturday 12th - RAFA wings appeal, Battle of Britain concert. Huntingdonshire Concert Band, at the Free Church starts 7:30pm.

Tickets £15 from the Church or ticketsource.co.uk/rafa-wings-concert.

Sunday 13th - Flea on The Quay - 10am until 12pm.

Sunday 20th - Civic Sunday - Service followed by Parade.

Sunday 27th - Last Flea on The Quay for 2026 - 10am until 1pm.

Friday 25th - Chapel Arts Concert - Richard Exall & Art Toper - An evening classic Jazz (Benny Goodman etc.) St Ives Free Church at 7.30pm. Tickets £10 from venue or www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents.

OCTOBER

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

Friday 30th - Chapel Arts Concert - Stella's Musical Amigos - An evening of high class music in St Ives Corn Exchange 7.30pm. Tickets £10 from venue or www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents.

Flea on the Quay FROM 10AM THIS SUNDAY and 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 **THE TAPROOM** breakfast at

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

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

You can contact The Riverporter by telephone on: 07900 112635. The publishers, Ron Westrip and John Souter, reserve the right to determine the content of the publication. © copyright reserved

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.

Mick, a Care UK care home resident, shares how the home's quality care has improved his health and happiness.

'I feel safe and looked after'

Mick moved into a Care UK care home for two months' temporary respite care after a hospital stay. Today, he is happy to be a permanent resident. 'I was so fortunate to be placed here,' Mick says.

When he first joined, Mick couldn't see or walk due to sepsis. He feels the high-quality care he received has vastly improved his health. 'I collapsed twice, and the team did everything they could for me. I felt safe and looked after, which reassured me that I was in good hands,' Mick says.

The kitchen and activities teams have also contributed to Mick's better health. From his wheelchair, Mick joins in regular seated exercise classes, as well as other activities and group outings. And he credits his weight loss to the chef's quality cooking. 'My diet is so much better than when I came into the home. I've lost 2.5 stone with the help of the lovely food here,' he says.

'It is the best thing that has happened to me'

Mick has truly benefitted from excellent physical care, but the friendly team has gone above and beyond to support his emotional wellbeing too. 'I class all the carers as family, which I didn't have before,' Mick says. 'The team treats you like an equal, and nothing is too much trouble.'



Buoyed by the confidence of the team, Mick now enjoys taking the lead. 'I assist with delivering activities, which makes me feel involved and valued. I even have my own name badge!' Mick says.

'It really is the best thing that has happened to me. I don't think I'd be alive now if I hadn't come.'

Trust us to care

Our approach to quality care is based on best practice and the latest evidence, so you can trust your loved one is safe and comfortable. 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, London Road, St Ives, Cambridgeshire PE27 5EX.



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.



Sentimental Value

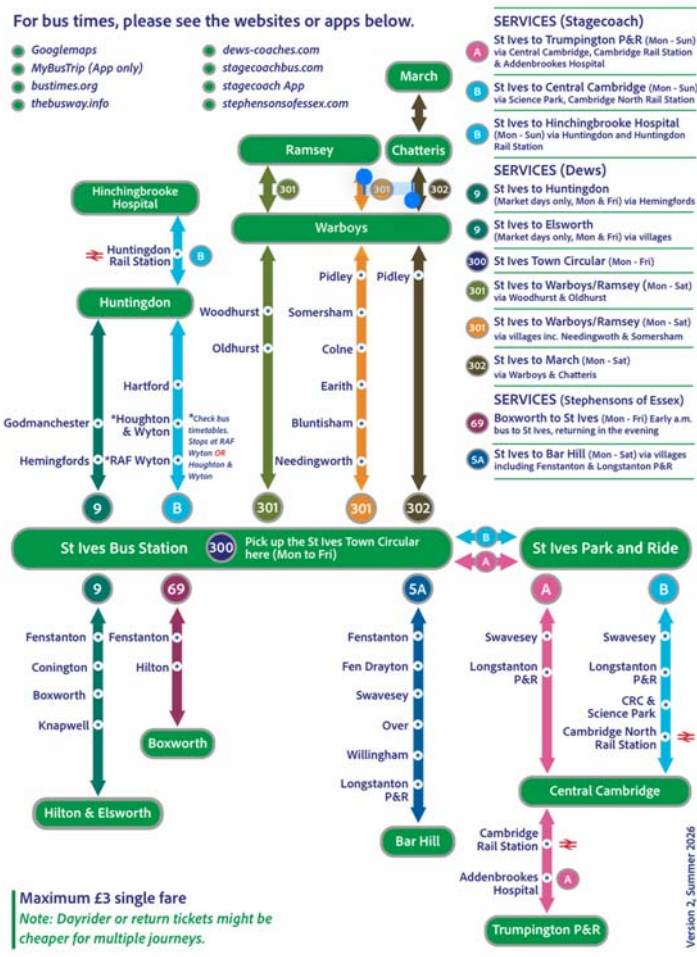
Thursday 3 September 2026 at 7:30pm
Doors open 7:00pm. Tickets £7
Director: Joachim Trier (2025), 135m, Cert: 15

Directed by *Joachim Trier*, **Sentimental Value** follows successful stage actress Nora (*Renate Reinsve*) and her sister Agnes as they reunite with their estranged father, Gustav, a once-renowned film director. Following their mother's death, Gustav returns to the family's ancestral home in Oslo, hoping to reclaim his former glory by directing a deeply personal comeback film. When Nora declines the lead role, Gustav casts an eager young Hollywood starlet instead. This forces the sisters to navigate their complicated family dynamics while confronting generational trauma and the uneasy tension between artistic expression and personal connection.

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

Buses from St Ives to nearby towns

(from 1st June 2026)



Crowds enjoy Music on The Waits as sun shines



The popular Music on The Waits concerts organised by F&ST that take place every Sunday afternoon during July and August have seen large numbers attending in warm sunshine. This weeks performers are regulars the Chatteris & Manea Silver Band.

Better support for care leavers?

Liberal Democrat councillors say they have secured more support for care leavers in Huntingdonshire, further protecting this vulnerable group.

Care leavers are typically young people aged between 16 - 25 who have been in the care of a local authority for at least 13 weeks after the age of 16.

This group face significant direct and indirect discrimination throughout their lifetimes. Their experiences can have enduring consequences, including poorer mental health outcomes, stigma and prejudice from others, and reduced

opportunities in employment and housing.

While presenting HDC's new Corporate Plan Lib Dem Cllr Nathan Hunt highlighted that the council will be increasing its support for care leavers, by treating care experience as a protected characteristic.

This will increase the support provided to care leavers as the council will have to consider how policies, practice and decisions affect people who have care experience, in the same way that council staff are currently required to consider people with other protected characteristics, such as age or race.



having your say . . .

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

Milly & Tilly are very interested in your letters.

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,

Like many people, I have spent most of my life getting around by car or motorbike, so using the bus has rarely crossed my mind. Recently, however, I needed to visit a relative in the March area at a time when my car was unavailable. Faced with little choice, I decided to try the 302 bus service from St Ives to March.

I must admit that I boarded with fairly low expectations. I imagined the journey would probably be slow, unreliable and not especially comfortable. I could not have been more mistaken.

The experience was a genuine revelation. The service was punctual, fast and comfortable, and the driver was cheerful and welcoming. With buses running quite frequently, the journey was remarkably convenient. Even more impressive was the fare - just £3 each way for the entire trip, representing outstanding value for money. Since that first journey, I have used the 302 service several more times and have been consistently impressed by the high standard of service. What has surprised me most, however, is how few passengers are usually on board. It makes me wonder whether people in our area fully appreciate what an excellent public transport service they have available.

I would like to offer my sincere thanks to everyone involved in running the 302 service. It has certainly changed my perception of bus travel, and I hope more people will give it a try. Services like this deserve our support if we want to keep them for the future.

Yours faithfully, **Chris Hanson**

Dear Milly & Tilly,

Re: Liberal Democrats and LGB people

In issue 212 of the Riverporter, a spokesperson for the Lib Dems is quoted as saying: 'Liberal Democrats are proud to stand up for the LGBT+ community.' However, on 23 June 2026, two of the three Liberal Democrats present in Parliament voted to go ahead with a 'puberty blocker' trial in which gender non-conforming children, most of whom if left alone would grow up to be gay or lesbian, will be given experimental medication that leads to the early-onset of osteoporosis, infertility, and genital atrophy. Should the Liberal Democrats take a look in the mirror before they claim to defend gays and lesbians and accuse other political parties of homophobia?

Yours, **John Marsh**

Dear Milly & Tilly,

I noticed on one of the local Facebook pages that the empty premises in Bridge Street, that was recently The Barn bar is likely to become an Italian Restaurant called Limoncello.

There is a Limoncello in Mill Road, Cambridge, which is popular, so it looks as if we will have yet another place to dine soon, as St Ives becomes the gastronomic centre for Cambridgeshire. **Russel Sprout**

Dear Milly & Tilly,

England had a player banned for two games. I wasn't worried because I was sure our strong successful prime minister would be as successful as President Trump in getting the ban suspended for 12 months. What did you think? **Mike Smith**

Mayor unveils Black Plaque

At 6pm on Monday 20 July, St Ives Mayor, Alex Thompson (pictured with Civic Society Chair Christine Phillpotts), oversaw the unveiling of a Black Plaque on The Mountain Warehouse store. The plaque commemorates the medieval beam, which is situated over the store entrance, and its historic connection to the Coat of Arms of Ramsey Abbey.

The beam is a well-known feature of St Ives architecture. It was moved to No. 7 The Pavement from the Old Salutation in Crown Street when that building was demolished in 1887.

Now occupied by Mountain Warehouse, No.7 was formerly the Bell Inn; a carved bell remains visible in the brickwork. The beam was first installed on the side of the building and was moved above the doorway in 1992. Residents frequently mentioned the beam during town planning consultations, prompting the Civic Society to commission Cambridge conservation specialists Mark and Andrew Hoskins to assess it. Their work led to careful cleaning and light restoration, generously sponsored by Mountain Warehouse. Huntingdonshire District Council provided funding for the plaque and launch, for which the Civic Society are grateful.



The Riverporter

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

OTHER NEWS

Cocktail Week for St Ives

A week long celebration of all things cocktail is planned across a number of venues in the town from 10th to 16th August. The venues (The Snug, Whisky Café, Broadway Cellars, The Taproom and The Oliver Cromwell) will be hosting various customer events and workshops, and all will feature one of several signature discounted Cocktails. To gain access to some of the events and the discounted drinks throughout the week, guests need to buy a £10 wristband available from participating venues. All proceeds from the wristband sales go to Magpas Air Ambulance.



SIYT celebrates 25th anniversary



St Ives Youth Theatre is celebrating its 25th anniversary with a major summer production bringing classic music to the stage. They will perform 'Back To The 80's' at Burgess Hall from July 22 to 25. Volunteers and cast have spent months preparing the production, which features a range of well-known hits from the 1980s. The group, founded in 2001, is marking its milestone year by reflecting on its history and achievements over the past 25 years. During that time, it has performed at major venues including the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, the National Theatre in London and the Royal and Derngate Theatre.

Flotilla Fleet Photo Call

The Great Ouse Boating Association (GOBA) flotilla campaign for increasing funding for the region's waterways left St Ives for Bedford on 14 July. The day before, the first few craft gathered for a photo call with our Town Mayor, seen here in the lead boat.

A lone rower, representing all unpowered users of our river, was later quoted as saying, 'No I'm afraid I did not make Bedford, although a tow was offered, but I was with them in spirit all the way!'



WOW! Day another success

The Great Ouse Valley Trust reports another big turnout for last weekend's second Walk the Ouse Valley day. In spite of the high temperatures many completed the whole Cambridgeshire section, while others stuck to the shorter, shadier sections and circular walks.

The ferry at Holywell was again popular as was the shuttle bus to deliver the long-distance trekkers back to their start!

Wild About St Ives!!

On Saturday 11th July the St Ives Eco Café attendees reviewed what they had learned from taking part in the Great Big Green Week in June and discussed how they could ensure that St Ives remains a nature-friendly town during the whole of the rest of the year. Email stivesecocafe@gmail.com to add your ideas, or come along to the next café in the **Library, 10am on Saturday 8th August.**



Community choir hits right note

St Ives Community Choir struck a chord by raising over £1,200 for Caring Together Charity with their sensational summer concert. An excellent crowd of more than 100 people soaked up the sounds at St Ives Free Church, enjoying a marvellous mix of music featuring classics from The Beatles, Bryan Adams, The Eagles and songs from shows such as Grease, Dirty Dancing and The Lion King. Thanks to proceeds from ticket sales and a raffle, the event raised this fantastic four-figure sum for Caring Together, a St Ives-based charity supporting unpaid carers across Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and Norfolk.





St Ives Electric Riverboat Co



Great Ouse RIVER TRIPS & Self Drive Hire

PASSENGER TRIPS FROM THE QUAY

Houghton Mill Trip

Join us for a wonderful boat trip along The River Great Ouse followed by a tour of Houghton Mill. The trip will leave St Ives Quay every Wednesday, heading under St Ives Bridge towards Houghton via Hemingford Lock.

The trip includes a tour of Houghton Mill which will be led by one of their guides, returning to the quay at the end of the day.

This trip is run in conjunction with the National Trust and is proving popular for everyone. National Trust members look for member prices.

Please contact us for details.



CONTACT US ABOUT
Self Drive Hire • Skipped Trips
Weddings and Special Events
Tel. 07906 257308
www.electricriverboats.co.uk
info@electricriverboats.co.uk

Why pay eye-watering prices for eyewear?

EyeSpecs

a personalised approach to eyewear



BIG SAVINGS GUARANTEED

- ◆ No pressure, no rush
- ◆ 1:1 personalised service
- ◆ Relaxed dispensing suite
- ◆ Ophthalmic experts for 40 years

BOSS

RALPH LAUREN

Michael Kors

vogue eyewear

MOREL

OKLEY

Tommy Hil

Call or email us today! 01480 499606 - info@eyespecsuk.com
OR scan the QR code to visit our website

www.eyespecsuk.com

25 Edison Road
St. Ives
Cams
PE27 3LF

Open Monday to Friday 9-5
Saturday 9-1 (by appointment)
PARKING AVAILABLE



ADVERTORIAL

History in the making

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 a new Cattle Market in 1884 and auctions have been held there ever since.

It is fair to say that Hyperion is a business that carries on the tradition of holding auctions in the town centre.

At one point we had the second biggest cattle market in the country after Smithfield in London.

It's thought the size of the market is what led to the large number of pubs in St Ives - in 1838, there were 64.

Originally the livestock markets were on the streets. The cattle market was held on the Broadway and the sheep market was in the east end of Market Hill.

But they soon grew so large they needed to be moved. Consequently, in 1884 the cattle market moved to where the bus station and car park are now located.

The green wooden shed, The Octagon, that you see in the car park was once the home of the cattle auction.

These markets had such an important impact on our town that the Town Council's emblem is four bull's heads.

Today it is about antiques, rather than the selling and buying of cattle. Of course the auction business has changed considerably over the years and latterly has been transformed with on-line bidding, meaning they can be anywhere in the world and of course more bids usually means better prices for the seller.

This year's remaining auction dates.

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

The Broadway in the late 1800s, courtesy of The Norris Museum.



1960
HYPERION