

## Let's hear it for the Team!

I wonder how many St Ives town folk realise how lucky we are to have such an active Town Team?

Around the country the town team idea came out of a project led by retail expert Mary Portas and the simple idea was to support town centres and assist them to survive in changing and challenging times.

At *The Riverporter* we follow most of the social media that reflects our town, and while the vast majority reflect well on our town, there are always a few dissenters that claim the town is not what it was and it's all gloom and doom. While some towns have had their town teams fade away St Ives' has gone from strength to strength and continue to pull off spectacular events such as the amazing 600th Bridge Anniversary event.

Our St Ives team are all volunteers, none of them are paid a penny, and yet they work tirelessly to support our town and bring in visitors and money from all over, each time giving a boost to local shops and businesses.

Among the great successes include the Annual Jazz and Blues Festival that attracts around 5,000 extra visitors to the town, the new bandstand that holds regular music events, the Chapel Arts music events and so much more. So to those that say the town is not the same, I'd simply ask what have you volunteered to do and what contribution have you made? Keep it up Town Team ... We're loving it! **Ronnie**

*The fabulous postbox decoration provided for the 600 by Star Crafters.*



## St Ives Free Church hope to raise £100,000

St Ives Free Church has been an important part of the town since being built 160 years ago. In 1980 the building underwent a major redevelopment and as well as continuing as a church, it became a busy community centre.

Regular uses of the building include many local groups. It is open every day and café Tookey's is open 5 days. The building is one of the most recognisable in St Ives and the town centre just wouldn't be the same without it. Unfortunately, the costs of running and maintaining it are

huge. Church members are generous in their contributions and the income raised from hire charges helps towards these costs - but the Church needs help to refurbish it - so that it can continue to be the valuable community resource it is. This September will mark 45 years since its reopening following the redevelopment. As well as a face lift the church want to improve access for all and are seeking grants to cover some of the costs. Their target is to raise £100K and they will be holding a gift week from the 13th to

21st September.

Any donations, large or small, from individuals, organisations and companies are welcome.

Saint Ives Free Church is a registered charity (1132694) and, if you are a taxpayer, you can gift aid your donation.

Cheques should be made payable to **Free Church (United Reformed) St Ives.**

There is also a donations terminal in the building where donations can be made by debit or credit card.

## DIARY OF EVENTS

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

### AUGUST

**Friday 15th** - VJ Day.

**Friday 22nd** - COSI lunchtime concert by the Rutland Quartet - performing an uplifting mix of Haydn, Puccini, Dvorak and Vaughan Williams. 1pm at St Ives Free Church FREE.

**Friday 29th** - Chapel Arts concert with **Johnny 'Magic Boy' Wright** and **Ranjan Vasudevan** - Two great guitarists play blues, jazz and more. St Ives Corn Exchange 7.30pm. Tickets £10 from the Bar or [www.ticketsource.co.uk/cxevents](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/cxevents).

### SEPTEMBER

**Wednesday 3rd** - **Autism and ADHD today: Pathology or Personality?** - 2pm - St Ives Library -Donations Welcome

Are autism and ADHD disorders? Or are they part of natural human variation? In this presentation, Dr Kevin Bryant takes a critical look at some of the evidence in an attempt to shed some light on this controversial area.

**Thursday 11th - Sun14th** - **The Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival** - A FREE to attend Festival featuring 28 concerts over four days in 13 locations. Details from [www.stivescambridgeshire.co.uk](http://www.stivescambridgeshire.co.uk)

**Saturday 13th** - **Heritage Day** when many of the most important town buildings will be open to the public.

**Saturday 13th Royal Air forces Association, Battle of Britain band concert.** Huntingdonshire Concert Band, at the Free Church, in aid of the RAFA wings appeal. Doors open at 6.45pm concert starts at 07.30pm. Tickets £15 from the Free Church or [ticketsource.co.uk/rafa-wings-concert](http://ticketsource.co.uk/rafa-wings-concert).

**Friday 26th** - COSI lunchtime concert - **Music for Trumpet and Piano** James Stygall, with Frank Dudbridge on Piano, present this free lunchtime concert featuring many different trumpets and the music of Hertel, Handel, Haydn, Hartmann, Honegger and Robson. 1pm at St Ives Free Church.

**Saturday 27th** - **Freedom Parade by 42 Engineers (Geographic)** who will exercise their right to march in the Town Centre and will be joined on this occasion by the **Band of the Welsh Guards**.

### OCTOBER

**Saturday 11th** - **The Old Riverport Ukulele Festival**. St Ives Corn Exchange 9.30 am. Tickets £10 - [www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives).

**Monday 11th - Wednesday 13th** - **The Michaelmas Fair.**

Members of the English Civil War Society muster outside the Town Hall prior to being inspected by the Mayor Julie Kerr.



## 29th August Johnny and Ranjan



Johnny Wright and Ranjan Vasudevan last played here together in 2023 and will be making a welcomed return to once again delight us with

their brilliant playing. Both are masters of their art and regularly play in other bands. We are delighted that at this Chapel Arts Concert they will perform as a duo when you can hear what superb guitarists and entertainers they are.

**Doors open at 7pm, concert starts 7.30pm**

**Tickets £10 from the venue or from  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents)**



Johnny

Wright

Ranjan Vasudevan last played here together in 2023 and will be making a welcomed return to once again delight us with

# A big thank you to helpers

St Ives Town Team, organisers of the 600 Anniversary, would like to thank all those people and organisations that helped to provide a wonderful series of activities to celebrate the 600 years that our unique bridge has been in existence.

Get enough hay for 14 horses for three days, he said Hmmm...



Once again St Ives has shown a great community spirit with so many people prepared to volunteer help and we must mention the amazing support given by Mick Jones of Jones Boatyard and Kevin Page of K A Page Groundworks and members of St Ives Rotary. Without their help the event might not have happened.

The Town Team also acknowledge the support of St Ives Town Council and Huntingdonshire District Council. We know that the public enjoyed the events as there have been so many postings on Facebook saying so.

Raffle tickets are still available from The Oliver Cromwell pub and St Ives Electric Riverboats. Tickets are only £2 and you could win a river trip, meal for two with wine or afternoon tea. We will announce the date of the draw in the next Riverporter.

Also still available are the popular 600 T-shirts. To order, email your size, phone no. and address to: [townteam@stivescambridgeshire.co.uk](mailto:townteam@stivescambridgeshire.co.uk).

## Hunts Ramblers would love you to join them

The hardworking committee of Huntingdonshire Ramblers and their team of walk leaders are finalising details for their Autumn programme and would love you to join them.

Although we're the Huntingdonshire Ramblers we often head into neighbouring counties to enjoy some different paths, some with a few gentle hills. This summer we collaborated with the Cambridge Ramblers to hire a coach and enjoyed a linear stretch of the Peddar's Way in Norfolk.

We have plans to include a London walk later in the year, having trialled this last year very successfully. We fully supported the Great Ouse Valley Trust's WOW day with quite a few of our members walking a good chunk of the route to claim their distinctive t-shirts, and were happy to put on walks that linked in nicely the the St Ives Big Green Week initiative.

We always love to meet new walkers and hope that you may in turn introduce us to your favourite walks. We walk on Saturdays or Sundays all through the year, and during the summer months also have a programme of evening walks to make the most of the long days.



Please visit our website for detailed information about the group and view our forthcoming programme of walks.  
[https://www.huntsramblers.org.uk/](http://www.huntsramblers.org.uk/)

Planning for the series of events started last year and began in March with a Ukulele Festival on a theme Roundhead or Cavalier. In May the Karen Hubbard String Quartet played the first of two concerts in The Chapel, and in July it was the Four Winds Saxophone Quartet - both played music from the past 600 years. Papworth Brewery and The Snug provided specially brewed beers and The Oliver Cromwell, The Golden Lion Hotel and the St Ives Electric Riverboat Company provided great prizes for our 600 raffle. On 20th July the bridge had tolls re-instated with a series of games being played, organised by Sally Stenton and Caroline Wendling, and thanks also to Elaine Spence and the Star Crafters who provided 90 civil war badges for children to find.

The celebrations continued on the weekend of 26th/27th July (see the pictures on the centre pages). Our thanks go to the members of the English Civil War Society, who came from all over the country to put on a magnificent display.

Our thanks also go to the many people who helped put up gazebos and marshal the event. There are too many to name but without them such a large event could not be held.



Above and left: Saturday evening also saw a fantastic Ceilidh in the Corn Exchange with the Catch The Pigeon Ceilidh Band.



Right my heroic Parliamentary brothers we shall now sweep like the wind and thunder our horses into town and we shall strike the fear of the devil himself into those swaggering cavaliers ... But remember keep out of Mrs Smerdon's garden they have just cut the lawn!!!



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# THE 600 ANNIVERSARY

HEAR YE! HEAR YE!  
*The Riverporter* presents  
highlights of the 600  
Anniversary event that  
took place in St Ives on  
Saturday 26th and  
Sunday 27th July 2025.



It all began with  
music and dancing  
in the street.

The public were  
invited to join in  
the fun before the  
Parliament troops  
entered Market  
Hill in preparation  
to be inspected by  
The Mayor.



*The Riverporter* would like to thank the  
following people who have allowed us to use  
their pictures: Alan Bennett, Betty Betty,  
Dave Brooks, Tomasz Rakoczy, Olha Ivasiv  
and Phil Davies.



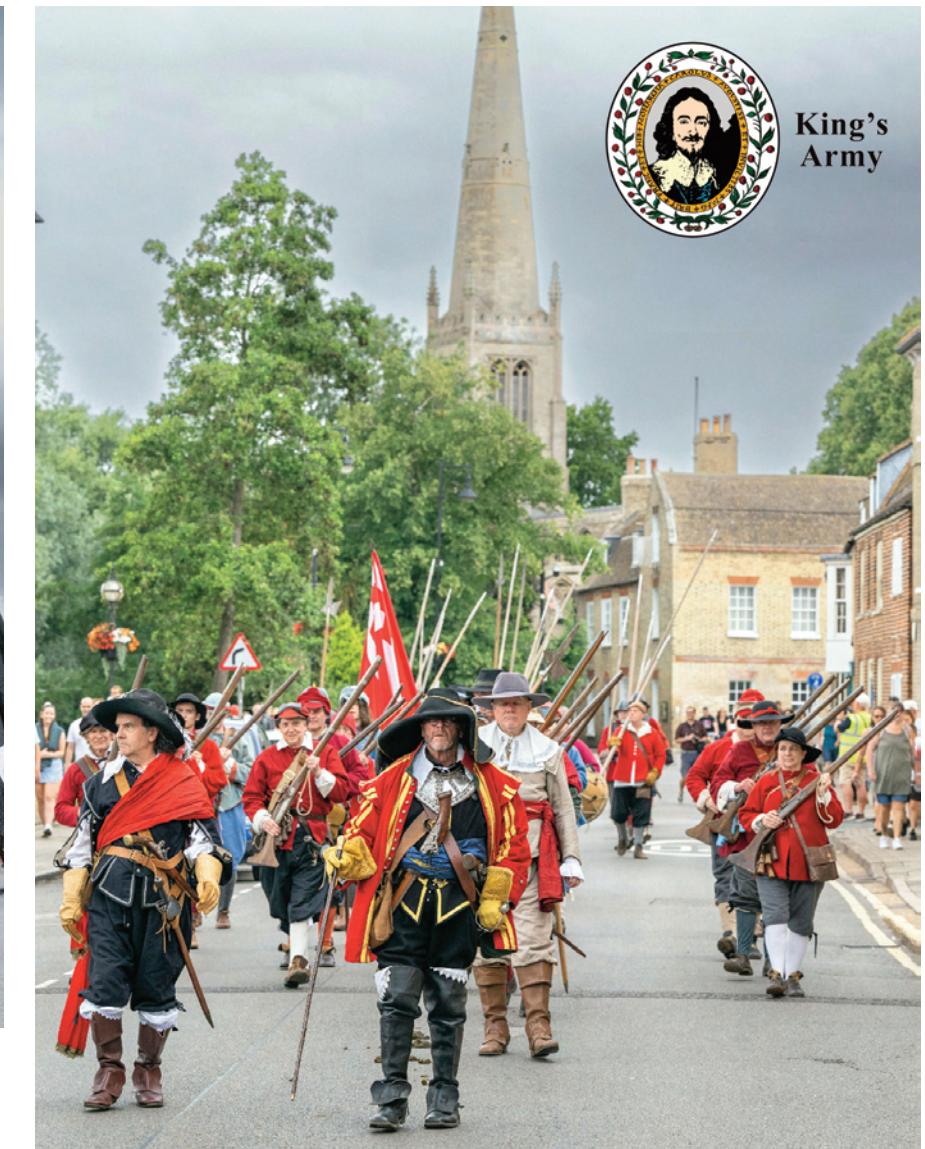
# The Battle for the Bridge



Parliament troops and the cavalry march into town and form up in Market Hill, where The Mayor, Julie Kerr, accompanied by Sarah Conboy, Leader of HDC, inspected them.



The Parish Church bells ring to warn of the arrival of the Kings Army, who march to Bridge Street where they are met by the Roundheads.



And just before midday the bridge is blown up again!



King's Army



## The Battle of Hill Rise

On Saturday afternoon the celebrations moved to Hill Rise Park, where visitors could experience the tented Living History Village demonstrating authentic cooking, brewing, washing and writing. There were telescopes, mathematical tools, musical instruments, weapons to inspect and all things 17th century.



On Sunday the public could join in with a 17th century cricket match, watch an arms display and see another battle featuring mass troops, canons and horses.





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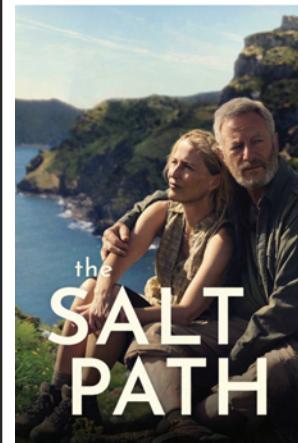
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**Screen St Ives** Community Cinema



**A Real Pain**  
Thursday 4 September 2025 at 7:30pm  
Doors open 6:30pm. Tickets £7  
Director: James Mangold, 141m, Cert: 15

**Synopsis:** *A Real Pain* is a 2024 comedy-drama directed by Jesse Eisenberg, who also stars alongside Kieran Culkin. The film follows cousins David and Benji Kaplan on a Jewish heritage tour through Poland to honour their late grandmother. Their contrasting personalities—David's neuroticism and Benji's extroversion—lead to comedic and poignant moments as they confront personal and ancestral pain. The film explores themes of grief, identity, and family, blending humour with emotional depth. Culkin's performance has been widely acclaimed, earning him multiple awards.



**The Salt Path**  
Thursday 2 October 2025 at 7:30pm  
Doors open 6:30pm. Tickets £7  
Director: Marianne Elliott, 115m, Cert: 12A

**Synopsis:** Based on the (disputed) memoirs of Rayner Moth this is the story of husband and wife, Raynor (Gillian Anderson) and Moth (Jason Isaacs) Winn's 630 mile trek along the beautiful but rugged Cornish, Devon and Dorset coastline. After being forcibly removed from their home, they make the desperate decision to keep walking in the hope that, in nature, they will find solace and a sense of acceptance. With depleted resources, a tent and the bare essentials, every step along the path is a testament to their growing strength and determination. The Salt Path is a journey that is exhilarating, challenging, and liberating in equal measure. A portrayal of home and how it can be lost and rediscovered in the most unexpected ways.

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



## The COURTYARD St Ives

Boutique Market featuring over 30 independent traders

Located in the cobbled courtyard of Hyperion Auctions in St Ives, you will find our unique market style shopping experience.

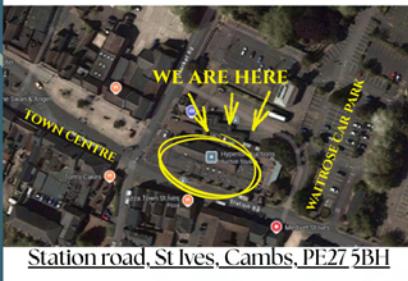


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Opening times:  
Mon - Sat : 9am - 5pm  
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30 independent local businesses, selling everything from crafts to home wares, furniture, trinkets, gifts, baby clothes, refurbed items, retro chic, books, artisan jewellery and much much more.

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While you're browsing why not take a seat in our outdoor café for coffees and snacks made by our excellent Barista here in the Courtyard.

Scan the QR code to find out more about us!

