PLEASE READ AND PASS ON

The Riverporter

COVERING THE NEWS FOR ST IVES AND AROUND

Issue 221: 13 November 2026

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

There's good news and bad news

Following our last editorial, which warned of the fall in volunteering, *The Riverporter* is pleased to announce that the people of St Ives have stepped up and stepped out.

First the Bad News: Townrow announced the closure of their store, probably by March next year and Nero's Hairdressers shut unexpectedly after 30 years of trading. Maria told *The Riverporter* that with the lease due to expire next year and the building about to be sold they took the difficult decision to close. They tried everything to stay and even tried to buy the building.

And now the Good News: St Ives in Bloom has been successful in finding volunteers (see letter page 7). Also the town was packed with people last Saturday and Sunday coming to watch the Hemingford Firework Display and take part in the Remembrance Service.

In Bridge Street, The Cambridge Oven opened in October and Limoncello's restaurant opened on 5th November.

There is also positive news about the Barclays Bank site. Scaffolders appeared at the beginning of November, rectifying and installing new scaffold screening. The monthly update from HDC Planning confirms the improvements and start of work. A communication from the receivers acknowledged concerns about the long delay due to complex legal and technical issues (now resolved) and that construction has resumed with completion aimed for autumn 2027 or sooner.



For some the anticipated Firework display was obscured by the foggy conditions, which helped to keep the bonfire smoke from clearing away, however the spectacular picture above, by Alan Bennett, also highlighted our Bridge and Chapel - a fitting image for this - its 600th anniversary year.



Remembrance Sunday has always been well attended and on Sunday Market Hill was full with people of all ages. At a time of increasing uncertainty about almost every aspect of our lives, including the new threats of conflict, it perhaps isn't surprising to see so many attending this service that reminds us of the real and human cost of war.

Pictured left: The *queue for Townrow's sale on Wednesday, which reached all the way down Merryland.*

Below: Record crowds attend the Remembrance Day Parade and Service



DIARY OF EVENTS

Please email: editor@theriverporter.uk

NOVEMBER

Saturday 14th - **Eco Café: Ideas for a Green Christmas.** 10am – Noon at The Guide Cabin, Station Road.

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

Saturday 14th/15th - **BHF Candle Lighting in the Bridge Chapel.** Light a candle for a loved one. 10am to 4pm both days.

Friday 20th - **St Ives Civic Society - Ed Kelly A Life of Service** Free Church 7.30pm, Visitors Welcome, suggested donation £3

Saturday 21st - **Artsfest Exhibition** in the St Ives Corn Exchange.

Saturday 21/22nd - **BHF Candle Lighting in the Bridge Chapel.** Light a candle for a loved one. 10am to 4pm both days.

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

Thursday 26th - **St Ives Darby & Joan Club** meets on the last Thursday each month(except December) at the Corn Exchange 2pm - 4.30pm. Tea, coffee & biscuits & Entertainment. Of all kinds,

Friday 27th - **Margaret Scource and Frank Dudridge** playing Bach, Beethoven and Prokofiev 1pm St Ives Free Church.

Friday 27th- **Chapel Arts Concert - The Lightwaves** - St Ives Corn Exchange 7.30pm. Tickets www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents.

Saturday 28/29 - **BHF Candle Lighting in the Bridge Chapel.** Light a candle for a loved one. 10am to 4pm both days.

DECEMBER

Wednesday 2nd - **Engage: Ukelele Christmas Sing-a-Long** Join us for a jolly event to round off our Engage year, Christmas hats optional!! - St Ives Library, 2pm (donations welcome).

Saturday 5th - **Meridian Singers Christmas concert** - 'A Jolly Holly Christmas' at 7.30pm the Baptist Church High St. Bluntisham.

Saturday 5th/6th - **BHF Candle Lighting in the Bridge Chapel.** Light a candle for a loved one. 10am to 4pm both days.

Saturday 5th - **'Sailing into Christmas' -** Concert by St Ives Community Choir 7.30 pm in the Free Church tickets are £10 adult, £5 children (over 5 yrs) available online or on the door.

Sunday 6th - **Christmas Craft and Gift Fair -** Burgess Hall 10am.

Saturday 19th - **Mayor's Christmas Charity Concert -** Royal Air Force Wyton Area Voluntary Band - Free Church 7.30pm, Tickets £12.

Sunday 20th - **Santa arrives at the St Ives Quay**. At 11am - either by boat or walking over The Bridge.

Sunday 20th & Monday 21st- **Santas SnowFESt event** St ives Corn Exchange. With Santas Grotto and Giant Snow Dome.

JANUARY 2027

Friday 15th - **St Ives Civic Society talk - Catchment approach to reducing flood risk** Corn Exchange 7.30pm, Visitors Welcome.

FEBRUARY

Friday 19th - **St Ives Civic Society talk - A St Ives House through time.** Corn Exchange 7.30pm, Visitors Welcome

MARCH

Friday 19th - **St Ives Civic Society talk - Modernism** Corn Exchange 7.30pm, Visitors Welcome, suggested donation £3

APRIL

Friday 16th - **St Ives Civic Society talk - Restoration of the Great Fen.** Corn Exchange 7.30pm, Visitors Welcome.

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Can our readers help find Sylvie?

DOG LOST

MISSING

SYLVIE

Female, Cross Breed

St. Ives

PE27, East Anglia

Thursday, 5 November 2026

White (black), Adult



MISSING FROM:
Hill Rise, St. Ives

OTHER INFO: Please do not chase or try to catch *SIGHTINGS ONLY * please call 07710086011.

DogLost ID: 205657

Scan for DogLost Page

DogLost is a FREE Service run by Volunteers
www.doglost.co.uk
Reuniting Dogs with their Owners

There have been various sightings but she is still out there somewhere. So come on Riverporters let's all keep an eye out. But please don't chase her just call ... 07710 086011

YOUR SANTA NEEDS YOU!

Most of you will be familiar with the Rotary Club's Christmas Santa Sleigh, as it goes round the town and the local villages collecting donations, and it even stands still on 3 Saturdays in town!

But, to do this properly, Santa needs elves to knock on doors and carry the buckets. Sadly, this year, a combination of an injury list that would match that of a Premier League football club, and a membership that is getting older, has resulted in a severe shortage of elves.

Can you help?

If you can walk between 3 and 4 miles and are willing to knock on doors and ask for a donation, and are at least 18 years old, we would love to have you join us. We go out on Monday to Friday evenings (but not Tuesday the 8th or Tuesday the 15th), starting on Tuesday 1st December, finishing on Friday 18th December. We meet at 5:30pm, start walking at 5:45 and finish no later than 8:15pm (often earlier). If you are interested, please email santa@stivesrotarycambs.org.uk and he will let you have all the details! We would be very grateful for your help.

Below: *Santa and some of his elves.*



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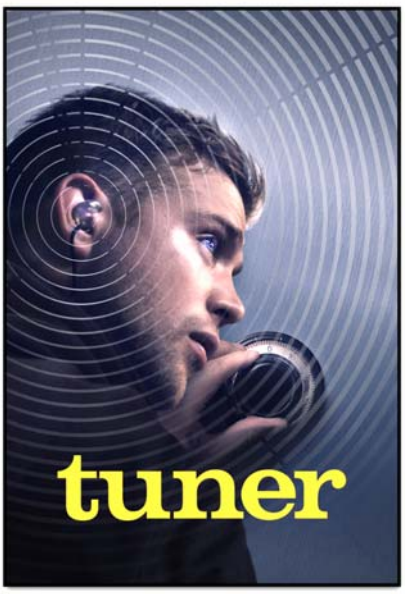
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Tuner
Thursday 3 December 2026 at 7:30pm
Doors open 7:00pm. Tickets £7
Director: Daniel Roher (2025), 107m, Cert: 15

Tuner is a 2025 crime thriller about Niki White, a gifted piano tuner with Hyperacusis whose heightened hearing makes him a talented safe-cracker. He is drawn into a life of crime by a gang of thieves in order to pay his mentor's medical bills, which threatens his budding romance with a fellow musician. Stars *Leo Woodall* as Niki, *Dustin Hoffman* as his mentor Harry Horowitz, and *Havana Rose Liu* as Ruthie.

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

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WINTER MOORINGS



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*Visit www.tingdeneboating.com for full terms & conditions.

Join us for a Festive Celebration

Dear Neighbours and Friends,
As we move from autumn into the festive season, we'd love you to celebrate with us and become part of the Field Lodge community.

Christmas Fayre **27th November 10:30am - 12:30pm**

Our Christmas Fayre promises a wonderful morning of festive fun, featuring:

- **Christmas gift stalls**
- **Delicious seasonal treats**
- **Refreshments and festive favourites**
- **Plenty of Christmas cheer**

Bring friends, family and neighbours and enjoy a warm Field Lodge welcome.

Dementia Support Group **Tuesday 24th November**

Just a few days before our Christmas Fayre, we'll also be hosting our Dementia Support Group. It's a valuable opportunity for those living with dementia and their loved ones to connect with others in a supportive and understanding environment.

Why Choose Field Lodge?

Throughout the year, events like these reflect what makes Field Lodge special: a vibrant community, meaningful connections and a warm, caring environment where residents can truly feel at home.

If you're considering care for yourself or a loved one, we'd be delighted to show you around and answer any questions you may have.

Contact me today to find out more or book a visit - beverley.tyrrell@careuk.com.



We look forward to welcoming you to Field Lodge this autumn and festive season.





St Ives news from the past

Walking down Free Church Passage towards The Quay, a blue plaque on the right marks the site of the Independent Chapel. Look closely at the brick wall and ten memorial bricks with elegant serif lettering appear above head height.





These bricks commemorate the subscribers who funded the chapel built in 1811. It replaced a Presbyterian meeting house from 1691 and seated up to 600 people. The Free Church took over as a place of worship in 1864.

Some initials are probably Birt Ulph, Thomas Knights, Goodman and Bateman Brown, John Crossley and Noble Robinson.

For more past news, go to St Ives 100 Years Ago at https://tinyurl.com/SI100YA.

Discover the latest in eyewear at Cecil Amey St Ives!

CECIL AMEY

Looking Good! Hearing Well!

Join us on Thursday, 26th November 2026 for a special launch event introducing REAN, an exciting new brand of stylish, premium frames.



Whether you're looking to refresh your everyday style or find a bold statement pair, stop by to explore the complete collection, enjoy personalized styling advice from our team, and find your perfect fit. Plus, keep an eye on our socials for a chance to win a brand-new REAN frame!

When:
Thursday, 26th November 2026

Where:
Cecil Amey 15 Crown Street, St Ives, PE27 5EB

Step in and experience REAN – we look forward to welcoming you!

Waitrose Community support helps Holt Island inspire young nature lovers

The Friends of Holt Island Nature Reserve are delighted to have received a generous donation through the Waitrose Community Matters scheme.

The group would like to thank everyone who supported Holt Island with their green tokens. The funding will help the Friends continue their work in providing free educational resources and school visits, enabling more young people to discover and enjoy the natural world.



Pictured receiving the cheque are Jill Burt and Keith Grimwade from the Friends of Holt Island, with Debbie Fincham from Waitrose presenting the donation.

Jill Burt said: 'This funding will support the educational materials and school visits that the Friends provide free of charge. It's wonderful to see young people exploring and learning about our beautiful island. Pond dipping is always a favourite activity, and not just with children. Many of our older visitors enjoy it too!'

Holt Island is now closed for the winter and will reopen at the beginning of April. In the meantime, volunteers will be busy carrying out a range of maintenance and conservation projects to prepare the reserve for another successful season.

For updates on winter activities and news about the island's reopening, follow the Friends of Holt Island on Facebook at Holt Island Friends and on Instagram at @holtislandfriends.

What does The Thicket mean to you?

This was one of the topics discussed at the first annual gathering of TWIG - the Thicket Wood Improvement Group - on 25th October. The event brought the community together to learn more about the much-loved woodland walkway which has connected Houghton and St Ives for centuries. It was also a chance to share views and memories and have a say in its future.

First up, Sam James - Huntingdonshire District County Parks & Countryside Ranger - delved into the history of the wood (thought to date back to the Iron Age), and emphasised its importance for both people and nature. As well as providing a home for an array of wildlife, from mammals and birds to trees and fungi, The Thicket is a priority landscape in the government's Local Nature Recovery Strategy, which recognises the role of local sites in restoring nature nationally.

Local resident Sam Chadwick also gave a fascinating talk on the array of fungi found in The Thicket, and its importance in the ecology of a woodland (helping break down and recycle organic matter).

Run by volunteers, TWIG helps maintain The Thicket, arranging working parties to pick up litter, clear fallen trees from paths, and conducting ecological surveys to build a picture of what nature relies on this woodland.

Your views are crucial, so please get in touch to share your views or enquire about volunteering.



Email: TWIG@stivescivic.org

Find us on Facebook by searching 'TWIG Thicket Wood Improvement Group'
And on Instagram: @twigthicketwood



Capital & Centric latest

Dear Milly & Tilly,

It is now two months since Capital & Centric held their 'meet the team' event in the Corn Exchange, showing off their plans for the old Cattle Market and bus station car park. Two months on, what has actually happened? As far as any of us can see: nothing has been decided and nothing is moving.

And it isn't because nothing could have happened by now. The Council's own contract with Capital & Centric, published on its website, was due to finish on 31 August 2026. The Council says it is still waiting for Capital & Centric's first-stage report, which was expected at the end of September. It is now the end of October. As far as we can see, there is no report, and no word on whether the contract has been extended.

Here's what the Council could do.

The same contract gives the Council the right to withhold payment from Capital & Centric until the work is actually delivered, and the right to put them on formal notice with a fixed deadline to get moving - with the contract itself at risk if they still don't deliver. The Council isn't powerless here. It's choosing not to use the powers it already has.

Instead, when residents have called for the contract to simply be scrapped, the Council's answer has been that the process has to run its course, and that nothing can be done until Capital & Centric hand in their report. That's not the full picture. The Council's own website says it is under no obligation to go any further, and that it can bring the project to an orderly close without even holding a vote. The contract itself says the Council has 'complete control over the process'. The Council is paying for the work, and the Council will eventually decide whether to grant planning permission. On every one of those points, it is the Council's call, not Capital & Centric's.

When the complaints got loud enough, the Council finally published some figures about the money spent so far: just over £1 million between January and July, with more than £200,000 of it paid to Capital & Centric for managing the project. But anyone hoping for genuine transparency will have been disappointed. It told us almost nothing about where this is all heading or how much more will be spent. It had the feel of a release designed to make the questions go away, rather than to actually answer them. Since then the Council has said the project is paused and an independent review is coming, but it has given no dates for either, and as far as we can see nothing new has appeared since 21 September. The Council says the review stops it commenting. But that review is about how we got here and how the project was approved. It does not stop the Council using its own contract.

St Ives deserves a Council that shows some leadership, picks up the powers already sitting in its own contract, and drives this to a conclusion - not one that sits on its hands waiting for a private developer to decide when it suits them to move.

Deb Arkle

Since we received this letter, on Wednesday the Council announced that the C&C report will be discussed by Cabinet at its 24th November meeting, which you will be able to watch live on HDC's Youtube Channel.

Right: *Some of the Snowman's helpers decorating Barclays this week.*

Below: *Another use for the Barclays Bank scaffolding especially during the St Ives Snowman Festival, which sees children collecting stickers from 20 of the 29 shops on the trail with a chance to win a £50 Townrow Voucher.*





The Riverporter

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



Milly & Tilly love your letters.

having your say . . .

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

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 am compelled to bring you a shock development in the ongoing farce that is the alleged redevelopment of the old Barclays bank site. I have just spotted a small team of scaffolders busy within the structure. Exactly what they are doing is unknown, but they are doing something.

Could this be the beginning of the end or at least the end of the beginning? Who knows. Keep the pressure on!

Best regards **Michael Tanton**

Dear Milly & Tilly,

Check your syntax.

'The St Ives bus gate may be removed from the proposals'. On 3rd November, a highways van pulled up, blocking residents' car spots on Meadow Lane, near the entrance to the Waitrose and Octagon car park.



When asked what he was doing , he said he would only be 5 minutes - as he had to install a traffic camera. The location was just the same as the previous camera that led to the bus gate idea. I'm not a betting man, but I do smell a rat . . . Alter that quote to *'the bus gate may well be included in future proposals'.*

Yours, **Cynic of Meadow Lane**

Dear Milly & Tilly,

I am happy to reassure your readers that St Ives in Bloom is safely blooming again!

We have an EGM on the evening of **23rd November** with nominations for all officer and committee posts (siibinfo@gmail.com for details). Thank you so much to everyone who has come forward.

In the meantime we are continuing to keep our volunteers busy with regular work parties. We are quite happy to see you if you want to 'give a hand now and then' - whether your other commitments are caring for children or grandchildren, looking after parents, or going on holiday!

And talking of exercise - planting daffodil bulbs is much more fulfilling than going to the gym!! **Phil Davies**, Outgoing Chair of St Ives in Bloom.

SAVE the DATE!

St Ives in Bloom and local volunteers will be planting some more daffodil bulbs this year in the green space from the junctions of Oak Tree Close/Chestnut Rd to Cedar Road/Chestnut Rd on: Saturday 14th Nov and Saturday 21st November from 10am to 12 noon.

PLEASE JOIN US!

All welcome:
Bulbs and planters will be provided.

For more details email:
siibinfo@gmail.com

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF SACRED HEART ST IVES

Christmas Services 2026

Advent Talk: Saturday, 5th Dec after vigil mass at 6pm.

Confessions : Thursday, 17th Dec 7to 8pm.

Christmas Masses:

Christmas Eve

Carol service - 5:30 pm
Christmas Eve Mass - 6pm
International Carol Service - 9:30 pm
Mass during the Night - 10pm
Teas/Coffees after mass.



Christmas Day

Christmas Morning:
Masses at 9 am &11am

Please join us as we celebrate this joyful time and a warm welcome to all our parishioners and visitors.

OTHER NEWS

Economies of scale are being tested

The largest of Waitrose lorries can now only squeeze round the corner into station road. Soon, they won't.



Walk leaders required

As this edition of the Riverport is published, Hunts Ramblers will just have held their 52nd AGM, recounting on walks and events held in this year and looking forward to, and planning for, our 2027 season. Although numbers of members and regular walkers remain steady, we are beginning to feel the effects of fewer walk leaders, and maybe we will not be able to run a full programme next year without additional help and support. **Is this something you would be able to help with?** If so, follow the QR code that will take you through to our webpage to learn a bit about us, and come and join us on a future walk to see what a friendly bunch we are. **Our web address is www.huntsramblers.org.uk**

Church hosts Coffee on The Waits

St Ives Methodist Church hosts Coffee on The Waits on Thursday mornings from 10am to Noon. Everyone is welcome to pop in to our award winning coffee mornings. They provide a great opportunity to meet friends, while enjoying delicious coffee and cake in our warm and friendly space on The Waits. Open every Thursday, except Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

Academy pupil retains two titles

Harry Burgess from St Ives, a talented young golfer (Pictured right by Phil Burgess) has had an outstanding season by successfully defending two major golf titles while competing against players from across the UK and Europe. St Ivo Academy pupil Harry, retained both the Junior British Masters Championship at The Belfry and the St Andrews WAGR World Series titles this year, whilst lowering his handicap to just 0.9 and travelling more than 30,000 miles across eleven counties and several countries.



His season began with victory at the Cambridgeshire Schools Championships, before representing the County at under-14, under-16 and under-18 level. In the 54-hole WAGR World Series at St Andrews Harry recorded one of his best rounds. He carded a gross 69 and made an albatross on the par-five third hole and also had a putt to complete the front nine in 29 shots, which would have equalled the course record.

Marketing of homes soon to start

The Riverporter understands that Stonegate, the developer of the 94 homes on the old Vindis site is about to start marketing them. Look out for the adverts.

ARTSFEST 2026

Find that special gift at the
Art & Crafts Exhibition
in the
St Ives Corn Exchange

Saturday 21st November
10am - 4pm



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ADVERTORIAL

Hyperion Home & Antiques Centre

For over 30 years there has always been an opportunity to browse a wide range of antiques in St Ives town centre. As well as buying at their auctions the Antique Centre offers collectors plenty of choice.

HYPERION

With over 30 experienced dealers with years of knowledge in silver, jewellery and fine art alongside many more interesting antiquities and collectables, there is always an opportunity to find something interesting.

With its wide-ranging selection and ever-changing displays, Hyperion Home and Antiques Centre promises to both surprise and delight you.

Come and see for yourself!

Nestled in the heart of St Ives' historic and bustling market square, next door to the bus station and main Cattle Market Car Park, Hyperion Home and Antiques Centre extends a warm welcome to every visitor.

Whether you are looking for a present for someone or another collectable item try us first.

Remember antiques never go out of fashion.

The centre is open from 9am to 5pm Monday to Saturday and from 10am to 4pm on Sundays.

Auction dates for the rest of the 2026.

21st Nov Antiques & Interiors
12th Dec Interiors and Fine Art

Some of the 30 dealers displays.

