

# THE Bridge

- Community Groups
- Town Council Budget
- Bus Routes
- St Ives Eco Action
- What's On



*News, views, events and more from your Town Council*



***Setting their sights***  
*We meet the groups aiming  
to make a difference to St Ives*

**MARCH 2026**

*Stanley says "Welcome to the Community Edition"*



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## Elections of Town Councillors

Stanley says



**“Every four years, all 17 seats for the Town Council are up for election. Our councillors sit across four wards: Beech, North, South and West. When this edition is delivered, nominations will be open. Have you ever considered making a difference to your town? If so, contact the town hall for more information”.**

### FRONT COVER

St Ives Scouts Archery  
Photograph: Neil Bulman

The Bridge is published three times a year by St Ives Town Council. If your free copy isn't delivered to your home you can collect it from the Town Hall in Market Hill. The next issue of The Bridge will be published in July. If you would like to suggest an item for publication please contact the Town Hall.

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MARCH 2026

## Mayor's Introduction

Welcome to this special community edition of the Town Council Bridge magazine, a celebration of the remarkable people and organisations that make St Ives such a special place to live.



Mal Barrows

Our town is fortunate to be home to an extraordinary range of community groups, the vast majority led and delivered by dedicated volunteers who live right here in St Ives. These groups consistently make a real difference to people's lives, and the Town Council is proud to work in close partnership with them to promote, support and strengthen the invaluable work they do.

At St Ives Town Council, we are equally proud of our incredible team of officers and councillors. We work collaboratively, with a shared commitment to serving the needs of our residents. Many of our councillors are themselves volunteers within the community, giving them first-hand understanding of the importance, challenges and value of voluntary work. This helps us make our decisions and ensures our support is both practical and meaningful.

One way we demonstrate our appreciation is through grant funding, enabling local community groups to continue offering vital services to our residents.

St Ives has been recognised as a town rich in volunteers and high-quality community organisations. This reputation led to the St Ives Flood Action Group being approached through central Government to create and pilot a Community Resilience Scheme. Working in partnership with the Town Council, the group has successfully delivered an early stage project, which will be rolled out across the county and beyond - a fantastic achievement and a source of real pride for our town.

Another example of partnership success is the St Ives Town Council Cares Project. Through this initiative, Jane Jenner was employed to coordinate care for our older residents. The impact of Jane's work has been exceptional and has not gone unnoticed. County and District Council officers have been so impressed that they are actively encouraging other towns to develop similar roles. Jane's regular network meetings, which bring together community groups and council officers, have been highly praised and are now being used as a model for wider adoption.

Because our Council truly values its community, Jane also coordinates Community Days, giving residents the opportunity to meet local groups and organisations, learn about available support, and connect with those who work tirelessly to help others.

Before joining the Town Council, I was involved in voluntary community work myself. However, becoming a councillor has opened my eyes to the sheer depth, dedication and generosity of the volunteers and community groups within St Ives. It is an honour and a privilege to serve such a compassionate, active and inspiring town, and I am immensely proud to be its Mayor.

**Julie Kerr, Mayor**



I must firstly apologise for not fully introducing myself in the last paper edition. It is very easy to forget your name when you know it and everyone else in the office knows who you are. Apologies.

St Ives Town Council has recently set the budget for 2026/27, please see our open letter to residents and an infographic we hope will illustrate how the precept will affect you. **Libby White, Town Clerk.**

## St Ives Town Council Budget and Precept 2026-27



**St Ives Town Council has set a Revenue Budget of £1,354,310. 9% of the budget comes from fees and services amounting to an estimated £121,514.**

**The remaining budget comes from Precept. The Town Council does not receive any portion of business rates or government grants.**



65% is spent on employment of staff, health and safety, insurance, Civic and community events, working with other tiers of government and local organisations, running of charities, strategic planning and meetings, provision of CCTV and other legal duties. *Down 2% on 2025/26.*



11.43% of the budget is used on the upkeep of the Town Hall, Corn Exchange, Burleigh Hill Community Centre and other buildings owned and maintained by the Town Council. *Up from 8% in 2025/26.*



5.39% is provided in the way of grants to local community organisations. This year this totals £66,467. *Down from 6% for 2025/26.*



17% is spent on maintenance of outdoor spaces including parks, play areas, the hanging basket displays, cemeteries, assisting St Ives in Bloom, etc. and services including Farmers' Market, public toilets, bandstand, cemeteries and allotments. *Down 2% on 2025/26.*

**St Ives Town Council's precept has been set at £1,232,796 for the 2026-27 financial year. This is an increase of £103,282 on the 2025-26 precept, which in real terms is an annual increase of £16.38 on a Band D Property, 31.5p per week.**

**This year's increase supports continued investment in our town's assets, strengthens our financial resilience, and helps maintain the high standard of local services that residents rely on. With ongoing pressures on higher-tier authorities, the Town Council continues to take a proactive role in safeguarding key community services. More information can be found at [www.stivestowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.stivestowncouncil.gov.uk).**

**What does 31p buy you?**



**An orange from Morrisons (as of 27 Jan 2026)**

## Estimated Increase\*

Band	A-	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Monthly Increase	£0.76	£0.91	£1.06	£1.21	£1.36	£1.67	£1.97	£2.27	£3.34
Annual Increase	£9.10	£10.92	£12.74	£14.56	£16.38	£20.02	£23.65	£27.29	£40.03



## Open Letter to the Residents of St Ives

30<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Dear Residents

We hope this letter finds you well. As always, St Ives Town Council (the Town Council) remains committed to supporting a thriving community by delivering valued services, maintaining our beautiful public spaces and ensuring our town continues to flourish.

We are writing to inform you that, at our meeting on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026, the Town Council agreed the budget and council tax precept for the 2026-27 financial year. This year the precept will increase by 9.14% (or 8.80% based on a Band D property).

### A More Modest Increase this Year

Last year, the Town Council was required to take a significant step to stabilise our financial position, resulting in a 21% increase to the precept, the equivalent to £31.84 annually for a Band D property. This decision was essential to protect important local services and address rising operational costs.

Importantly, our Strategic Plan adopted in 2025 anticipated annual precept rises of at least 10% would be necessary to responsibly rebuild the Town Council's reserves.

We are, therefore, pleased to confirm that this year's increase is below the forecast level, reflecting improving financial stability and careful budget management. This demonstrates that the Town Council is making progress ahead of expectations, while continuing to safeguard the long-term resilience of our finances.

Because of the foundations established over the past year, we have been able to limit this year's increase to a much more modest level, supporting a steady and responsible path forward.

### Why is the Increase Necessary?

The Town Council has acted prudently in setting the 2026-27 budget. The main reasons for this year's increase include:

1. **Continuing inflation in energy and operational costs**, which affects the delivery of all local services.
2. **Ongoing maintenance of Town Council buildings and community assets**, many of which are historic and require regular investment.
3. **Strengthening the Town Council's reserves** which remain below recommended levels. Building healthy reserves ensures resilience and financial stability in future years.
4. **Sustaining valued community initiatives**, including support for projects that benefit residents across all ages and neighbourhoods.

We have taken a balanced approach, ensuring that every pound spent continues to provide value to the community.

### How Will the Funds Be Used?

The additional income generated from the precept will support:

- **Continued improvements to parks, green spaces and recreational facilities** ensuring these remain safe, clean and welcoming for everyone.
- **Progress on long-term investment projects** including essential works on heritage buildings and infrastructure improvements that support the town centre, local groups and small businesses.
- **Support for community services** maintaining delivery of the *St Ives Cares* project, the implementation of our youth project and other initiatives that positively impact residents wellbeing.
- **Increasing financial resilience** rebuilding reserves to responsible levels so the Town Council can respond effectively to unexpected events and future challenges.

### Our Ongoing Commitment to Transparency

Your Town Council is committed to openness and accountability in all financial decisions. Detailed budget information will be available on our website, and we welcome your questions or feedback at any time.

We are grateful for your continued support as we work to ensure St Ives remains a wonderful place to live, work and visit. By investing responsibly and planning ahead, we are securing a strong future for our town.

Thank you for taking the time to read this update.

Yours faithfully

**Mrs Libby White BEM BA(Hons) FSLCC**  
Town Clerk

# The Acorn Cancer Support Group

**The Acorn Cancer Support Group was started in 1998 in St Ives by a Macmillan Nurse and a Community physiotherapist to offer compassionate support to people affected by cancer in Huntingdonshire.**

The mission was to focus on emotional, practical, and social support to improve patients and carers, quality of life. It very soon opened branches in Huntingdon and Ramsey and continues to run the three groups to this day.

We realise that with the diagnosis of cancer, comes a shockwave of dread to both the person and family, this is then followed by the anxiety as to the future, what the treatment brings, how successful it will be, and what the side effects are.

Often, we find that our members feel very lonely, isolated, and even angry, and this transmits to their carers too, and this sometimes is experienced after treatment has finished.

Acorn's meetings try to lift people's spirits, boost their confidence by engaging with others on a similar pathway, and make people realise despite what they are going through, there can be some normality back in their lives.

Meetings have specially qualified therapists who are able to promote mental calmness and physical relaxation by delivering one-to-one sessions of aromatherapy, reflexology, reiki and general massages. Seated exercises are delivered to the groups by Instructor's intending to impart a bit of fun to our members whilst at the same time focusing on gentle exercise, balance and fall recovery.

Meetings start at 11.00am when people register, book therapies and are welcomed by our volunteers, drinks and biscuits are served initially, and people network together whilst others disappear for individual therapies. Group seated exercises are delivered towards the end of the morning, and this is followed by a light lunch, before setting out for home around 1.00pm.



Occasional specialist talks are organised to provide practical knowledge to manage day-to-day challenges related to cancer care, and sometimes entertainment is organised to raise spirits. The group also provides outside lunches, group visits, and days out in the summer on the Ladybird boat. A Film Club is also organised monthly for members.

The Trustees work very hard to ensure the charity complies with all the requirements of its charter, where confidentiality is paramount, together with the Health and Safety, and safeguarding of our members, and ensuring food hygiene standards are kept to a high level. They also carry out a great deal of fundraising to ensure that the charity can offer all its support free of charge.

**So please don't be lonely, give us a try –  
Call 07739 934524**

Our St Ives group meets on the third Wednesday of each month, at the St Ives Methodist Church Hall, The Waits, St Ives, PE27 5BY. Timings: 11.00am to 1.00pm.

Please see our website for our other meetings and venues: **[www.acornsupportgroup.org.uk](http://www.acornsupportgroup.org.uk)**

Or check our social media pages @siacsg or Facebook.



## The Bridge Church



**Isn't church just for Sundays?  
Certainly not at The Bridge Church!**

The Bridge Church is about serving Jesus by serving people, and as a result our church building is alive with activity throughout the week. From Hooks & Needles - a small, supportive group where people of all ages share skills, conversation and a cuppa - to our busy and welcoming Parent & Toddler group with singing, play and connection.

Fridays are especially lively, with our Drop-In open to anyone who would value friendly conversation or a listening ear. Later on, the building fills with children in school years 3-6 when our monthly Quest after-school club meets for games, activities and a short story exploring biblical themes.

In the evening, The Bridge Youth take over with a safe, welcoming space for young people in school years 7-13 to hang out together and talk honestly about life and faith. While we follow the teachings of the Bible, everyone is welcome, whether they believe in God or are simply exploring.

Throughout the week, our trained Christian debt advice team also works from a dedicated office space upstairs, supporting those needing practical financial guidance.

While The Bridge is busy all week, Sunday remains special. We meet every Sunday at 10:30am for a lively, informal service, and anyone is welcome. There's no dress code, no pressure to join in - just a warm welcome, music, a short talk and space to reflect. Children and young people are very much part of church life too.

**Sundays yes, but Sundays only? Never!**

To find out more, visit [www.thebridgechurch.co.uk](http://www.thebridgechurch.co.uk)

## The Civic Society of St Ives



The Civic Society of St Ives was formed in 1968 to challenge the proposal to locate a motorway across Holt Island and Hemingford Meadow - which resulted in the building of the Harrison Way by-Pass.

Today, our amazing teams of volunteers deliver a range of community projects to promote, protect and develop St Ives for the benefit of its residents and its visitors:

**Heritage open day** - to discover the town's remarkable buildings' histories

**Planning proposals** - we take residents' perspectives regarding planning and roadway proposals and seek policy changes

**Town centre regeneration (FoRSIT)** - to improve town centre ambience: lighting, trees and planters, parking management, shop fronts and signage guidelines

**Features of architectural interest** - black plaques and heritage Information boards, currently undertaking a major initiative to release the Society's minutes over the past 50 years online

**Thicket Woodland Improvement Group (TWIG)** - dedicated to conservation and regeneration of the ancient Thicket

**Talks** - We offer engaging talks on wide-ranging topics at the Free Church at 7.30pm. Visitors are welcome, with a suggested donation £3.

**16 January** - Policing & Financial Crime in Regency London & Cambridge by local crime author Susan Grossey

**20 February** - St Ives Historic Houses Through Time by John McKinnie & Keith Grimwade

**20 March** - The Art of Stained Glass in Huntingdonshire, Rev Steve Day

**17 April** - Mayflower Pilgrims: the link with Fenstanton, Adrian Moss

**15 May** - Life of Lord Fairhaven at Anglesey Abbey by Helen Ackroyd

Membership of the Civic Society is just **£10 a year** - support us as a member, volunteer or sponsor.

More: [www.stivescivic.org.uk](http://www.stivescivic.org.uk)

Contact email: [info@stivescivic.org.uk](mailto:info@stivescivic.org.uk)

# COMMUNITY EDITION



## Cromwell Scouts

In 2026, as the District Lead Volunteer, I'm proud to be celebrating the 50th anniversary of Cromwell Scout District. But Scouts have been offering opportunities for longer than this in St Ives, since at least 1937.

Our young people have been learning new skills, and not just the traditional ones like outdoor skills which they love but also gaining life-saving first aid skills and developing digital skills, too. The list is endless.

Our young people have experienced adventure visiting local zoos, staying away in a climbing centre, gliding over the Fens and hiking in Snowdonia.

We are also incredibly proud of the young people who have been selected to join 40,000 other Scouts and adult volunteers from all over the world at the next World Scout Jamboree.

As far as adventure, challenge and opportunity goes, I don't think you can get much better than that.

Volunteers say they get back ten times what they put in – including new skills, new friends, and a renewed sense of the difference they can make when people work together.

Whether you're a camping expert, an avid storyteller or just like to see young minds thrive, we'd love to hear from you! Whatever your background or ability, there's a volunteer spot with your name on it. For more information contact Sue Best at

**Lead.volunteer@cromwellscouts.org.uk**

Watch out for us proudly parading through St Ives again this April, flags flying.

## FEST

The volunteer group FESt (Festival Events St Ives) was formed in 2008 and has since presented over 300 successful events in the town.

We've enjoyed organising and presenting the ever-popular Music on The Waits concerts every Sunday afternoon in July and August. Our audience has doubled in size and so we have now purchased more chairs for our 2026 season. We are supported by the Methodist Church with refreshments and a safe haven if the weather is extreme.

We have held stunning river-based events, including Dragon Boat Racing, and we initiated and organised a number of spectacular Illuminated Boat Parades. We organise other music and arts events: Picnic in the Park is now in its 11th successful year and always attracts a large, relaxed crowd; and ArtsFESt is our very popular annual art exhibition.

At Christmas we arrange for Santa's arrival at The Quay, by boat if the river is safe, to be welcomed by the Town Mayor. He then joins our two-day Santa's SnowFESt in the Corn Exchange with our own uniquely designed Grotto, and huge snowdome plus craft tables for children.

We love bringing fun and excitement to the town and seeing families enjoying themselves at our events. We thank the St Ives Town Council and all our sponsors for their support, and all our amazing and invaluable volunteers who enable us to do what we do.



## St Ives Cares

What's coming up and how can you get involved?

St Ives Network meetings – where community groups and organisations in St Ives come together. The next meetings are on the 25th March and 6th June from 11am to 1pm at Burleigh Hill Community Centre, Constable Road. All are welcome.

The Advisory Panel meets every three months to discuss topics that make St Ives 'age-friendly'. The next meeting is 5th June.

To be added to the distribution list or if you have any questions then please contact Jane Jenner, St Ives Cares Project Coordinator by email on [stivescares@stivestowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:stivescares@stivestowncouncil.gov.uk) or call **01480 388929**.

The next Community Information Day will be held on Saturday 16th May from 10am to 1pm in both the Corn Exchange and the Free Church.

St Ives Cares can be found at the Burleigh Hill Community Centre each Wednesday between 1pm and 3pm. Active Lifestyles provide the free exercise class for anyone over 60. We have a cup of tea and chat afterwards.

Working in partnership with Age UK, St Ives Cares has worked with one couple to ensure they have received all the benefits they are entitled to.

There are lots of projects coming up, including digital inclusion sessions, supporting all our carers in the town, and our latest wellbeing survey. Find out more on the website.



## Friends of Holt Island Nature Reserve

Our nature reserve occupies 3.5 acres of Holt Island close to the town centre of St Ives. It won Best Wildlife/Nature Reserve in the 2025 Anglia in Bloom Awards and was described by the judges as a 'hidden gem'. The entrance is at the end of Church Street, next to All Saints Parish Church, across the small white footbridge. A 520-metre boardwalk makes it accessible to prams, wheelchairs and other mobility aids, and dogs are welcome if they are on leads.

The reserve is full of interest. There is wet woodland, a reedbed and osier (willow) plantations. 'Holt' is a local word for a place where osiers - a type of willow used for weaving - were grown. More than 100 bird species have been recorded, 20 mammals (including nine species of bat), and insects are well represented with butterflies, dragonflies, damselflies and more.

There is a wealth of interesting plants including fungi. There are interpretation boards and an information centre with displays and activities for children.

The reserve is open from 10am to 4pm on weekends and Bank Holidays from April to October, subject to weather and flooding – check [www.holtisland.org](http://www.holtisland.org) for information and details of events. If you wish to visit us at any other time during this period, a key is available from One Leisure St Ives or the Norris Museum.

**Entry is free but donations are always welcome.**

## St Ives Against Rubbish (STAR)

Our humble thanks - and a big cheer - for St Ives Against Rubbish (StAR). Teaming up with local groups and residents, StAR has cleared an impressive four tonnes of litter from local streets and streams. It's not just clean-ups: StAR tackles the sources too. The NO BUTTS campaign is cutting cigarette litter in town by highlighting toxic pollution risks and the blight on tourism for local businesses.

We are also looking to tackle the cause of dumping in problem areas. Join in on the fourth Saturday of the month - check Facebook for details.

Equipment loans available for businesses and local groups who want to join the litter rebellion.

Email: [StAR.StivesEcoAction@gmail.com](mailto:StAR.StivesEcoAction@gmail.com)



## St Ives Eco Action Network (SIEA)

We are a friendly and inclusive network of community groups, projects and initiatives that care for the environment and work together to make St Ives a greener place.



### Wild About St Ives

Wild About St Ives is bringing fun and green thinking to our town. Sponsored by FES for Green Week, the group teamed up with Holt Island and St Ives Eco Café to run workshops making sustainable bird feeders and seed spreading magic wands - small 'gifts to nature' that support local wildlife. They're also championing a green corridor between Huntingdon and St Ives, linking habitats and creating space for nature, so both wildlife and residents can thrive together for future generations.



For more information or to contact, search '**Wild About St Ives**' on **Facebook**.

### St Ives Green Week

The second 'St Ives Green Week' will be held this year from 6th to 14th June.

There will be market stalls and the Repair Café to launch the week, with guided walks, litter picks, gardening sessions, clothes swaps and 'green' events in the community and in schools.

Activities will be centred around Burleigh Hill on Wednesday 10th. Then our Eco Café on Saturday 13th will look at how to make 'St Ives Green Week' last all year.

If you would like to join in, please email [stivesecocafe@gmail.com](mailto:stivesecocafe@gmail.com)





### St Ives Eco Café

The St Ives Eco Café meets on the second Saturday of each month (10am to 12pm) to provide a welcoming space for people interested in the environment – with refreshments helping the discussion along. We consider what we can do to reduce our personal carbon footprint and discuss how our local environment could be improved for biodiversity and nature. ‘Climate Change Gardening’ is our March 2026 topic – in 2025 we had sessions on Food, Home heating/energy, preparing for a Green Christmas etc.

Contact [stivesecocafe@gmail.com](mailto:stivesecocafe@gmail.com) for details.



### St Ives Eco Faiths

The group focuses on raising awareness about climate change among our faith communities. We use the National Churches Eco Award scheme resources.

In 2025 we organised a Pilgrimage Walk, raised funds for Christian Aid and provided the Remembrance Day wreath (focusing on peace and remembrance). Recent discussion topics include a proposed Peace Garden, the situation facing developing countries who are disproportionately affected by the climate crisis, and how we can contribute to St Ives Green Week.

We meet bi-monthly on the 2nd Monday afternoon. All are invited whatever your faith. Contact us via [stivesecocafe@gmail.com](mailto:stivesecocafe@gmail.com)

## Do you have an idea for a new group, project or initiative?

We can support with funding, banking, insurance and advice on health and safety and safeguarding. Would you like to contribute and make a positive difference to nature and your local community?

Contact [stivesecoaction@gmail.com](mailto:stivesecoaction@gmail.com) or follow us on Facebook to get involved.

### Sew, Mend and Save

Don't throw it out! Mend it with us over a cuppa. Join us on the second Wednesday of the month from 2 to 4pm at the Burleigh Hill Community Centre.

Drop in with clothes, bags etc. that need mending or bring along sewing and craft projects and share your skills and ideas. The aim of the group is to reduce waste, save money and enjoy a creative time together. See updates on our Facebook Group.

Thanks to the Town Council and the Co-op for this support [sew.mend.save@gmail.com](mailto:sew.mend.save@gmail.com)



### St Ives Repair Café

The first Repair Café was in October 2022 and is very popular with the St Ives community. It's so sad to throw away a beloved item – and anyone can take in their broken items be it sewing, mechanical items, jewellery, bikes - or anything else.

We are lucky to have some experienced 'repairers' and we ask a donation.

The Repair Café is a **pop up in the Methodist church** with cakes.

Book or look? You will be welcome. Our next Repair Cafe is on 6th June 2026. Contact [stivesrepaircafe@gmail.com](mailto:stivesrepaircafe@gmail.com)

## HCCN St Ives Drop in morning

Hunts Community Cancer Network:  
Living your best life despite cancer

At **Hunts Community Cancer Network** (HCCN), we believe that a cancer diagnosis is just one chapter of your story. Our mission is to help individuals 18+ and their families in the Huntingdonshire area navigate life with and beyond cancer. Whether you're recovering, living with the ongoing impact, or supporting a loved one, we offer a community of care designed around you.

We provide a variety of free, personalised activities, resources, and support groups to help build strength, resilience, and connection. Here, you're more than your diagnosis - you're part of a compassionate network where your well-being is at the heart of everything we do.

Join us for a cuppa and a chat in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere. If you like, feel free to bring any arts and crafts projects and enjoy some creative time.

There's no need to book - just turn up and enjoy a warm welcome. It'll be great to see you!

Time: 10am - 1pm, every month

Place: Burleigh Hill Community Centre,  
Constable Road, St Ives, PE27 3EQ

Upcoming Dates 2026:  
15th April

The drop in takes place on the third  
Wednesday of every month.

For more information, go to:  
[www.hccnthecharity.org](http://www.hccnthecharity.org)

## The Norris Museum Community Groups



The Norris Museum is proud to host a range of welcoming community groups that bring people together through creativity, conversation and shared experience. Whether you are looking to make new connections, stimulate your mind or simply enjoy time in a friendly environment, our groups offer something for everyone.

**The Creative Café** is a welcoming space for adults to relax, connect and explore their creativity. No prior experience is needed – just curiosity and a willingness to have a go. Attending the Creative Café helps people build confidence, reduce stress / isolation and enjoy the wellbeing benefits that come from making and creating alongside others. Many participants value the sense of achievement and the opportunity to chat and socialise in an informal setting. The group meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday at 10.30am.

**Reminiscence** at the Norris Museum is designed to spark memories and conversation using museum objects, photographs and stories from the past. This group is especially beneficial for older adults and those living with memory loss, as well as their carers. Participants gain mental stimulation, emotional connection and the comfort of sharing memories in a supportive group, helping to reduce feelings of isolation. The group meets on the first and third Wednesday of the month at 10.30am.



**The Men's Group** offers a welcoming space for men to meet, talk and take part in activities inspired by the museum's collections. It supports wellbeing, builds friendships and provides a sense of purpose through shared interests. The group meets on the first and third Thursday of the month at 1.30pm.

Together, these groups help participants feel connected, valued and part of their local community. If you would like to know more about these groups then please contact the Norris Museum on **01480 497314** or email [info@norrismuseum.org.uk](mailto:info@norrismuseum.org.uk)

## Rotary Club of St Ives



Come and join us.

We're local people helping in our local community and raising funds for local causes. It's worthwhile, fun & fulfilling. Interested? Then talk to us.

email: [secretary@stivesrotarycams.org.uk](mailto:secretary@stivesrotarycams.org.uk)

Visit: [www.stivesrotarycams.org.uk](http://www.stivesrotarycams.org.uk) Follow us on **Facebook**

## The Royal British Legion St Ives (Hunts) and District Branch

The Royal British Legion is at the heart of a national network that supports our armed forces community.



Our support starts after just one day of service in any of the UK armed forces and continues for life.

If you, or someone you know, needs our support contact us through: Our drop-in from 11:30am to 1:30pm on the third Friday of every month at the St Ives Ivy Leaf Club, 23 The Broadway, St Ives, PE27 5BX

Call our UK contact centre on **0808 802 80 80**

## Society of St Vincent de Paul

The Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVP) is active in the parish of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church through the dedicated work of the St Ives Conference, supporting some of the most vulnerable members of our local community. Our focus is on beneficiaries who are often older people living alone, parishioners in need, or individuals experiencing isolation or hardship.

A key part of our work is building friendship and reducing loneliness. On the second Tuesday of each month (except December) we organise a coffee morning in the front room of the Golden Lion hotel in St Ives, providing a welcoming and relaxed space where beneficiaries can enjoy companionship, conversation, and a sense of belonging. Those attending order their tea or a coffee at the bar and join the group in the front room. Once a month there is an Autumn Club held in the church hall from 2pm, offering a range of activities designed for enjoyment and friendship. These activities include guest talks, entertainment, and occasional trips, all tailored to meet the needs and interests of those we support.

The St Ives Conference offers practical assistance with members visiting beneficiaries. On occasions we can help with emergency funding for those in need - although our resources are very limited. Through these acts of friendship, support, and care, the St Ives Conference continues the SVP mission of offering dignity, hope, and compassion to those in need within our community.



## St Ives Dementia Friendly Community Group

We are a voluntary community organisation, dedicated to helping our beautiful town become a place where people with dementia and their carers are understood, respected and supported. We coordinate and run a wide range of activities for people with dementia and their carers. We welcome everyone from our neighbouring towns and villages.

Our activities include weekly reminiscing sessions and Love to Move (a seated movement programme to music) at the Burleigh Hill Community Centre; fortnightly Reminiscing sessions at the Norris Museum; monthly Dementia Cafe with talks and entertainment at the Free Church, Friendship Lunch at the Seven Wives pub, Singing Cafe and Games session at the Burleigh Hill CC; dementia friendly Church Services at All Saints Parish Church; and our choir, the Riverport Singers, with weekly rehearsals and regular concerts at the Corn Exchange. We also organise trips and community events.

Once a month, during the 'Love to Move' part of our Monday morning session at the Burleigh Hill CC, our carers meet separately in the Haywain pub next door, where they share experiences and information. Our fabulous volunteers facilitate this by sitting in for them during the exercises.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you think we can provide support for you or your loved one.

For more information you can find us on Facebook

**[www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/stivesdementiafriendlycommunity)**

**[stivesdementiafriendlycommunity](https://www.facebook.com/stivesdementiafriendlycommunity)**

or contact our secretary, Agi: **[agipeach@icloud.com](mailto:agipeach@icloud.com)**

# COMMUNITY EDITION



## St Ives Foodbank

St Ives Foodbank covers the town of St Ives and the surrounding villages of Bluntisham, Colne, Earith, Fen Drayton, Fenstanton, The Hemingfords, Needingworth, Pidley, Somersham and Wyton-on-the-Hill. We exist to help anyone who finds themselves in a temporary financial emergency which leaves them unable to afford to buy food, the only criterion for us being able to provide support.

Set up in 2013, the foodbank serves everyone in crisis regardless of faith or belief. It is important to be passionate about inclusion and being non-judgemental is central to the ethos of our work. This is underpinned by the belief that everyone has the right to food, dignity, skills, a chance to work and hope for the future. We work primarily by referral, but also accept self-referrals from clients who are struggling. Our clients are given packages containing enough basics to provide a nutritionally balanced diet for at least three days. The packages are designed for emergencies and contain a small range of 'must haves' for those who could not get by without.

The foodbank is operated as a charitable activity of All Saints Parish Church, and is supported by around 30 volunteers from the local community plus numerous donors who give to us both financially and in the supermarkets. If you, or someone you know, is in need, or you would like to support us, please email us at [foodbank@stivesparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:foodbank@stivesparishchurch.org.uk)



## St Ives in Bloom

St Ives in Bloom is a friendly community gardening group. We increase the kerb appeal of the town, contribute to local biodiversity and help to make St Ives a great place to live, work and visit. We do this all while making friendships and enjoying the physical and mental health benefits gardening brings.

We refresh and maintain sites throughout St Ives including the Park & Ride, town centre, cemeteries and Kings Hedges. Every year we also plant daffodils – if you've ever admired a springtime wave of cheerful daffodils in St Ives, it's probably SliB behind them. We've planted at least 35,000 bulbs over the years.

Each year we enter St Ives in the regional competition for RHS Anglia in Bloom aiming for a Gold award. In 2024 we were entered into the National RHS Britain in Bloom competition and achieved not only a national Gold but also won the large town category. We like to celebrate our hard work with lots of cake.

We have work parties for about two hours each week throughout the year, and details of our activities can be found at [www.stivesinbloom.co.uk](http://www.stivesinbloom.co.uk) or on our Facebook page. We're always looking for people to help us and guide where we work and what we do, so please consider joining and helping to make St Ives beautiful for all to enjoy – no gardening experience needed. Contact [siibinfo@gmail.com](mailto:siibinfo@gmail.com) for more information.



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## St Ives Methodist Church

We are an inclusive church looking to make a difference in our community by sharing God's love. At our Sunday services we have many children coming along to Sunday Club and we have a thriving youth group that meets on Sunday evenings. We also run a TOTS group on a Tuesday morning for over 50 children encompassing an ethos of pastoral care & support. Our Boys Brigade & Girls Association Group met up on a Friday evening.

We are a Fairtrade Church that takes climate change seriously with a Silver Eco Church Award. Our programmes for older people combat loneliness and isolation, which is spearheaded by our Thursday Coffee on the Waits, serving morning coffee and cake. As a part of this programme, there are dedicated men's and women's groups aimed at building friendship and enabling supportive sharing.

Come along to see us; you are always welcome.

Website: [www.simc.co.uk](http://www.simc.co.uk)

Facebook: **St Ives Methodist Church**



## St Ives u3a

The St Ives u3a offers the perfect opportunity for adults coming up to their retirement years to explore a diverse range of creative, educational, or social interest opportunities.

It's a wonderful way to develop their interests, make new friends and have fun.

Groups on offer cover subjects from the arts, sciences, humanities and sport. From painting to philosophy, languages to digital skills, the u3a offers something for everyone, no matter what their backgrounds are.

"At u3a we believe that sharing interests and hobbies leads to new friendships and opportunities," says Peter Cooper, Chair of St Ives u3a: "Visit our website at [u3aivo.uk](http://u3aivo.uk) to see what's on offer and how you can get involved.

We are especially keen to encourage people who are already semi-retired, working part-time or who find they have more time on their hands, to see how joining u3a now will enhance their retirement and may even inspire some to start a new group.

With over 1,000 members and more than 70 groups, innovative ideas from enthusiastic individuals are always welcome. We all work together to make groups a success with a support team on hand and plenty of volunteers to help."

To learn more about the u3a visit:  
[u3aivo.uk](http://u3aivo.uk)

We look forward to welcoming you and sharing the joy of lifelong learning.

## What's On?

### 7th May

#### Elections of Town Councillors

*A chance to 'go to the polls' and elect Town Councillors for the next four years. Contested elections will take place, dependent on the number of people who stand for election.*

### 13th May

#### Mayor Making

*A traditional ceremony where the Old Mayor passes the baton to the incoming Mayor will be held at the Corn Exchange. The Mayor, Julie Kerr, will present cheques to many voluntary organisations from her fundraising and trophies to people in the town who have excelled, to recognise their efforts.*

### 16th May

#### Community Information Day

*An opportunity to meet one of the many groups and organisations who support the community of St Ives. Will be held between the Corn Exchange and Free Church.*

### 12th September

#### Heritage Day

*A chance to look around historic buildings of St Ives including the Town Hall.*

### 20th September

#### Civic Sunday

### 12th-14th October

#### Michaelmas Fair

*The annual visit of the Showmen's Guild fair, opened by the Mayor of St Ives.*

### 8th November

#### Remembrance Sunday Parade and Service

*The Mayor Cllr Julie Kerr and Councillors will pay respect, and the service will be led by Father Mark Amey.*

*The Royal British Legion, 42 Engineers (Geographic) and other local marching groups, take part in a moving Parade and Service around the St Ives War Memorial. Wreaths are laid by many local groups and military personnel.*

### 14th November

#### Christmas Lights Switch On and Christmas Market

*Join us for live entertainment from 11am. Bridge Street Christmas Market, funfair and Father Christmas turning the lights on at 5pm.*

### 26th November

#### Haigh Draw



**"Keep an eye on community websites and the digital signs for other community events."**

All details of the events listed were correct at the time The Bridge went to press. Please check organisers/venues for final details.

### Contacts:

**Burgess Hall**  
[www.oneleisure.net](http://www.oneleisure.net)

**Corn Exchange** 01480 496454  
[infothecornexchange.org.uk](http://infothecornexchange.org.uk)

**Crossways Christian Centre**  
01480 454220

**Norris Museum** 01480 497314  
[info@norrismuseum.org.uk](mailto:info@norrismuseum.org.uk)

**Town Hall** 01480 388929  
[admin@stivestowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:admin@stivestowncouncil.gov.uk)

**Town Team** 01480 383612  
[www.theoldriverportstives.co.uk](http://www.theoldriverportstives.co.uk)

### Council Meetings

**Estates Committee**  
first Wednesday of the month

**Planning and Full Council**  
second Wednesday of the month  
(no Full Council in August)

**Resilience Committee**  
first Monday of the month but every other month (January, March, etc.)

**Finance & Policy**  
fourth Wednesday of the month

# St Ives Bus Routes

Published by St Ives Cares with Cambridge Area Bus Users: <https://cambridgebususers.org>

Bus timetables and services are subject to change, so please refer to the relevant bus company websites or Apps for the most current information. This guide provides a basic overview of bus numbers serving nearby towns and villages.

- [central-connect.co.uk](http://central-connect.co.uk)
- [dews-coaches.com](http://dews-coaches.com)
- [stagecoachbus.com](http://stagecoachbus.com)
- [stagecoach App](#)
- [bustimes.org](http://bustimes.org)
- [thebusway.info](http://thebusway.info)
- [mybustrip \(App only\)](#)



## SERVICES (Stagecoach)

- A** St Ives to Trumpington P&R (Mon - Sun) via Central Cambridge, Cambridge Rail Station & Addenbrookes Hospital
- B** St Ives to Central Cambridge (Mon - Sun) via Science Park, Cambridge North Rail Station
- B** St Ives to Hinchingsbrooke Hospital (Mon - Sun) via Huntingdon and Huntingdon Rail Station
- 5A** St Ives to Bar Hill (Mon - Sat) via villages including Fenstanton & Longstanton P&R

## SERVICES (Dews)

- 9** St Ives to Huntingdon (Market days only, Mon & Fri) via Hemingfords
- 9** St Ives to Elsworth (Market days only, Mon & Fri) via villages
- 300** St Ives Town Circular (Mon - Fri)
- 301** St Ives to Warboys/Ramsey (Mon - Sat) via Woodhurst & Oldhurst
- 301** St Ives to Warboys/Ramsey (Mon - Sat) via villages inc. Needingworth & Somersham
- 302** St Ives to March (Mon - Sat) via Warboys & Chatteris

## SERVICES (Central Connect)

- 67** St Ives to St Neots (Mon - Sun)
- 68** Boxworth to St Ives (Mon - Fri) Early a.m. bus to St Ives, returning in the evening

Maximum £3 single fare

Note: Dayrider or return tickets might be cheaper for multiple journeys.