

The Riverporter

COVERING THE NEWS FOR ST IVES AND AROUND

PLEASE READ AND PASS ON

Issue 214: 7 August 2026

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

How long must we wait?

The 'eyesore', that was Barclays Bank in the heart of the town centre, has prompted the Civic Society to launch a public campaign demanding Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) use its enforcement powers to force action at 11-12 The Pavement.

The site has stood empty for most of the past four years, despite full planning permission being granted by June 2022 to redevelop it and allow demolition.

After the building was levelled, a large external steel scaffolding rig was erected and has dominated the primary retail frontage ever since, which the Civic Society says is a potential safety risk.

The Civic Society has asked HDC to use Section 215 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, which gives councils powers to act where the condition of the land adversely affects the amenity of an area.

They argue that a swift enforcement notice would restore confidence among residents.

In a letter sent to all St Ives District Councillors, The Society had asked them to respond by August 1st, confirming three things:

1. Their support for HDC to serve a Section 215 notice.
2. That they will champion this enforcement within the authority.
3. Say what action they have



already taken to address the 'shameful appearance' the site. The Civic Society provided a report on the state of the site, which indicated 'a derelict site that represents a health and safety risk to the public'.

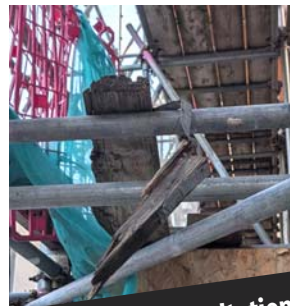
For evidence, see right, one of the many pictures taken for the report.

The Civic Society is urging people who live in St Ives, past residents, frequent visitors and admirers of the town to follow its 'Fix the Pavement' Facebook campaign page and leave comments setting out their concerns.

The group also wants residents to contact their ward councillors asking what steps are being taken to resolve the situation.

You can see the Councillors response on page 2.

The Riverporter has been informed that the builders responsible for the development went into administration on 14th July.



NEWS FLASH see Consultation on Cattle Market page 2.

C5s brighten up The Quay and Old Mill



Last Sunday The Quay was adorned with 12 C5's of the Sinclair C5 Owners Group. The Group met at Longstanton Park & Ride and rode along the busway, visiting the Old Mill, the home of Sinclair Radionics in the 1970's. Sir Clive's team created many products there, including the first pocket calculator, digital wrist watches and a pocket television. It is possible that Clive's obsession with electric vehicles and C5 prototypes began in the Mill. Launched in January 1985, approximately 12,000 were produced but due to its shortcomings - low ride height making it difficult to see in traffic, and exposure to the weather - meant that only 3,000 were sold. Despite being a commercial failure the C5 remains an iconic reminder of the 1980's. There are still a few thousand around today, some having the benefit of modern lithium batteries, improved brakes and better electric motors.

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 07913 346845 or email: townteam@stivescambridgeshire.co.uk

DIARY OF EVENTS

Please email: editor@theriverporter.uk

AUGUST

Every Sunday throughout August -

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

Saturday 22nd - Summer Party at St Ives Corn Exchange

7:30pm to Midnight with DJ Mikey Mike & The 80's Gold Man. Pimm's and Music Bingo Included. £12.

Sunday 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.

Friday 18th and Saturday 19th - The Centre Theatre Players in Shining Stars for Young Lives at the Burgess Hall 7.30pm. Tickets £12 available by telephone on 01480 756555 between 6pm and 9pm weekdays or from www.ticketsource.co.uk/starliteroadshow.

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

Friday 25th - Summer Proms at St Ives Corn Exchange with the Somersham Town Band 7:30pm. Tickets £10

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

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

OCTOBER

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

Saturday 17th - Repair Café - St Ives Methodist Church 1-4pm.

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.

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

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Councillors reply to the Civic Society

The letter (see right) was sent by Cllr Michael Burke on behalf of all St Ives District Councillors explaining the current situation with the old Barclays building development.

In light of Two Eight Property Refurbishment Ltd., going into administration *The Riverporter* contacted HDC. They told us:

'The HDC Planning Enforcement Team is aware that the developer of 11-12 The Pavement, St Ives has entered administration and is liaising with them to discuss the situation and any implications for the site.

Planning permission for the site remains unaltered at this time.'

This response does pose further questions as we understand that it is the builder and not the developer, which is in administration.

Meanwhile The Civic Society continue to demand

'... that HDC uses the statutory powers available to impose a deadline for completion, and to force the receivers to make the site safe, secure and visually less offensive.'

In order to get a clearer picture of the situation The Riverporter contacted the contractor who informed us that:

'The bank, which owns the site, has the funds available and the new company running the site is currently working on a Health & Safety Plan with a view to removing the scaffolding in the next four weeks so they can start work on the building to install windows.'

So perhaps by issue 216 we will know.

Following on from conversations with our officers, last week, and further discussion yesterday, we can now provide the following updates.

Officers are actively working with the developer to ensure compliance following concerns being raised and requests for action to be taken. In addition to this, our enforcement officers have agreement with the developer to visit them on site as and when is required so that progress can be monitored much more closely. They have also been asked for councillors to visit the site more frequently.

As you will be aware there is existing planning permission to demolish and replace the building at this site and some works to improve the appearance of the current structure are due to take place shortly including making the site less aesthetically unappealing from the street. The scaffolding will be removed once it is no longer required and will not be removed and then re-erected. We can confirm that the developer has shared email correspondence with our enforcement team with updates that work is due to recommence imminently, and we feel that this is a welcome and positive step forward.

Following on from our discussions, we feel that serving a Section 215 notice (using the wasteland and amenity notice element) is not beneficial at this point. It highlights to us that the developer can appeal the decision, therefore potentially delaying matters even further. For officers to serve a Section 94 notice, this would equally create delays as the enforcement team would have to cease work on this case, whilst a date for a court hearing is agreed.

It is acknowledged how frustrating this matter is, the site is prominent in the town centre. Please be assured that we have confidence in our officers in dealing with this matter appropriately, and in conjunction with the developer and the information that they provide to the council. We are all keen to see the works reach a conclusion and feel that it will be a positive addition once completed.

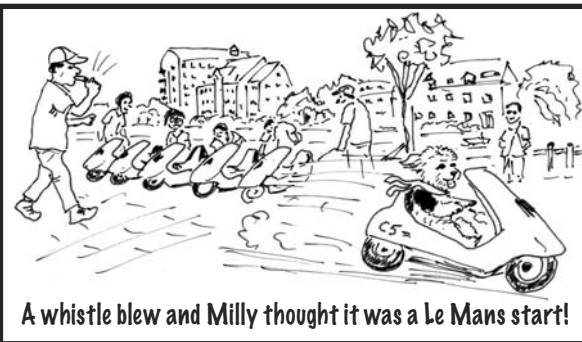
We are happy to engage in positive and meaningful conversations with you to keep you up to date on progress, so that everyone is on the same page and rumour and speculation doesn't then take over, causing unnecessary worry.

Consultation on Cattle Market set for 19 August

Just as we were due to go to press we received plans from Capital and Centric, which HDC have commissioned to look at the development of the Cattle Market in St Ives. It includes: Up to 120 new homes • Resident perks like a gym, mini-cini and co-working space • Verdant, wild landscaping and green space • A spill out space, filled with bars, cafés and restaurants • Bold architecture that complements the existing facades in the town • Links to the wider town centre.

Apparently they have delivered similar neighbourhoods in Manchester, Stoke-on-Trent and Sheffield! The consultation is on Wednesday 19th August 2026, 4pm - 7pm in the Corn Exchange. See more at:

www.capitalandcentric.com/project/St-Ives



A whistle blew and Milly thought it was a Le Mans start!

HUNTINGDONSHIRE CONCERT BAND PRESENTS

SPITFIRE!

A CONCERT CELEBRATING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY

Musical Director: David McClintock



In aid of the Battle of Britain "Wings Appeal"

Making music accessible to everyone
As our members are Cerebra Friends

Cerebra Friends

ROYAL AIR FORCES
Association
The charity that supports the RAF family



ST IVES FREE CHURCH
SATURDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 2026, 7:30PM

Tickets £15 available from:
ticketsource.co.uk/rafa-wings-concert,
the Free Church, or call 01480 468535



www.hcband.co.uk

Huntingdon and District RAFA branch Charity no 1070469

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.

Angela, a Care UK care home resident, shares how the team works hard to help keep her connected with loved ones near and far.

'My daughter feels reassured'

Angela's daughter moved to New Zealand more than 30 years ago. She has always kept in close contact with her over WhatsApp, but since moving into a Care UK care home, the team has supported both Angela and her family to stay connected. *'My daughter feels reassured, and we've discussed it together several times that it's best if I live here,'* Angela explains.

While Angela manages phone calls on her own, the team are there to step in whenever she needs a helping hand. *'The team help me to send parcels and letters to my family in New Zealand,'* she says.

And on the other side of the world, Angela's daughter stays engaged with what Angela is doing in the home through regular updates on the Relish app. Care UK care homes use Relish to record the activities residents are involved in. Relatives can also use the app to share pictures and build their loved one's life history, helping the team to get to know residents even better.

'My friends enjoy their visits'

As well as supporting Angela to stay

connected with far-flung family, the care home team helps to arrange trips out around the local community. *'My niece takes me shopping or out for lunch sometimes, and to church on Sundays quite often.'* Recently, team members helped Angela to take a whole day out to visit her sister who lives in another county.

Friends and family also visit Angela in the home.

'I've had my niece to Sunday lunch, and she's really enjoyed the food,' Angela says. *'My friends enjoy their visits. They've taken part in the quiz at the prosecco club on Fridays, and one friend greatly enjoyed one of the garden parties last year.'*

Trust us to care

We work hard to support residents to keep connected with their loved ones. We help families and friends to continue sharing special experiences whether that's in the home, through special trips and outings, or maximising technology so that distance isn't an issue.

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.

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 London Rd, St Ives, Cambs PE27 5EX.



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,

I do hope you had your ear defenders on Saturday July 25th. The volume of music hitting the town was outrageous. I was trying to welcome visitors to the Chapel on the Bridge and the consensus of opinion was very negative. There should be room for all of us to enjoy a pleasant day out in St Ives. Also for residents to enjoy their riverside gardens.

How can this be avoided in future?

I enjoy all types of music but please set it at the right level.

Theresa Norris

Dear Theresa,

We were made aware by many people that the music (noise) coming from The Dolphin was excessive and reached across the entire town centre, with residents at the far end of Warner's Park being disturbed by the deep bass sounds that carried far and wide.

On the positive side it did stop after 6 hours at 9pm when organisers said it would. **ED.**

Dear Milly & Tilly,

Subject: Volunteers Needed

Suicide is the leading cause of death for men under 50 in England, and around three quarters of all suicide deaths are male.

The free walking group for men in St Ives is asking for 20+ volunteers to help deliver a leaflet to all 8,300 homes.

Men.Walk.Chat meets on the first Sunday of every month at St Ives Bridge at 9:30am for an easy walk and optional coffee. There is no cost (apart from the coffee), no membership and no requirement to talk about anything at all. Dogs are welcome. You don't have to be struggling to come for a walk. Volunteers can claim a round (roughly 175 leaflets/doors) by emailing menwalkchat@gmail.com. The next walk (not delivery round) is on Sunday 6 September.

Ed Goodman

Samaritans can be contacted free, 24 hours a day, on 116 123, or by email at jo@samaritans.org.

Are you one in a million?

People in the East of England are being asked to be 'One in a Million' as family support for organ donation across the UK falls by almost a fifth over the last five years.

The campaign by NHS Blood and Transplant is aiming for an extra million adults to register their decision on the NHS Organ Donor Register (ODR) by 2027.

Currently 29 million people have agreed to donate their organs after death and evidence shows families support donation going ahead in 90% of cases if their relative is on the ODR. This drops to below 50% if they don't know they want to be a donor. Current figures underline a widening gap between the number of people who donate organs after death (around 434 p.a.) and those 653 patients who are waiting for a transplant in the East of England.

Sadly, every day someone dies waiting for a transplant. Last year 434 patients died waiting (27 in the East of England), and a further 899 patients were removed from the transplant list due to deteriorating health. Alongside urging more people to register their decision and speak to their families, the NHS is also working to modernise systems and invest in innovation to help improve outcomes. They hope to make more transplants possible as the transplant waiting list recently reached a record high with nearly 5,000 people dying while waiting for a life-saving transplant in the last decade.

Music celebrating 600 years of the Chapel.

Last Friday David Youngs played acoustic guitar in the Chapel and the following day, Oksana King (pictured right), played a sensational lunchtime concert in The Free Church, which was appreciated by around 80 people, raising funds for Mayor Cllr Alex Thompson's charities.



The Riverporter

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

OTHER NEWS

Key signage

It's great to see the refreshed mooring signs on The Quay and The Waits - thank you Town Council! The originals had become so faded they were hard to read from an approaching boat.

We value boating visitors of course - and the town has much to offer - but it is important we encourage short stays as moorings are limited in the town centre



Support for Young Lives Vs Cancer

The Centre Theatre Players are busy preparing for their forthcoming Cabaret show 'SHINING STARS FOR YOUNG LIVES' which they will be performing in the Burgess Hall of One Leisure St Ives on Friday and Saturday 18th & 19th September, starting at 7.30pm.

This is a great evening of music, comedy and Dance and features many of the Players regular performers, together with the Vicky Grant dancers. This year the Players have nominated to support Young Lives Vs Cancer. To date the Players have raised in excess of £110,000 from their charity evenings with nearly 50 different charities benefitting from their efforts. Tickets for the show are £12 and available by telephone on 01480 756555 between 6pm and 9pm weekdays or from www.ticketsource.co.uk/starliteroadshow.

Free help available for a Bus Pass

People in St Ives who are eligible for free bus travel can receive help with their bus pass application thanks to a volunteer service at St Ives Library. Volunteer adviser Ray helps residents complete online applications for Senior and Disabled Person's Bus Passes. He also takes and uploads the photograph required for the application, making the process much easier.

In Cambridgeshire, people who have reached State Pension age are entitled to free bus travel at all times with a Senior Bus Pass. Disabled Person's Bus Pass holders also travel free on the same basis. Elsewhere in England, both passes are generally valid for off-peak travel. Before attending an appointment, applicants can check which documents they need by visiting the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority's bus pass guidance. Library staff can also advise when appointments are booked.

Appointments with Ray are available free of charge every other Monday afternoon at St Ives Library. To book, call into the Library or telephone 0345 045 5225. As the service is proving very popular, early booking is recommended!

Need help planning your journey?

Free copies of St Ives Town Council's Bus Information booklet are available from St Ives Library, the Town Hall, the Corn Exchange and Museum, and many cafés, shops and pubs around the town. The booklet contains full-colour route maps of bus services within St Ives and to surrounding towns and villages, together with details of websites and apps that provide bus timetables and live departure information.

You can also plan journeys using Google Maps or Apple Maps on your smartphone. Simply enter your destination, select Directions, then choose the Public Transport option. Tapping on a bus stop in the map will also display upcoming bus departures.





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Community Cinema

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Peterborough PE1 5UA. Tel: 01733 344344



Sentimental Value

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.



THE CHRISTOPHERS

The Christophers
Thursday 1 October 2026 at 7:30pm
Doors open 7:00pm. Tickets £7
Director: Steven Soderbergh (2025), 100m, Cert: 15

The *Christophers* (2025) is directed by *Steven Soderbergh* and written by *Ed Solomon*, starring *Ian McKellen* and *Michaela Coel*. Julian Sklar is a well-known painter based in London, elderly and eccentric, whose reputation has faded with age. His estranged children hire a skilled art forger to complete an abandoned series of paintings so they can sell them for profit once he dies. A sharp, character-driven black comedy blending art, family dysfunction, and deception, anchored by a standout *McKellen* performance.

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



St Ives Electric Riverboat Co



Great Ouse RIVER TRIPS & Self Drive Hire





TripAdvisor
Traveller's Choice
Award 2025

Passenger Trips available from now until October leaving The Quay from 11am





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 and Special Events
Tel. 07906 257308
www.electricriverboats.co.uk
info@electricriverboats.co.uk
*subject to river conditions.

ADVERTORIAL

Relax a while here

The Summer holidays are a great time to relax and reset after a busy working year. A chance to explore and do things you might not have the time to do any other time of year.

We know all too well that, especially if you have kids, it is hard to find some quiet time for yourself during the summer holidays.

Don't panic. There is much to do and see in the town centre of The Old Riverport, St Ives. The town has lots of alleyways, many that lead down to the river and The Quay by the mediaeval bridge, 600 years old this year.

At The Courtyard by Hyperion Auctions you can browse the stalls of up to 30 traders and there is even room to keep your kids entertained.

Located in their award winning cobbled courtyard, it is a quirky and unique market style shopping experience with a difference.

Each 'box' is managed by individual dealers offering speciality treasure troves to explore and on these increasingly warm summer days you can stroll in the shade and see what each business has to offer.

There really is something for everyone!

Sit down at our coffee shop (which will keep you in the shade and in the unlikely case of rain keep you dry, should we see that phenomenon again).

Relax and natter with a cup of artisan coffee and some homemade cake. The kids can tuck into a cookie and slurp on a milkshake if you wish.

If you really enjoy shopping, browsing or general mooching about, with or without your kids, then The Hyperion Courtyard is worth a visit. And if antiques are your thing, next door is The Hyperion Antique Centre.

The Courtyard is open 7 days a week, so come and join us all summer long to get your shopping fix.

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

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 in summer.

