

The Riverporter

PLEASE READ AND PASS ON

COVERING THE NEWS FOR ST IVES AND AROUND

Issue I89: 25 July 2025

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

Let's hear it for the judges

On Wednesday judges from Anglia In Bloom visited St Ives to assess if St Ives In Bloom's efforts will merit another award. The judges were shown all the sites in the town on a 'whistle stop' tour as there is a limit of 3 hours for all of the judging to take place.

After being collected from Meadow Lane Park & Ride the judges, John Crawley, Heather Male and Ian Haynes, were taken to the Norris Museum for refreshments and a welcome from the Mayor.

The tour included seeing The Norris Museum garden, the Recycling Garden on The Waits and meeting the students and teacher from Spring Common Academy who designed it.

St Ives Methodist Church was next on the itinerary, to see the innovative planting in their carpark and hear about the church's history. The tour continued as the judges were shown The Waits, the post-box garden, Slepe Hall field, Elm Drive and the Kings Hedges Planters.

Also included in the tour were Ramsey Road Cemetery, Hill Rise Allotments and the wildflower plantings in The Pound before returning to town centre to see Station Road, The Courtyard, Market Hill, Bridge Street and the Quay. As well as looking at the displays the judges were informed about the involvement from volunteers and business sponsorship.

Their tour ended on board a St Ives



Electric Riverboat to look at the Chapel on the Bridge, the meadows and Holt Island reedbeds, finally returning to The Waits to be interviewed by Jeffery of *The Riverporter*, before lunch at St Ives Methodist Church.

The Mayor, Julie Kerr, thanked the judges who then had the opportunity to meet and talk to St Ives In Bloom volunteers and supporters before leaving.

The results will be announced at the Awards Ceremony on 4th September in St Ives Burgess Hall.

Above: Pictured in front of the Recycling Garden on The Waits are the Anglia In Bloom Judges with the Town Mayor, Councillor Julie Kerr.



Left: St Ives In Bloom's cake made to celebrate their 30th anniversary.

DIARY OF EVENTS

Please email: editor@theriverporter.uk

JULY

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

Saturday 26th - 600 Anniversary Celebrations - Civil War re-enactment blowing up the bridge. Town centre 11am and at Hill Rise Park from 2pm.

Saturday 26th - 600 Anniversary Celebrations - Ceilidh with *Catch The Pigeon* at St Ives Corn Exchange 7pm. Tickets £5 from the venue or www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents.

Sunday 27th - 600 Anniversary Celebrations - Living History Display, troop displays and full scale battle. Hill Rise Park from 10am.

AUGUST

Sunday 3rd - Flea on The Quay - 10am to 1pm The Quay St Ives.

Wednesday 6th - Fairtrade and the History of the Co-op - 2pm St Ives Library - Donations Welcome. Discover the history and background to Fairtrade products, and how they are linked to the Co-operative movement. This in turn has influence on the way that the Co-op trades.

Friday 15th - VJ Day.

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/cexevents.

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 - Sun 14th - The Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival - A FREE to attend Festival. Details from 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. Tickets £15 are available from the Free Church or ticketsource.co.uk/rafa-wings-concert.

Saturday 27th - Freedom Parade by 42 Engineers (Geographic) who will exercise their right to march in the Town Centre.

OCTOBER

Saturday 11th - The Old Riverport Ukulele Festival. St Ives Corn Exchange 9.30 am. Tickets £10 - www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives.

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

What a Weekend!

It turned out nice again for this year's St Ives Carnival and Music Festival, held on 12th and 13th July at Hill Rise Park - the sun was shining, the music was pumping, and the whole community came together to celebrate in true St Ives style.

From the moment the gates opened on Saturday, there was a real buzz in the air. The fairground and bustling market stalls offered everything from tasty bakes and handmade crafts to fun games and local food vendors.

Families loved the open-air cinema screening of Moana 2, before being wowed by performances from West End stars The Jersey Boys. The evening ended with 'Proms in the Park', featuring the brilliant Haverhill Silver Band and Karen England.

Sunday was all about the music and the line-up didn't disappoint with Cubans & Cognac, Under the Covers, Submarine Racers, So 80's, Ska-Dust, Dan Knight, Uncle Arthur, Groove Cartell, The Collaboration Choir, and DJ Rob Bradshaw had everyone dancing into the evening.

The organisers say feedback has been amazing, with loads of praise for the friendly atmosphere and smooth organisation. They extended a huge thanks to their volunteers and local sponsors - who they say, without them, they simply couldn't make it happen. **Roll on 2026!**

Left: Star Crafters and their amazing woolly creation that brightened up the stage.

Right: The Park on Sunday.



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WOW! Day Success!

The Great Ouse Valley Trust reports a fantastic turn-out on Sunday for their first-ever celebration of the Ouse Valley Way long-distance footpath that runs through the town.

From St Neots upstream, to Earith downstream, nine information-point Hubs were set up as staging posts. Here, refreshments, free maps and toilets were available – plus an opportunity to record a visit with a selfie. Three Hub selfies earned a commemorative T-shirt and a sticker. Despite the showers, serious trekkers, family groups and relay teams, some raising money for their charities, turned out in their hundreds. The St Ives Hub was humming at the Norris Museum where the Hunts Society for the Blind offered tea and ran out of homemade cake. The WOW! Team were amazed at the stamina of some walkers – one family 'of legends', including a nine year-old daughter, started out from Earith at 7.30 am

and finished the complete route through the valley at St Neots at 5.30 pm – with only one blister! Wow! indeed.

There was only one reported hiccup.



Early on a message came through – escaped cows on the path! Luckily they were also walking quite briskly and were soon rounded up. No stickers for them.

The WOW! Day's crowning feature has to be the re-introduction of the ferry at the Old Ferryboat Inn at Holywell. For one day only, and with the kind permission of Holywell-cum-Needlingworth Parish Council, and facilitated by Jones Boatyard (see left), walkers could cross the river here, and explore the myriad paths of the Fen Drayton RSPB Reserve. This was so popular GOVT is wondering if it might one day be a permanent feature ... **WOW!**



Above:
Part of The Port on the River exhibition provided by St Ives Town Team.

Exciting time for the Rotary Club

It has been an exciting time for the St Ives Rotary Club as we welcome Rob Jarrett as a new member to the Club and celebrate the election of long standing member Moira Penny (third from left below) as the new District Governor Rotary.

As she begins her year in office Moira said she feels both honoured and excited to serve as District Governor. She went on to say she feels proud of the District's Peace Advocate Programme, a dynamic, school-based effort focused on nurturing conflict resolution skills, emotional well-being, and everyday life skills among primary and secondary school students, helping young people develop the tools they need to lead with empathy, navigate challenges, and build a more peaceful world, starting in the classrooms.

Rotary Clubs have also played and continue to play a huge role in supporting community resilience, whether that means helping towns recover after hardship and crisis, supporting mental health, or strengthening connections at grassroots level.

Moira said that Rotary thrives on fun and friendship, it's what keeps our clubs vibrant and our members energized and that Rotary needs to welcome new members and now Corporate membership is also available.

Does Rotary interest you?

Why not go along to one of their Tuesday evening meetings: 6.15p.m. at the St Ives Golf Club

Contact: mailto:membership@stivesrotarycamb.org.uk to make arrangements.



Holt Island News

Last Thursday, over 80 people attended the Annual Meeting in the Corn Exchange and were treated to some stunning new video footage of the Island's wildlife, plus an informative presentation about Otters. And the Holt Island Honey was a sell-out!

Right: Keith Grimwade, Chair of the Friends group, and Peter Pilbeam (right), from the Cambridgeshire Mammal Group, with Blodwyn, the female Welsh Otter.



On Monday, Anglia in Bloom judges spent the morning on the reserve, assessing it in the 'Nature Conservation Area/Nature Reserve' category. Keith said, 'We find out the result at the Awards Ceremony on 4th September, but we are confident that they enjoyed their visit. The hard work by our many volunteers has paid off.' Judges Below: Peter Haynes and Philip Peacock (centre and centre right) are pictured here with Julian Limentani and Keith from the Friends group (left), and Sam Dobson, Huntingdonshire District Council Ranger (right). Photo Alan Bennett.



TOLL GAMES DAY

Last Sunday between 11am and 4pm St Ives Bridge and the Chapel of Leger in St Ives was transformed into a playground and time machine as hundreds of people played their way over the river.

This was one of the Town Team's events to celebrate the 600 anniversary of the bridge. In the lead up to the event, artists Sally Stenton and Caroline Wendling, worked with four schools. Over three hundred children took part in workshops.

The Norris Museum, the Civic Society, the County Council, the Town Council and twenty volunteers were involved and over 400 passers-by took part.

Some were transported back to childhood experiences through Hopscotch, Pooh Sticks and Cat's Cradle. All ages played together on the bridge and in the Chapel, where over 20 games were on offer. Memories, laughter and unexpected encounters made this a magical event.

Sound recording and video clips were recorded throughout the day with potential to expand on the project next year.

Below: Also in the Chapel - the 4 Winds Sax Quartet's concert, part of the 600 celebrations.





FEST IS A NOT FOR PROFIT VOLUNTARY GROUP - RUNNING EVENTS FOR THE PEOPLE OF ST IVES

Music on The Waits

July 27th Brooks Williams Americana Blues and Folk
The sensational sound of Brooks Williams and Aaron Catlow - guitar and violin - who will be performing a mixture of Blues, Jazz, Americana.

August 3rd Manea Town Band Silver Band
August 10th Musical Amigos Stella, Chris & Art
August 17th St Ives Musical Theatre Songs from Stage
August 24th Denim Roses Country Music Band
August 31st James Schouten Sinatra to Opera

SUNDAYS JULY & AUGUST 2025
2.30PM - 4PM • THE WAITS, ST IVES



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Fest St Ives www.stivesfest.org.uk

29th August Johnny and Ranjan



Johnny Wright and Ranjan Vasudevan last played here in 2023 and will be making a welcomed return to once again delight us with their brilliant playing. Two superb guitarists and entertainers.



Doors open at 7pm.
Concerts start at 7.30pm.
Tickets £10 from the venue or
www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents



Jeffery meets Anglia In Bloom Judges (see p1).



having your say ...

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The Riverporter

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OTHER NEWS

A voice from the past... well possibly!

Well, here at *The Riverporter* after all these years reporting on the issues affecting St Ives we thought we were the only ones speaking up for our great little town. But it appears that not only is the spirit of St Ives still thriving, we also have St Ivo himself looking in and making his thoughts, deeds and town history, once again known to our friendly towns' folk.



Copyright St Ivo and possibly Oliver Cromwell

You can imagine our surprise receiving a message from the spirit of St Ivo offering to write articles for *The Riverporter* however as he/she has confirmed their wish to remain totally anonymous we can only guess the author behind the nom de plume.

The following text is extracted from St Ivo on his own community facebook page... 'Looking for a bit of fun, local history, and a cast of eccentric characters with questionable fashion and excellent quills? You've found the right place! Here you'll meet Saint Ivo, Oliver Cromwell, Saint Audrey, Saint Neot, and more as they explore (and occasionally mock) the goings-on in St Ives, Huntingdon, St Neots, and the noble villages beyond. St Ivo is promising to bring forth a mix of local satire and historical storytelling, a light-hearted way to learn about our area's rich past and a place where you can even create your own character and join the medieval mayhem! The past is calling... and St Ivo has strong opinions on potholes that pre-date the Normans.'

Well for now *The Riverporter* will keep a close eye of St Ivo's scribing and see if his probably unique viewpoint can guide our future... Take a guess at his identity and let us know who you think is behind his jolly jape?

Right: The Riverporter had its own view on a road matter in our April 1668 edition!



Ivo announces reopening of new 6th Form

The Principal of St Ivo Academy, Tony Meneagh, has announced that the ribbon cutting ceremony for their opening of their new Sixth Form will take place at 4.00pm on Thursday 4 September 2025 at St Ivo Academy. Mr Meneagh said 'This marks the beginning of an exciting new era for our school, our students, and the wider community of St Ives and Cambridgeshire. Our newly reimagined Sixth Form represents more than a physical transformation, it embodies a bold vision for academic excellence, opportunity, and aspiration.'

Council spent £506,581 on signs

Following an FOI request to the County Council by Huntingdon Town Councillor, David Landon Cole, it transpired that over half a million pounds has been spent on 20mph signs in Huntingdon, St Ives, St Neots, Ramsey and Bury, Great Staughton, Upwood and the Raveleys, and Houghton and Wyton.



Fawlt sign amuses?

Once again the St Audrey illuminated road sign has caused much mirth with its unique way of getting messages to drivers. We do hope that it isn't a distraction as drivers try to work out the meaning.

With our infamous road trap and this Fawlt sign St Ives now has more sights to see than just an old bridge!



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 or condemns the opinions expressed.

Dear Milly and Tilly

As a driver myself, I know how hard it is to drive at 20mph. As someone who walks into and around town regularly, I am extremely grateful to all those considerate drivers who are really trying and are keeping the roads around town so much safer for pedestrians. Thank you all!

Heather Walker

Dear Milly and Tilly

Subject: MP racial abuse

I totally agree that racists should be called out, and believe it's criminal and [should be] treated as such. However, the following also made me very angry when a certain Tory candidate, Mr Ben Obese-Jecty, came to my house during lead up to the last General Election and told me that if 'illegal' immigrants were not sent to Rwanda I could find myself living next door to a rapist. If that's not fueling racism I don't know what is.

Roberto Zanconato

Dear Milly and Tilly

Subject: Blood donors required urgently

Hundreds of B negative donors in the East of England are being called on to donate as the NHS warns that supplies of this rare blood type are at risk of running low.

There are 1,649 B negative donors in the region and the NHS is calling on them to come forward urgently as a combination of a shrinking donor base and recent high demand for B negative blood has left stocks under pressure. To book an appointment to give blood. Call 0300 123 23 23 or visit www.blood.co.uk NHS

Hello, Milly & Tilly,

Are you coming to the next Eco-Café at the Library on Sat 9 August, 10 – 12 noon? We'll be talking about all things FOOD, so you might be interested! Where does your food come from, who grows it – and how? Fairtrade? From the other side of the world? Strawberries out of season? What about food waste at home and by supermarkets? Community fridges and food banks? Come to learn more or to ask pertinent questions; all welcome.

stivesecocafe@gmail.com

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