

# The Riverporter

PLEASE READ AND PASS ON

COVERING THE NEWS FOR ST IVES AND AROUND

Issue 2II: 26 June 2026

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

## Everyone should see this!

**W**as the cry at June's Eco Café where the film, 'The People's Emergency Briefing', was shown to a large audience. A fitting end to St Ives' Great Big Green Week.

By Barbara Richmond

We already knew much about our warming climate and the damage it is doing, but this film brought it all together with top scientists including an intensive-care doctor and even a top retired army officer showing their concern to 'Face the threat in front of you; once things start breaking down it's the survival of the fittest', pointing out that shortages lead to riots and civil disobedience. They explained how the natural world is breaking down, with only half our biodiversity in the UK left and that we need to consider nature as critical to our infrastructure; the economy is embedded in the environment including the soils growing our food.

### Positive news

It wasn't all negative news; we should shout about UK targets being hit early like the cost of wind energy having dropped by 50% in ten years, and China's energy is now 50% from renewables with 50% of their cars being electric. We have the people who can help us so we should use them. MPs and the Government are the solution to much bigger action so they must feel the pressure; the public has never been given a clear national briefing on the scale of these risks. Government should hold an emergency briefing from leading experts, which would give people clear, trusted guidance on

what they mean in practice, and showing this film on prime-time TV could be the start.

So get your neighbours, football clubs, churches, WI groups or others together; you can borrow this film free of charge via the National Emergency Briefing website, and hear the science behind scorching summers, terrible flooding, melting glaciers and even the lack of insects coming in your windows at night or squashed on car windscreens. 'Hurray' you might say, but birds and bats need them for food, and we need them to pollinate our crops. Let's do our best to support the cycles of life that we all depend on.

## Are Huntingdon Business Awards a money spinner?

I love it when two stories collide. The most recent concerns the following stories:

1. HDC announce free car parking trial after 4pm on weekdays.
2. The launch of the Huntingdon Business Awards.

The free car parking, if agreed, will run from October to March and will cost a lot. It is being funded by the Combined Authority. Meanwhile the winners of the Huntingdon Business Awards will have to pay £450 to get their

trophy. Not much of an incentive to enter the competition - but hey it will help to subsidise the parking. We noted that free parking schemes in Peterborough and Cambridge will run from 3pm. So Hunts residents lose out again.

## Crowds enjoy FEST's Picnic in The Park

The event saw record crowds enjoy glorious weather and free entertainment from Noon until 6pm. Opened by the new Mayor, Alex Thompson, in Warners Park, picnickers were able to enjoy shade from the many trees.



## Hundreds protest outside puppy breeders



Nearly 300 protestors descended on MBR Acres last Saturday, where a big police presence closed the road, arrested 5 people and saw three injured.

## DIARY OF EVENTS

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

### JULY

**Wednesday 1st - Engage Talk: Godmanchester and Hiroshima 'The Survivor Tree'** - 2pm, St Ives Library (donations welcome).

**Every Sunday - Music on the Waits** - The Bandstand 2 pm to 4 pm.

**Saturday 4th - Fred's House & The 29th Funktion** 7.30pm St Ives Corn Exchange. PLEASE NOTE THIS EVENT HAS BEEN CANCELLED.

**Saturday 4th - St Ives Community Choir's Summer Concert** 7.30pm St Ives Free Church.

**Friday 10th - A Fleetwood Mac Candlelight Experience** - All Saints Parish Church 3 sittings 5pm, 7pm and 9pm. Tickets from [www.lumos-experiences.com](http://www.lumos-experiences.com).

**Saturday 11th - Songs from a Big Country** - a concert by the Meridian Singers at St Mary's Church Bluntisham at 7pm. Tickets £10.

**Saturday 11th/12th - St Ives Carnival and Music Festival.**

**Saturday 11th - COSI Summer Concert** 7.30pm at the Free Church. Tickets £10, [www.ticketsource.co.uk/chamber-orchestra-of-st-ives](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/chamber-orchestra-of-st-ives) or on the door. Under 16s free.

**Sunday 12th - WOW! Day Walk** The Ouse Valley Way between St Neots and Earith, a FREE event. Details - [greatousevalleytrust.org.uk](http://greatousevalleytrust.org.uk).

**Sunday 12th - Flea on The Quay** - 10am until 1pm.

**Tuesday 14th - Coffee with a Cop** - 11am until 1pm, Café Nero.

**Friday 17th - Kaveri Blues** - Ranjan Vasudevan in The Chapel.

**Sunday 26th - Flea on The Quay** - 10am until 1pm.

**Friday 31st - Picking with a heart** - David Youngs in The Chapel.

### AUGUST

**Sunday 9th - Flea on The Quay** - 10am until 1pm.

**Sunday 23rd - Flea on The Quay** - 10am until 1pm.

**Friday 28th - Percussion evening** - Derek Scurll in The Chapel.

**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](mailto: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

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## Town Hall flag questioned

You may have noticed that the Pride flag has been flying above the Town Hall. Several people asked us why? One reader called to say they thought that it wasn't right to be supporting one individual group of people over another. So we asked the Council about it. They replied:

*St Ives Town Council is proud to fly to support Pride Month and the LGBTQ+ community. By flying the flag we hope that the Town Council is seen to be inclusive and supportive, especially in a world where so many people face discrimination or isolation. For 2027 we hope to fly the Progress Flag which also includes black, Asian and minority ethnic groups which are all represented within the community of St Ives.*

Both the Pride and Progress Flags are flown from council buildings, churches, universities and colleges around the county. Other examples include Cambridgeshire Police, Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue and MAGPAS.

It seems some councillors have received quite a bit of abuse over the issue, which sadly isn't unusual today. However it's good to see the Council trying to be inclusive.

**TRY LADIES RUGBY!**

**LOOKING FOR SOMETHING NEW?**  
**NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED! ANY FITNESS LEVEL!**

**Mondays and Wednesdays at 7pm**  
St Ives Rugby Club, Somersham Road, PE27 3LY

Learn a new skill in a friendly and supportive environment  
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St Ives RUC

## Planning Excellence Award for GOVT

Have you heard of the Royal Town Planning Institute Award for Planning Excellence 2026?

Nor had we until Arkwood Landscape Consultants tipped us off. This team created a business case report for the Great Ouse Valley Trust and HDC for designating our wonderful valley the Great Ouse Heritage Landscape. I

t had been nominated for Best Project Category in the East of England!

And the good news is that at an awards ceremony in Cambridge last week, and up against tough competition, was judged by an eminent panel to be the winner! Arkwood were congratulated for their meticulous research to create a sound economic and environmental case for official recognition for the valley. The report clearly demonstrates how communities and businesses would be able to take full advantage that the designation would bring for responsible growth, and health and wellbeing.

We can't help remembering how the Town Team promoted the old quarter of St Ives as 'The Old Riverport' in 2014 and seen how this has helped attract visitors and

benefit businesses, some of whom have adopted the name! The award-winning report is a significant step forward on GOVT's journey to achieve our ultimate aim of National Landscape designation for the valley from Natural England. With this current



benefit businesses, some of whom have adopted the name!

The award-winning report is a significant step forward on GOVT's journey to achieve our ultimate aim of National Landscape designation for the valley from Natural England. With this current

endorsement from planning experts in the meantime, as a 'stepping stone', we feel we are now well on the way!

Pictured above are (left to right) Emily (Arkwood), Bridget and Helen (GOVT), Jon (Arkwood), Ian and Graham (GOVT).



The organisers of the St Ives Great Big Green Week would like to thank everyone who came along to any of our activities. All the schools and so many other organisations joined in and helped make the week a 'great big green' success. Thank you to the Wheatfields Eco Council for helping St Ives in Bloom with planting at the Burleigh Hill Community Centre.

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.**

John, a Care UK care home resident, shares how the care home's dedicated colleagues and training help him to live life to the full.

John moved into a Care UK care home from an independent living facility that lacked community. 'If I didn't see anyone walking by, I wouldn't see anyone all day,' he says. 'Here, I see people all day long, and the activities team does a very good job.'

The activities in each Care UK care home are tailored to its individual residents. 'As soon as I tell the activities team my interests, they look at how they can organise things', John says. He enjoys activities that keep him busy and challenge him mentally, like crosswords and quizzes. 'I watch Lingo, and because I said I enjoy it, the team bought me the game.' One team member is even teaching him Italian. 'We laugh about going to Italy to speak Italian.' Because John's eyesight is deteriorating, the team makes special visits to his room each day to tell him what activities are on.



### Nurturing interests

John has gardened since he was 13, having learned from his father at their allotment during the war. Now, at 91, the team encourages him to keep busy as head of the Gardening Club. Here, he's made a name for himself, winning the home's tallest sunflower competition with a 9ft 6in flower. Each Care UK garden is designed for older people to enjoy as independently as possible. John thinks the raised beds are 'brilliant'. 'I can't bend down, so I wouldn't be able to do anything without them'. Team members also offer John extra help to get around the

garden. 'The team bring things to me and take me to the garden centre to buy what I need,' he says.

### Trust us to care

Our dedicated teams are highly trained to ensure every element of your loved one's experience is tailored to their needs, interests and preferences.

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.



having your say . . .

# The Riverporter

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

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

## OTHER NEWS

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,  
Greetings from St Ives in Bloom.**

As summer gets nearer, we are very pleased to let you know that the Anglia in Bloom judges are coming to St Ives on Thursday morning 2nd July.

David White (President of Anglia in Bloom) and Margaret Spencer from Anglia in Bloom will be arriving in St Ives at around 10am and the judging tour will last until 1:30pm.

The judges are very much looking forward to seeing St Ives and meeting Milly and Tilly, *The Riverporter's* news hounds. **Phil.**

**Dear Milly & Tilly,**

I'm delighted to share details of Woodgreen's St Ives charity shop reopening, which takes place on Monday 29 June at 10am at the shop's new, larger premises at 3 Station Road.

The much-loved shop has moved to a building next to its existing premises to meet growing demand from local shoppers looking for sustainable, pre-loved items.

You are warmly invited to attend the reopening celebration and ribbon-cutting event. Every purchase from the shop helps support Woodgreen's work with pets and their people, including services that help keep pets and families together, as well as care for pets in need, so your attendance at and coverage of the reopening would be greatly appreciated. **Lucinda.**

**Dear Lucinda, I hope to drag my owner along on Monday. Milly.**

### Summer concert raises money for blind

A Summer Charity Concert in aid of Huntingdon Society for the Blind held at The Free Church on Saturday June 13th with Huntingdon Male Voice Choir and Westfield Junior School Choir sold over 120 tickets. The programme was sponsored by local businesses including St Ives Electric Riverboats, St Ives Quickprint, Eyespecs, The Oliver Cromwell, RFT Trailers, Sweeping Tom, Rollins Farm, KTS Computers and Mr and Mrs Puttick and it is believed to have raised over £2,000.



### Have your say on local bus services

The Combined Authority (CPCA) is inviting residents to share their views on changes to local bus services across the region. The proposals aim to make bus services more reliable, better connected and better value for money. Depending on where you live, this could include changes to routes, new connections and improvements to existing services. The proposals cover the following services from St Ives: 5A St Ives to Bar Hill, 67 St Ives to St Neots (cancelled service), 69 St Ives to Boxworth, St Ives to Ramsey and Cambridge to Huntingdon (proposed to extend to St Ives).

No decisions have been made, and your feedback will help inform any future changes. Residents can review the proposals for their area and complete a short survey online at <https://cpca-yourvoice.co.uk/bus-network-review-engagement/> until 5pm, 28 July.

### Broadway Cellars to open longer

Broadway Cellars wine bar could be allowed open until the early hours, as well as host live music, if its application is approved. Broadway Cellars which opened in November 2025 now seeks to open from 9am - 11pm on Mondays and Tuesdays, 9am - Midnight on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays and 9am - 1am on Fridays and Saturdays.

### 'Crocodile' boy now in stable condition

It has been revealed that it was not only Tracey Johnson who leapt into action, but also her husband, Andrew, and one of the couple's sons, Edward, who jumped into the enclosure to rescue the child. A 30-year-old man from Norfolk, arrested on suspicion of attempted murder, has been released on bail as not being considered fit for interview.



Pictured: Andrew and Tracey Johnson with one of the zoo's crocodiles in 2009. Pic Masons News Service/SWNS.

### Ryanair charges parents to be with children

Ryanair was recently investigated for charging parents to sit with their children on flights, which was upsetting passengers. At *The Riverporter* we thought it astounding. We all know that Ryanair are masters of charging extras but surely they had got it wrong this time. Wouldn't charging parents more, for NOT having to sit with their children be more popular?



## Pianoman's Exciting news

Paul 'Pianoman' Dodson's song '*Dive - Into The Great Unknown*', has just reached the finals of a global songwriting competition (5,000+ entries!). If he wins the genre (musical theatre), he & Carla Gray get to record the song at Abbey Road Studios.

It's a song he has written for a new musical 'White Dove', which he previewed in St Ives Corn Exchange last November. It's now with a panel of celebrity judges and the winner will be announced sometime in July. Well done Paul!

You can listen to it here: <https://paulthepianoman.com/my-songs-playlist>.

Supported by **BOONGATE KIA**  
Peterborough PE1 5UA. Tel: 01733 344344

Screen St Ives Community Cinema



### One Battle After Another

Thursday 2 July 2026 at 7:30pm,  
Doors open 7:00pm. Tickets £7  
Director: Paul Anderson (2025), 115m, Cert: 15

**One Battle After Another**, directed by Paul Thomas Anderson, is a dark satire following Bob (Leonardo DiCaprio), a former left-wing revolutionary living quietly until his daughter is kidnapped. Set in a fascist, dystopian America, Bob is hunted by "Lockjaw" (Sean Penn), a manic military man obsessed with Bob's former partner. The film is a chaotic, comedic thriller exploring generational trauma, the failure of 60s radicalism, and surveillance culture as Bob attempts to rescue his daughter.

### 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.



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

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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.



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ADVERTORIAL

## All the fun of a Bazaar in St Ives

**A**s a result of the Covid Pandemic, when everything was shut, the team at Hyperion were able to create The Courtyard featuring a range of independent traders offering a variety of goods, which opened after lockdown.

The main idea of The Courtyard was to make better use of the area surrounding the Antique Centre and Auction Rooms. This consisted of a range of mostly 'tin' buildings that had been used for household auctions as far back as the 1960s.

By creating a series of units that could be let to individual traders it could be transformed into an old fashioned Bazaar.

Bazaars originated in Persia and are vibrant commercial hubs most common in the Middle East, Africa and Asia and now we have one in St Ives offering a wide range of goods, seven days a week.

Since 2021 the Courtyard has flourished and now has twenty three different dealers, selling everything from crafts to home wares, furniture, trinkets, gifts, baby clothes, refurbished items, retro chic, books, artisan jewellery and olive trees.

There is also a cafe where you can enjoy Barista made coffees and snacks.

**Open from:**  
Monday to Saturday 9am to 5pm  
Sundays 10am to 4pm.

**The Courtyard is situated beside Hyperion's Auction rooms.**

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

- |           |                       |
|-----------|-----------------------|
| 27th June | Antiques & Interiors  |
| 18th July | Antiques & Interiors  |
| 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 Courtyard entrance from Market Road.

