

The Riverporter

COVERING THE NEWS FOR ST IVES AND AROUND

PLEASE READ AND PASS ON

Issue 216: 4 September 2026

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

A special edition . . .

In this bumper issue we have the latest details about the Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival, the public meeting about Capital&Centric's disastrous proposals, the No Confidence vote at HDC and what we know about how HDC got into this mess.

On Tuesday evening the Lib Dem Leader of Huntingdonshire District Council, Sarah Conboy, survived a motion of No Confidence at an Extraordinary Meeting of the District Council.

Conservative Group Leader, Councillor Ross Martin, had asked the Council to vote on the motion following the public's rejection of proposals to build on car parks in Huntingdon, St Neots and St Ives. If it had been successful then Councillor Conboy would have been removed and a new leader appointed.

In the end the vote failed with 18 votes for the motion, 24 against and 8 abstentions (see more p4).

All of this has come about following the recent 'public consultations' organised in Huntingdon, St Neots and St Ives with Capital&Centric (C&C). This has been a sorry mess for everyone, residents, C&C, and councillors who bore the brunt of the public's anger. Cllr Conboy said she had heard them but she didn't resign and no one has accepted responsibility for plans that would have disrupted the Councils work. On page 2 we try to unravel the mystery of how both HDC and Capital&Centric got it so wrong, although we may have to wait longer to get the answers from our Freedom of Information requests.

On a lighter note this issue has details of next week's Jazz & Blues Festival. It remains a completely free event held in the town centre in 13 locations, all within a short walk from Oliver's statue in Market Hill. This is one of the reasons for its popularity and should the weather remain dry then we can expect large crowds to come and enjoy our town.

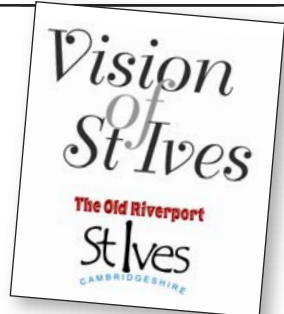
Also in this issue are details of a film hoping to be made about St Ives by professional actor and filmmaker Peter Jibson and information about some new 'Tales from The Old Riverbank' series of children's stories by The Riverporter's Ron and his wife Sue.

A unanimous NO!

That was the verdict of the town to Capital&Centric's proposals for the Cattle Market at last week's Extra Ordinary Town Council meeting.

Very rarely does everyone in a room of 200 people agree on a statement. This was the case though as St Ives Town Councillors listened to the public and then debated their response to the C&C proposals for the Cattle Market. To be accurate the council vote wasn't unanimous as Councillor Kerr needed to abstain. This was because, as a member of HDC's Cabinet, she needed to show no bias so she could vote if the matter were to come up at HDC.

The meeting was chaired by the Mayor, Cllr Alex Thompson and was well handled. It could have been very different had the usual rules applied, which only allow 15 minutes for the public to speak and a maximum of 3 minutes per person. Wisely the Mayor allowed the public to have their say, although he encouraged them not to repeat points already made. As a result around 17 people spoke and councillors took note and voted to strongly oppose the



The Town Teams Vision document first published in 2019 and updated in August 26, which was mentioned during the debate. See page 4.

proposals and send two letters. One to C&C responding to the consultation and another to HDC asking how we got here, who's accountable, and demanding financial information.



Magnificent Star Crafters are at it again see page 2.



DIARY OF EVENTS

Please email: editor@theriverporter.uk

SEPTEMBER

Friday 11th - Anglesy Abbey - St Ives Free Church 2pm. A talk by Helen Ackroyd with tea and cake. Free entry with retiring collection.

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

Saturday 12th - Hobbies Craft and Collections - Fenstanton United Reformed Church 10am - 4pm. If you have a classic/vintage car you would like to show off please come along.

Saturday 12th - Battle of Britain concert Free Church.

Sunday 13th - Flea on The Quay - CANCELLED.

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.

Saturday 19th - Fourtissimo - Four singers perform songs from shows to opera. The Free Church. Tickets £10 from the Office or website.

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

Friday 25th - Csi lunchtime concert with Nene Voices - St Ives Free Church 1pm Free entry.

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 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.

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

OCTOBER

Wednesday 7th - 'Home Energy - Conservation and Advice' Engage Talk - 2pm, St Ives Library (donations welcome).

Monday 12th - 14th - Michaelmas Fair - in the town centre.

Saturday 17th - Huntingdonshire Philatelic Society Stamp and Post Card Fair Corn Exchange 10am Free admission. 01480 468037.

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

Friday 30th - Chapel Arts Concert - Stella's Musical Amigos Corn Exchange 7.30pm. Tickets £10 www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents.

NOVEMBER

Sunday 8th - Remembrance Sunday service - Market Hill.

Saturday 14th - Christmas Lights Switch On - Market Hill.

Saturday 21 - St Ives Choral Society. Verdi Requiem. Free Church 7.30pm. Tickets from www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-ives-choral-society.

Friday 27th - Chapel Arts Concert - The Lightwaves - St Ives Corn Exchange 7.30pm. Tickets £10 from 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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How did HDC get it so wrong?

The Riverporter has been trying to get to the bottom of this murky business which has resulted in mass protests in all three towns and turmoil at the District Council.

We don't know all the lurid details yet, as we are waiting for Freedom Of Information requests to provide some answers, but we do know the following:

2024 - Following the Council's attendance at the UK's Real Estate Investment & Infrastructure Forum, alongside the Combined Authority, HDC officers began discussions with C&C about regeneration opportunities in the Market Towns.

8 July 2025 - Overview & Scrutiny. Present were: Cllrs C M Gleadow (Chair). Blackwell, Chapman, Gardener, Jennings, Martin, McAdam, Taylor. They agreed the proposals without amendments but the Panel's comments were passed to Cabinet for consideration.

The Executive Councillor for Jobs, Economy & Housing, Labour's Sam Wakeford, presented the scheme and answered queries. Cllr Jennings praised C&C's track record but pressed officers on details of the £1m reserves commitment. Officers confirmed the £1m was a stage 1 ceiling, not an immediate full spend.

Cllr Taylor felt very uneasy with these proposals and questioned why £1m of reserves should go to a private company and why a wider search for partners hadn't been undertaken beyond meeting C&C. Officers responded that the funds were for developing proposals and consultation, not a direct handover to a private company, and that residents' feedback would inform the next steps.

Cllr Gleadow said strong local engagement is essential to success but queried whether C&C's urban track record translated to market towns. Officers cited C&C work in Farnworth and Homes England funding as reassurance, and C&C's heritage-approach. Cllr Chapman asked what this delivers that other existing reports have not. Officers characterised this as a delivery proposal - a first practical step toward implementing existing Masterplan ideas - noting the C&C financing model implies 2-3 years of interest costs rather than 40 years of conventional borrowing.

Cllr Martin cited a self-reported 1:3.5 community cost-benefit ratio from C&C's completed schemes and praised their design sensitivity, while wanting to see a specific fit with the market towns. Officers confirmed C&C would NOT be engaged if their approach didn't complement existing towns characters. Cllr Martin went on to give the proposals his support.

15 July 2025 - Cabinet - Present: Cllrs Conboy (Chair), Wakeford, Davenport-Ray, Ferguson, Harvey, Kerr, Mickelburgh, Sanderson.

The Regeneration Opportunities Report presented by Councillor Sam Wakeford agreed to: (a) support officers identifying and working up regeneration proposals with C&C (b) endorse the principle of partnership (c) endorse officer engagement with stakeholders as part of business case

development and (d) support officers pursuing land/building acquisitions which aligned with regeneration aims.

The committee report described to Members a three-stage structure:

- Feasibility,
- Planning permission and cost envelope, planning approval, construction drawings and contract sum.
- Construction.

February 2026 - A sum of £2m was provisioned into a dedicated Regeneration Opportunity Reserve.

6 August 2026 - C&C publish proposals with Public consultation events on: Monday 17 August, Huntingdon Tuesday 18 August, St Neots Wednesday 19 August, St Ives.

4 September 2026 - Consultation closes.

What isn't known

There remain many unanswered questions and include the following:

1. Details of the contract between HDC and Capital&Centric (C&C) and what has been spent so far?
2. What was the brief given to C&C and who determined that development would be on council owned car parks?
3. Why were no other organisations contacted to bid for town centre regeneration proposals?
4. Why is no one is taking responsibility?
5. Why were many councillors kept unaware of the details of the proposals?
6. What will happen next?

Long term effects

Questions also remain about the ramifications that this has had, on HDC, on C&C's knowledge of Market Towns and what will now happen in the three towns. There is much concern still that similar plans may return. St Ives Town Council decided that they should be prepared with their own plans, supported by the community, if this should happen. The Vision of St Ives document (see page 4) was mentioned as a suitable starting point for a group to be formed to consider what plans would be acceptable.

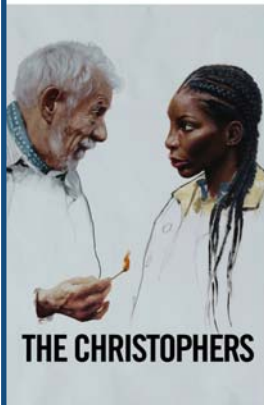
Another concern is protecting 'heritage' buildings such as the Octagon, a point expertly raised by Bridget Flanagan who is seeking listed status for them.

There have been political ramifications as well, such as the ability of Huntingdonshire District Council to become a Unitary Authority. The Government's decision on how Cambridgeshire is to be split into two Unitary Authorities is due this month and speculation is that it will be Option D, which will see Huntingdonshire split in two. Although C&C have denied they lacked experience of working in small market towns, *The Riverporter* has been told that was the case and C&C were out of their depth and shocked by the experience.



Screen St Ives Community Cinema

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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

Star Crafters hit the right note

Visitors to St Ives over the next couple of weeks will see lots of knitted musical items on display in support of our annual Jazz & Blues Festival.

As well as a six-piece jazz band atop the postbox in Bridge Street there are notes and the odd treble clef on the bandstand, on The Quay and in Market Hill. Every Festival venue has been given some black notes to display so look out for them - you may hear some great music too.



Welcome to our 12th Annual Festival of live music

Featuring 31 FREE concerts over four days starting next Thursday in 13 locations in St Ives town centre.

It all starts in the Golden Lion with Richard Exall's Benny Goodman Quartet, with Art Toper, playing the music of the swing era.

If you wish to see the dueling guitars of Chris Newman and Humfry Finkel, due to limited space, you will need to book a table at the Amoré Restaurant. Thursday continues with the incredibly popular Lightwaves, so you may need to go early to the Oliver Cromwell pub. That is followed by two of the UK's finest Americana/Folk musicians, Brooks Williams and Aaron Catlow in the Taproom, returning to the Festival for the third time.

The Nelson's Head, another popular music venue, is hosting the Sure-Can Playboys featuring the brilliant guitarist Johnny 'Magic Boy' Wright.

The evening ends with a return visit from Santiago & The Soul Movers rocking the Corn Exchange from 10pm.

Don't miss out on the brilliant double CD

With 30 tracks from the bands taking part it really is a great listen (Santiago's track is particularly fine) and you can get a £2 discount if bought with the Festival T-shirt. Both are available from the Corn Exchange, Floods, Nelson's Head and the Oliver Cromwell.

Friday starts at 5.30pm in Floods with Split Whiskers, also featuring Johnny 'Magic Boy' Wright. Their recent performances have been exceptional and prove that practice makes perfect as it will be their 12th appearance!

Friday continues with the Shuffling Blues of Shufflepack in The Golden Lion. A new band and venue then take over as Broadway Cellars hosts Trio Plus, featuring Keith Winters, a founder member of chart topping Shakatak, and Festival regular Myke Clifford.

Meanwhile the Taproom have Greg Brice returning for a second time before Max & Veronica, from Italy, play their style of vintage Blues in the Ivy Leaf Club.

Friday ends with another new band for St Ives with The Kendall Connection in the Corn exchange at 10pm. No ordinary blues band,

this four piece from London features some of the best session musicians who have performed with the top stars, including 10CC, Jools Holland and most recently with Sting.

Saturday starts at 11am on the Sheepmarket (outside Boots) with The Barefoot Doctors, the only other band to have played every Festival, although they played as the Bath Tub blues Band in 2016. Popular group the Gravy Train Trio will play in another new venue the Whisky Café and new to the Festival, Ruby Muse will play at the Bandstand. Saturday afternoon on The Quay can be very special and this year GETNOTGOT have the honour from 2pm.

Another new band, The 10 piece (Jazz/Funk) Gray Project, play in the Corn Exchange from 4pm, while Floods provides feisty country music from Johnny Wright again, this time with singer songwriter Marina Bush. By this time cocktails and G&T's may be needed as the Will Sketches Quartet play their sophisticated funk-soul-blues in The Taproom before the Blues Boy Kings rock the residents in the Golden Lion Hotel.

Saturday continues with Chris Lord and her Blues Express filling the Ivy Leaf dance floor at 8.30pm and ends with another new artist for the Festival at 10pm in the Corn Exchange. Birmingham's Thomas Atlas (pictured top right), described by Eric Clapton as 'Pretty Nifty', he will end the day in style.

Sunday a bit of a lie in?!

The music doesn't start until 11.30am on Sunday but with 10 concerts throughout the day we expect it to be busy.



First up us Indie Folk artists M G Boulter & Jenny Sturgeon (above with friend). You can enjoy them and a late breakfast in the Golden Lion Hotel. 15 year-old Saxophonist Stan Wright will play on the Chapel balcony at midday.



10th to 13th September



He had 48,000 views on the Festival Facebook page when he last played there in May.

Another Festival favourite, Django's Tiger will appear in the Ivo Lounge and Sunday afternoon's concert on The Quay will showcase the fabulous 29th Funktion.

The 18 piece, Upbeat Big Band (too big for the bandstand) will play in the Free Church at 2.30pm and at 3pm the amazing Banjo player, Dan Walsh, returns, this time to The Taproom.

Broadway Cellars second gig of the Festival again involves Myke Clifford, this time with his Jazz Quartet featuring four very talented musicians - Art Toper (piano), Joel Humann (bass) and Derek Scurl (drums) and of course Myke on sax, flute and clarinet.

At 4pm The Oliver Cromwell hosts

Jonno's 3 piece Quartet before the Nelson's Head sees Rich Young and Chris Newman perform. As usual The Lounge in The Broadway provides the venue for the last concert. It's sure to be a great ending as Mr Griff & The Grifters send everyone home satisfied with their Dynamic Soul Fusion sound.

A TOWN TEAM EVENT SPONSORED BY



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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	Sure-Can Playboys	Roots & 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
Noon	Chapel Balcony	Stan Wright	Smooth Saxophone
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

Political point scoring starts following the collapse of regeneration schemes

When the two Green councillors on HDC decided to leave the ruling group, leaving the Lib Dems and Independents without a majority, it seemed that some councillors saw that as an opportunity to score a political victory.

HDC's Conservative Leader Ross Martin, who is also a County Councillor and MP Ben Obese-Jecty's Senior Parliamentary Aide, (doesn't that ring a bell?) didn't waste time in seeking a Non-Confidence vote of Sarah Conboy. The level of attacks on the ruling group has also risen on social media, not only by Conservatives but from Labour party councillors. It seems that scrutiny is alive and kicking on-line, although it failed miserably when it mattered with the Capital&Centric's proposals. Some of the criticism may be justified but a number of statements have not been accurate, fuelling more distrust among our elected representatives and dismaying those of us who long for all parties to work in the interest of the community.



Above: left to right: HDC Cllrs Alex Bulat (Lab), Jon Neish and Ross Martin (Cons) at St Ives Town meeting. All 15 Tories were supported by the two Greens and Labour's Alex Bulat in their Non-Confidence vote.

Following the failed vote of no confidence a Lib Dem group spokesperson said: 'We're glad that we can get back on with the job we were elected to do. We are listening to residents and will make sure their views are being fed into the work this council does.'

We hope this is the case. Sarah Conboy has promised to provide full details of the costs and proper (external?) scrutiny of what happened with the C&C experiment.

Exceptional last concert in Chapel



The concerts held in the Bridge Chapel this summer, as part of it's 600 anniversary celebrations, have provide some wonderful music and performances. The last one on Friday 28 August featuring percussionist Derek Scurl on vibraphone with clarinetist Stephanie Reeve, Cellist Xanthe Cross, and singer Sarah Lamont was a fitting finale. Four excellent musicians performed a wide range of tunes that showed off their skills and provided a rare opportunity to hear the sound of a vibraphone.

Public concern grows about rise in Graffiti

The Riverporter has been contacted by concerned residents about the increasing amount of graffiti that is spoiling our town.

This is particularly annoying for the groups who try to make our town a nicer place, such as St Ives In Bloom, who have to spend a lot off time and effort cleaning up before Anglia In Bloom judges visit.



Updated Vision available on-line

The Town Team's Vision document, first published in 2019, has been updated and is available on their website at: www.stivescambridgeshire.co.uk. It suggested changes that could improve the town, following a survey undertaken with local people, groups and businesses. It was hoped to start a discussion about improvements, but was largely ignored. A copy has been sent again to HDC and Town Councillors so that new discussions can take place before another discredited scheme is proposed. Below is a vision of how Market Hill might be improved.



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.

Nora, a Care UK care home resident, shares how the team goes above and beyond to help keep her connected with loved ones.

'It keeps me going'

At Care UK, we understand how important it is to keep in contact with family and friends as we age. We're dedicated to helping residents stay connected to their community and the people they care about. For Nora, speaking to family and friends regularly is important for her wellbeing. 'It just keeps me going, I love it,' she says.

Every night after supper, she phones her loved ones to tell them what she's been up to and ask how everyone is. 'One day I didn't have a phone, and I was completely lost!' Nora enjoys the convenience of having a phone in her room. 'I remember years ago you had to go into the village to a red box to phone!' she reminisces.

'I couldn't wish for better'

Moving into a care home is a big step, so we support residents to choose how they'd like to keep in touch with their loved ones. We also keep relatives informed through the Relish app, which is used by homes to provide an additional channel of communication. Nora, whose son uses Relish, says, 'Everything like that keeps him in touch.'

Celebrating special moments is another way homes encourage



care UK

families to get involved. Nora recently celebrated her 100th birthday, and the care home hosted a party.

'It was such a shock!' as the family joined for a day of music and afternoon tea. 'Everything went very well. I couldn't wish for better, really,' she says.

The care home also hosted her son and daughter-in-law for a Christmas meal last year. 'We had a starter and a main meal. It was all very nice, and well presented. This year, they're already fully booked!'

Trust us to care

Our team works hard to ensure residents can 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 is no longer 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. 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 is no longer 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. For more information about Field Lodge in St Ives, call 01480 710673 or visit careuk.com/field-lodge London Road, St Ives PE27 5EX

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Tales from ...the Old RiverPort now on Amazon



These beautifully illustrated books by The Riverporter's Ron Westrip and his wife Susan feature stories about the adventures of three whimsical friends, sculpted in clay who live in real places in St Ives.

The result is charming books that will delight all young children and especially for those who know or visit St Ives.

They are available from Amazon as either separate Kindle downloads, or as two individual paperback volumes, or as a superb combined Hardback Gift Edition.

There is also limited availability at Just Cards in Bridge Street.

A film in St Ives, about St Ives, for St Ives?



Beneath the town's market squares lies one of the most extraordinary stories in English history. Around 1000 AD, a ploughman broke the Fenland earth and found the bones of a Persian bishop - a hermit missionary who had lived and died on the land before Christianity had fully claimed it.

When his coffin was moved, a spring rose from the ground. Miracles followed. Pilgrims came from across England to heal in the waters. A market grew. The town took his name.

Most people forgot. Or stopped caring.

I AM / WILL is a serious, ambitious short film that returns that myth to the centre of St Ives' identity. In doing so, we believe it can do something remarkable: bring new audiences, new interest, and new pride to a town with a story worth telling. A film set here, rooted in the landscape and history of this place, with serious festival ambitions and a proven creative team behind it, is an opportunity to put St Ives on the cultural map in a way that honours everything that makes it extraordinary.

The film is being produced by Plan Nine Pictures with producers Rachid Sabitri and Charles Meunier and BAFTA-winning, Oscar-nominated, executive producer Chris Hees.

They are hosting a community launch event today (Friday, 4th September) at St Ives Corn Exchange at 7pm in association with Screen St Ives.

Entry is free, and all are welcome.

The event includes a screening of Largo, the Oscar long-listed short from the same team, followed by a conversation about the film and how you can be part of it.

They would love to see you there.

www.planninepictures.com

Welcome to

Quackers

holiday cottage

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Holiday Accommodation

- 3 Bedrooms
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- Master bedroom with en-suite
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- Historic property laid out over 3 floors

Description

You enter this Grade 2 listed pretty period three story two staircase property via the front door into a spacious kitchen/diner, with stable door to the patio area. The kitchen has been thoughtfully equipped and blends modern units with vintage pieces, electric oven and hob, microwave, fridge with ice compartment, wine cooler, dishwasher and washing machine. Enjoy a family meal at the table or a game of scrabble.

The inviting lounge has been stylishly furnished with comfy sofas and chairs, there is a TV/DVD. Through to the shower room with shower and WC. The stairs are cottage style and lead to a beautiful double bedroom then up again leading to the twin room on the second floor.

There is a second staircase from the kitchen that leads to a double bedroom complete with en-suite shower room with shower and WC.

Enjoy a relaxing stay in the heart of historic St Ives

MUSIC

CONCERT

Buy tickets for £10

FOURTISSIMO

Saturday 19th September 2026
at 7pm
St Ives Free Church

FOURTISSIMO feature the following talented performers.

DAVID SCOFFIELD, our pianist, has been involved in both singing and playing for groups in the locality since moving to the Peterborough area in 1990. As a member of the Peterborough Chamber choir he performed in most UK cathedrals and toured abroad further developing his love of Church music. As organist and director/vice chairman of the Glebe Singers, he has continued to promote music within the area.

ALISON CHARLTON-WEST, our soprano, is a graduate of the Royal College of Music and has performed many operatic, concert and musical theatre roles during her career. Alison has worked with the English National Opera, D'Oyly Carte Opera Company, Kent Opera and on the West End stage in the musical Chess. She was also chosen to sing in a televised concert with Plácido Domingo at Royal Festival Hall.

JOHN BARRATT is a popular local baritone and has trained in both London and Italy. His commanding voice has graced opera festivals and theaters across Europe and beyond. John has sung with Scottish Opera, Opera North, Kent Opera, Royal Opera House Covent Garden and in the West End production of Evita.

MATT PHILLIPS, another gifted baritone, brings a unique versatility to the stage. Equally at home in classical, musical theatre and cabaret, he's performed with Melbourne Opera, Peterborough Opera, the London Chorus at Royal Albert Hall and with composer Karl Jenkins at Abbey Road Studios.

ADAM POTTS is our talented tenor, and has delighted audiences with his passion for choral and musical theatre favourites, showcasing his pure-toned voice in songs from Starlight Express to My Fair Lady.

Tickets can be purchased from St Ives Free Church or by QR code.
If paying by QR code, please ensure your name is against the payment.



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,

How to help stop a flood

After weeks of drought we all prayed for rain. It came at last and over just one night last week, just one mind, it caused enormous lakes to appear in at least three places in the town centre. I had to wade to get into the Town Hall, and was nearly drenched as a vehicle passed. 'Blocked drains?' I asked. The Town Clerk shrugged. 'County Council', she muttered.



Right, I thought, leave it to me.

A couple of minutes on their website led me to 'Highways, flooding or drainage issue/ Blocked gully or drain', with a wonderful map where I could precisely pinpoint the locations, and describe the hazards – in this case soaked shoes, compromised access to the Town Hall for complaints, and elderly folk (me) and children are at risk.

I uploaded my pictures and was pleased to see an undertaking '... to investigate within two hours'. Needless to say I was keen to hurry home to dry off.

So, there you have it. Spot a lake forming – and if it keeps on raining – jump on the link: highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk and stick a marker on the map. You may help prevent a flood!

PS I also noticed a pothole reporting map – just saying . . .

Mona Lot Town Centre, St Ives.

Right floods in The Broadway.

Dear Milly & Tilly,

I am a Fenstanton resident of 53 years. I read with dismay the news of Capital & Centrics intention of taking the market out of our market town and trying to turn it into a modern new town, removing its history and attempting to woo us into building future slums. These reasons spring to mind: Quite often the car park is almost full so we pensioners would have a lot further to lug our heavy shopping to and from the busway car park. The by-pass traffic will be solid as all pedestrians would have to cross there causing a backlog over the bridge.

Any houses built on there let alone 120 would not be necessary and would not match the surrounding area. Remember 120 houses could mean 240 cars and no car park (carbon footprint?). We already have gyms and restaurants so building more would kill them off, why not try adjusting the rents?

This area is a quiet part of the town which may need some age related t.l.c. and resurfacing and preserving the original metal fence from the cattle market days, much cheaper options. We all know that modern buildings tend to age quicker than the old Victorian type and soon look tatty. You only need to see how other towns look after a few years since a revamp. I believe the final say on the plans is in Bristol. Will they care what it looks like? **Steve Munns** a concerned citizen.



The Riverporter

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

OTHER NEWS

Make your garden a wildlife home

Would you like help to make your garden a home for wildlife? Then you should come to the next **Eco Café** on Saturday 12 September, 10.00 – 12.00 at St Ives Library. John has rewarded his garden with amazing results; it's now home to numerous hedgehogs, newts and lots of butterflies and birds, so he will lead us with ideas for our own gardens. Bring photos of your successes, or what you have as a starting point for suggestions; we can all help each other – as well as consider how we can support wildlife collectively. A donation of £2 would be appreciated towards room hire. **stivesecocafe@gmail.com**.

New singers invited

St Ives Choral Society is opening its doors to new singers, and we warmly invite anyone with a love of music to join us for a Tuesday evening rehearsal at 7.30pm in the Methodist Church, The Waites, St Ives. Whether you've sung in choirs for years or are discovering your voice for the first time, you'll find a friendly, supportive group ready to welcome you.

Our choir brings together people from across the local area who share a passion for choral music. We rehearse a wide range of classical repertoire, from uplifting anthems to major choral works. Every rehearsal offers the chance to learn new skills, improve vocal technique, and enjoy the shared experience of singing together led by our inspirational conductor Arwen Gilbert. Many members tell us that Tuesday evenings are the highlight of their week – a moment to unwind, connect, and create something beautiful.

For more information look at our website www.stives-choral.org.uk or contact us at info@stives-choral.org.uk.

Fighting in Merryland

Police were called at 10.30pm with reports of people fighting in Merryland, St Ives last Saturday. Two men received minor injuries. A car had also received some damage from a golf club. Two 19-year-old men, one from Huntingdon and another from Hartford were arrested on suspicion of affray. They have been released on police bail to return on 29th and 25th November respectively.



Chloe's burglar imprisoned

Joe Ross from Cambridge, broke into Chloe's Jewellers on Crown Street at around 3.20am on April 30. He spent just two minutes inside the shop, using a hammer to smash display cabinets before fleeing with £29,000 of stolen jewellery.

Just 24 hours later Ross used the same hammer to break into Stow-Cum-Quy Post Office, stealing £450 in cash. Later that day, he stole several jars of coffee from the Co-op in Burwell and his final target was Burwell Post Office on May 3, where he attempted to break in at around 3.20am but failed and fled the scene, leaving traces of blood behind.

Ross was sentenced to 16 months in prison at Peterborough Crown Court on Wednesday 26 August after admitting two counts of burglary, attempted burglary, and theft from a shop. He was also ordered to pay more than £32,000 in compensation.



SlimmingWorld

**The Burleigh Hill Centre
St Ives, PE27 3ER**

TUESDAYS 9.30 am

Call/message Sarah 07877 452954

THURSDAYS 5.30 pm

Call/message Vikki 07955 155215

FRIDAYS 9.15 am

Call/message Kathie 07772 868472

SATURDAYS 8.00 am & 9.30 am

Call/message Suzy 07980 032836

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ADVERTORIAL

Relax a while here

The weekend is a great time to relax and reset after a busy week, especially at this time of year when the children are going back to school and there is so much to think about.

Don't panic. There is much to do and see in the town centre of The Old Riverport, St Ives, so you needn't think too much about what to do on the weekend.

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 near the bus station you can browse the stalls of up to 30 traders.

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 warm days we have been experiencing 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.

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 year long to get your shopping fix.

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

19th Sept	Antiques & Interiors
10th Oct	Antiques & Interiors
21st Nov	Antiques & Interiors
28th Nov	Fine Art & Design
12th Dec	Antiques & Interiors.

The Courtyard.

