

# The Riverporter



ST IVES AWARD WINNING NEWSPAPER

COVERING THE NEWS FOR ST IVES AND AROUND

Issue 162: 5 July 2024

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

ELECTION SPECIAL • ELECTION SPECIAL • ELECTION SPECIAL • ELECTION SPECIAL

## Ben Obese-Jecty is your new MP

As Labour took control of the country, Huntingdon Constituency bucked the trend with the conservatives retaining the seat after a closely fought campaign.

Although not a complete surprise, polling had suggested an upset was possible, Ben Obese-Jecty declared it a fantastic result for Huntingdon Conservatives. He went on to say 'We won against the odds by focussing about what is important to local people'. Mr Obese-Jecty (pictured far right) became the Tory candidate after Jonathan Djanogly was deselected in 2023 following a number of scandals. The full results were: Ben Obese-Jecty, Conservatives 18,257; Alex Bulat, Labour 16,758; Sarah Smith, Reform 8,039; Mark Argent, Lib Dem 4,821, Georgie Hunt, Green 3,042 and Chan Abraham, Independent 1,123. Total votes cast were 52,235 and turnout 66%.



The High Sheriff, David Way, announces the result of the General Election 2024 at the Ivo Indoor Centre at 2.30am Friday 5th July.

## St Ives businesses under threat, but more open

The Riverporter understands that several businesses could close over the next few months, including the St Ives branch of Lloyds Bank, due to close on 24th February next year. On

the plus side several new businesses are opening. In East Street there are:

**Dreamglow** - selling luxury homeware and beauty products.

**Tweaks** - offering treatments to

enhance your radiance and wellbeing.

**La Vintage Maison** - selling fine antiques and beautiful homeware.

And in The Broadway it's **Fifi's Cakery** due to open soon.

## Councils refuse to help St Ives Nursery

Stepping Stones Day Nursery in High Leys, which has been a vital part of the St Ives community for 35 years, is being forced to close due to lack of support from Cambridgeshire County Council (CambsCC) and Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC), leaving 45 children with nowhere to go.

The Edmund Trust, who are the landlords of the building Stepping Stones use, has served the nursery notice to vacate the building by 1st November as they plan to return the site to HDC. It has left Tiffany Evans, the manager, searching for alternate premises. But this is proving difficult as the building needs to be

adapted to accommodate the high number of SEN children.

Despite an article in the Hunts Post stating Tiffany is being supported by Cambs CC, this appears to be untrue as the Council have said their findings show there are adequate spaces for children in St Ives, so they won't support her. *Continued on page 2.*



## Music on The Waits



Left: Some of the FEST team, organisers of Picnic in the Park and Music on The Waits. Picture: I Jackson.



The music continues with *Music on The Waits* concerts from 2.30 to 4pm each Sunday in July and August. The bands playing are: July 7th - Upwood Ukuleles, July 14th - The ST Band, July 21st - James Schouten (pictured above in 2023), July 28th - Reggae Ray, August 4th - Musical Amigos, August 11th - Stamford Stompers, August 18th - Caroline Foster and August 25th - Acoustics Anonymous. All are free to attend.

Superb, intimate concerts in the Riverport Café, St Ives Corn Ex.

**Friday 26th July**

**The COSI String Quartet**



An evening of quiet moments and blissful classics with four of our most popular local players from the Chamber Orchestra of St Ives. A varied programme hand picked by Karen Hubbard, Leader of our local orchestra.

Doors open at 6.45pm concert starts at 7.30pm.  
Tickets £10 from the Bar or [www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents)

## DIARY OF EVENTS

If you wish to inform us of your events please email: [editor@theriverporter.uk](mailto:editor@theriverporter.uk)

### JULY

**Every Sunday in July and August - Music on The Waits** - 2.30pm.

**Saturday 6th - Saturday Art Club** (for children) St Ives Library 10am £1.

**Friday 12th - Sunday 14th - Carnival and Music Festival** - Hill Rise Park.

**Saturday 13th - COSI Summer Concert** 7.30pm Saturday. Free Church.

Tickets £10 (U16s Free) on the door or via ticketsource <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/chamber-orchestra-of-st-ives>.

**Wednesday 17th - Branch Meeting of St Ives Royal British Legion**, 11:30 am at St Ives Ivy Leaf Club, 23 The Broadway, St Ives.

**Thursday 18th - Commemoration for the 80th anniversary of the battles of Kohima and Imphal**. 10:45am at St Ives War Memorial.

**Thursday 18th - Friends of Holt Island Nature Reserve AGM**, St Ives Corn Exchange, 7pm. All welcome (non-members £3)

**Saturday 20th - You Can't Put Us Down**. A NEW men's book group in a relaxed space to read and discuss books. 10:30am - Noon at St Ives Library.

**Friday 26th - Chapel Arts concert with COSI String Quartet** - Playing a range of classics. St Ives Corn Exchange 7.30pm. Tickets £10 from the Bar or [www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents)

### AUGUST

**Every Sunday in August - Music on The Waits**. The Bandstand 2.30pm

**Thursday 1st - Screen St Ives - Wicked Little Letters** with Olivia Colman. Doors open 6.30pm film at 7.30pm. Tickets £7 at [screenstives.org.uk](http://www.screenstives.org.uk) or from Riverport Café Bar. There is no film in September.

**Wednesday 7th - Engage Talk - The Riverporter**. Why when and how with a special guest appearance of Erik. St Ives Library. 2pm.

**Friday 30th - Chapel Arts concert with Huntingdonshire Guitar Ensemble** - Seven guitarists. St Ives Corn Exchange 7.30pm. Tickets £10 from the Bar or [www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents)

**Saturday 31st - St Ives Flower, Craft and Produce Show** - St Ives Corn Exchange. Doors open to public at 12.15. Website [www.stivesshow.org.uk](http://www.stivesshow.org.uk)

### SEPTEMBER

**Thursday 12th - Sunday 15th - The Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival 2024** - 26 free concerts over four days see the full programme at [www.stivescambridgeshire.co.uk](http://www.stivescambridgeshire.co.uk).

**Saturday 14th - Heritage Open Day**.

Read on-line at [www.theriverporter.uk](http://www.theriverporter.uk) or see our Facebook page. Email: [editor@theriverporter.uk](mailto:editor@theriverporter.uk)

You can contact The Riverporter by telephone on: 07900 112635. The publishers, Ron Westrip and John Souter, reserve the right to determine the content of the publication. © copyright reserved

# Sunshine brings out the crowds

Last month's Picnic in the Park saw the biggest crowd ever in the 9 years the Festival has been held according to FEST the organisers. They came to Warner's Park to enjoy the sunshine, music, children's activities and locally grown strawberries and cream. Next year's, the 10th, is likely to be even better, although it is a bit too early to say if the sun will shine.



Families, including dogs, enjoying strawberries, picnics and music in the sunshine.



## Rob 'the swan man' helps 'Wobbly' the Cygnet



Rob Adamson has once again hit the national press rescuing a baby swan. 'Wobbly the Cygnet' (left), the runt of the brood, was struggling to get out of his shell and his mum had to break it so he could emerge (see below left).



Rob watched as Wobbly's brothers and sisters plumped their feathers, but Wobbly struggled, so he put Wobbly inside his jacket (right), a bit like his mum taking him under her wing! 'I kept seeing this little one left behind in the nest because he just couldn't keep up, and with the crows circling, I couldn't leave him there - he'd have been a goner' said Rob. After a couple of days Wobbly wasn't wobbly any more and was able to join his mum and the other cygnets (below centre) back on the waters edge. Below right: Rob with Sidney the Cygnet, who he rescued in 2018, which featured on the BBC and in The Riverporter issue 11.



## Councils refuse to help St Ives Nursery

The Riverporter is curious about these findings, as every St Ives Nursery is full and all have waiting lists, including Stepping Stones with twenty five children on their list. HDC who own the land have decided to sell it to a developer, which is another irony as more houses will mean more children and more demand for nursery places.

It appears that yet again the money HDC will get from developers outweighs the needs of the community. It also shows a complete lack of joined up working between the Government, the County Council and the District Council.

### How can every 3 or 4 year-old receive free nursery time if there are not enough places for them?

Tiffany Evans, the owner of Stepping Stones, started there in February 2007 as an apprentice and worked her way through several roles gaining qualifications through work based learning.

She told us, 'I brought the nursery in February 2018 and have experience working with all age groups and those with emerging or diagnosed SEN&D. My passion is to provide Childcare that I would expect for my own children, I strongly believe all children should be entitled to the same level of care no

matter their individual needs'.

Tiffany has received some lovely messages, showing how important we are in St Ives, since announcing the closure. Stepping Stones currently has a high number of SEN children, who come from outside St Ives as they couldn't find nurseries that can cope with their high level of need.

The nursery is open from 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday all year round, allowing working parents flexibility to work without the restrictions of 'school hours'.

They offer the Government funded hours to all eligible parents and don't cap their offer or charge additional fees, like many other nurseries.

'I was one of the only early years settings that stayed open throughout all of the lock downs, ensuring key workers could continue to go to work. We had other children join us from their closed playgroups and many stayed with us once these reopened. I've also got 10 staff, including working parents, apprentices and specialised SEN support staff that I may need to make redundant.' Tiffany told The Riverporter and she was very concerned about where her 45 children would go if she cannot find suitable premises.



The Riverporter contacted County Councillor, Kevin Reynolds, and District Councillor, Julie Kerr, about the issue. Both seemed surprised by this loss of the facility and are looking into what their authorities might do to assist.

In the meantime if you know of any premises that might be available please contact Tiffany Evans on 01480 464105.

## THE OLD RIVERPORT JAZZ & BLUES FESTIVAL 2024

### The 29th Funktion

Passion Mad and Funky Fuelled Blues, R&B soul band.



The 29th Funktion are a funky psychedelic soft rock, blues/soul band from St Ives made up of crazy Lulu on vocals with bright pink hair, the wonderful Tommy on the guitar, fabulous Sam Fisher on the drums and Mr Alex TickinBoy on the Bass. They love performing a varied set of covers and their own passion mad unique original music.

They are recognized for their extremely high energy and captivating stage presence. They are currently in the process of recording and writing new music and are definitely one to watch out for.

You can see The 29th Funktion at this years Festival in Floods Tavern on Thursday 12th September at 7pm.

## New Mayor and Deputy out and about



St Ives Mayor, Pasco Hussain, and Deputy Mayor, Julie Kerr, enjoyed the sunshine and strawberries at Picnic in the Park and later in the day Pasco visited the Dementia Friends Summer concert in the Corn Exchange.

Pictured left: Pasco and Julie.

Below: Tabitha and Dottie, performing a woodwind duet during the Dementia Summer Concert.

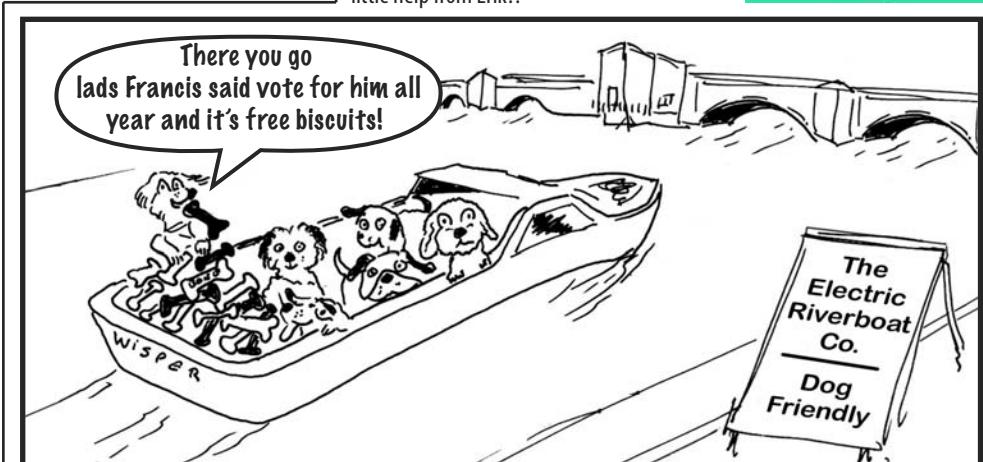
Bottom left: Pasco opens the White Hart pub.



## St Ives Electric Riverboat Company wins top award

St Ives very own Electric Riverboat company, recently taken over by Francis Mizuro has been given the Tripadvisor Choice Award as a result of 12 months of great reviews. The result of a lot of hard work from Francis and his team and a little help from Erik!?

**Tripadvisor Travelers' Choice Awards**





Erik, with Ron and John, who will be appearing at St Ives Library on 7th August. (see Diary of Events)



having your say ...

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

### Dear Erik

Our dear mother Annie Elizabeth (Betty) Crisp sadly passed away on 23 June 2024, at the age of 101. She was a wonderful mother and friend to many, Betty was a cherished member of the St Ives community where she lived for over 30 years, an active volunteer for our local Amnesty International, Oxfam and Action Corn Exchange(ACE) charities. She is survived by Marilyn, Pauline and Barbara her loving daughters, 7 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren, along with countless friends who felt her warmth and generosity. Her funeral will take place on Monday 22 July at 1.15pm at Huntingdon Crematorium. No flowers please and please wear bright colours. Donations to the Medical Foundation for the care of victims of torture. **Marilyn Zanconato**

### Dear Erik, Subject Apocalypse now

I agree with Stewart Denham (RP161). Around town the countless kerbside floral displays can only be deliberate. Students of the many varieties of grasses, and wild flowers must be as thrilled as the St Ives In Bloom team. But wait, it only needs weeds and grasses to start sprouting from the cracks and potholes in the roads. Then a post-apocalypse image for St Ives really will be complete. **Ian Dobson**

### Dear Erik

I am a Senior Support Worker for Thera East Anglia. We are starting a brand new funded club in St Ives for Adults with Learning Difficulties, ADHD, Autism etc & will hopefully be expanding to a wider community.

Please could we advertise the club here?

Many thanks **Debbie Sharp**

### I CAN WEDNESDAY

Meets at 12 noon till 3pm

A safe space for those with a learning disability to meet others, enjoy activities in a group or individual setting.

#### Next sessions:

10th, 24th and 31st July and 7 August

### Another one bites the dust ... The Trap

Still creating a lot of mixed comments on-line.



## SIX INCHES OF SOIL SUCCESS

The Great Ouse Valley Trust reports an almost full house for last week's Screen St Ives presentation of this 'ground-breaking' new film. GOVT thanks *The Riverporter* and Screen St Ives for its support in publicising the event. The film's theme of courage, vision and hope from new farmers attempting to heal the soil and helping to transform the food system, is inspiring and reflects the growing movement of people dedicated to changing the trajectory for food, farming and the planet. If you missed the screening you can still rent the film to watch online by following [www.sixinchesofsoil.vhx.tv](http://www.sixinchesofsoil.vhx.tv)

A discussion panel comprising local growers (from l-r) Martin Lines of the Nature Friendly Farming Network, Adrienne Jordan of Sweetpea Market Garden, and Anthony Davison of Franks Farm, plus GOVT chair Graham Campbell, followed the screening - and provided much food for thought!



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**Wicked Little Letters**  
Thursday 1 August 2024 at 7:30pm  
Doors open 6:30pm. Tickets £7  
Director: Thea Sharrock,  
100m, Cert: 15

**Synopsis:** A black comedy mystery film starring Olivia Colman, Jessie Buckley and Timothy Spall. When residents begin to receive wicked letters full of hilarious profanities, foul-mouthed Rose is charged with the crime. However, as the town's women investigate, they suspect that something is amiss, and that Rose may not be the culprit after all.

Screen St Ives will be taking a break in September

# The Riverporter

Voted Best local newspaper of the year 2019/20 in the Cambridge Building Society's Community Magazine Awards

## OTHER NEWS

### Arsenal Legends to visit St Ives FC

St Ives Town Football Club is hosting a team of Arsenal Legends for a charity match this Sunday at St Ives Quattro-Tech Westwood Road ground. Gates open at 11am the match kicks off at 3pm. Aside from the football, there is a host of other activities including a question and answer session featuring Nigel Winterburn and an auction. Admission is £5 and £3 concessions. [www.stivestownfc.co.uk](http://www.stivestownfc.co.uk)



### Anglia in Bloom Judges to visit on 8th July

They are starting their tour in the beautiful Norris Museum garden at 10am, and finishing with lunch in the Methodist Church Hall at 1.30pm. We hope that they enjoy the Friendship Project, undertaken by the students of Spring Common Academy with the Norris Museum and St Ives in Bloom (seen right with The Mayor).



They will then continue past the beautiful flower beds on The Waits and tour Holt Island. Next, they will go to Westfield School, the Ramsey Road Cemetery and the allotments. After visiting the Park and Ride, they will walk through town - along Station Road and The Courtyard, through the market and down Bridge Street. They will finish their tour with a boat ride, kindly provided by the St Ives Electric Riverboat.

If anyone would like to join the volunteers of St Ives in Bloom for a last tidy and litter pick on the morning of Sunday 7th or Monday 8th itself, please make contact on [siiibinfo@gmail.com](mailto:siiibinfo@gmail.com)

### SIYT to perform Musical

St Ives Youth Theatre is rehearsing its latest production of the Disney favourite, High School Musical.

You can see the production at the Burgess Hall from Wednesday July 17 to Saturday, July 20. Tickets: £15 for adults, £10 for concessions, and £40 for a family ticket (2+2).

### Tony Meneaugh confirmed as St Ivo Head

Mr Meneaugh, the Interim Principal at St Ivo Academy has now been confirmed as the permanent leader of the school with immediate effect. A spokesperson from the St Ivo Parent Forum was reported as welcoming the news.

### We are impartial says Hunts Post

The Editor of *The Riverporter* queried why the background of the Hunts Post (HP) website (right) contained a banner advertising 'Vote Ben Obese-Jecty'. Debbie Davies, Editor of the HP, said 'As a multimedia publisher we accept adverts from political parties ... who are all offered the same terms. Our role in the electoral process is to try and assist you in making [an] informed decision on how to vote and I resent any suggestion that implies otherwise.'



The Riverporter said we were not adverse to advertising, however to flood every article on your website with a background urging a vote for just one of the candidates, with no obvious disclaimer from the HP that it is a paid advert, could lead to claims of partiality. Debbie pointed out that it did say 'Promoted by Ross Martin, on behalf of Ben Obese-Jecty, both at The Old Print Works, Mews Close'. She went on to say 'I am not claiming impartial[ity], we ARE impartial'. The Riverporter believed that the overall effect was to support one party as the imprint was tiny, whilst every viewer of the website was bombarded with large type saying 'Vote Ben Obese-Jecty', regardless of what story they wished to read. What do readers think?

### Pike caught at Quay

*The Riverporter* caught the moment two Fishermen landed a large Pike on The Quay, which measured 82 cms long. Rumours that otters that have been eating all the big fish turned out to be just that. Rumours.



### Ives banner at Euros

This picture was posted on a St Ives Facebook page with the caption 'Some absolute legend showing off the Ives'.





St Ives Electric Riverboat Co



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