

# The Riverporter

COVERING THE NEWS FOR ST IVES AND AROUND

PLEASE READ AND PASS ON

Issue I90: 8 August 2025

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

## Let's hear it for the Team!

**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/cexevents](http://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 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.



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

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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)



## 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/>



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!!!

## 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.

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.

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).



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



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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.



King's Army



And just before midday the bridge is blown up again!



Roundhead Association







# 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.







Milly missed the 600 as she doesn't like loud bangs.



having your say ...

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

**PLEASE NOTE:** Letters are reproduced as presented by the writer. Editing is confined to grammatical corrections or minor trimming to fit the space. *The Riverporter* neither condones or condemns the opinions expressed.

#### Dear Milly and Tilly

Is some enterprising photographer compiling a DVD or book with all the wonderful 600 goings on over the weekend, please. It was so well organised and I'd like a keepsake of the event.

#### Steve Puttick

**Dear Steve,** The Town Team are planning to do just this. They asking anyone who has good images and video of the weekend to email townteam@stivescambridgeshire.co.uk **Ed.**

#### Dear Milly and Tilly,

**Ref: COPE**

Cambridgeshire Older Peoples Enterprise is a social club for anyone over the age of 50 years. We meet monthly in The Corn Exchange from 2pm - 4pm. Admission is £3 which includes tea/coffee and biscuits. Each month we have a Speaker on various interesting topics and we organise outings e.g The Coast and the Theatre. Our next talks are: **21st August** Peter Severson: Shooting, Fishing, Hunting  
**18th September** Robert Colbert: Alzheimers and Dementia.

A warm welcome awaits you. To learn more about us call Angie on 01480 300726

#### Dear Milly and Tilly,

**This letter was sent to our MP**

Yesterday my 91 year old neighbour received the news that Barclays is to close its Monday and Friday, face-to-face banking support sessions at St Ives Corn Exchange on 31st October 2025.

One more nail in the banking coffin of elderly people and the Town of St Ives. Expectations are, that everyone will become online literate, and therefore banking in person, as has been the case, has become obsolete.

The person is becoming an account number within a sort code, controlled by an algorithmic management. The plain fact is that as people age, their ability to cope with the demands of passwords, ID numbers, in a secure manner, requires a clear thinking mind.

The onset of Alzheimer's dementia firstly raises anxiety levels and stress, as was experienced by my own bank manager, even though many of his daily activities were dealt with normally. Secondly, support by family, because of commitments is not always available.

'By your side', the phrase used by Lloyds, is becoming meaningless, when the company, and managers, do not fully understand the requirements of [many of] their 'customers'.

Kind regards **Philip Noble**

**Dear Philip** This is also a blow to the Corn Exchange who will lose the income Barclays pay to use the facility. **Ed.**

# The Riverporter

To listen to the latest **Riverport Radio Podcast** go to <https://riverportradiopodcast.buzzsprout.com>

## OTHER NEWS

### Local rock legend, Terry Reid, dies

Terry was born in Little Paxton, but lived in Bluntisham as a child and attended St Ivo School. He went on to have an extremely successful career releasing 10 albums and his songs have been recorded by many artists including The Hollies and Crosby, Stills and Nash. He was the solo supporting act for The Rolling Stones, Cream, Jethro Tull, and Fleetwood Mac and famously turned down offers by Jimmy Page to be the lead singer of the band that became Led Zeppelin, and also turned down Ritchie Blackmore to front Deep Purple. In 2011 he played a gig at the Corn Exchange where his mum was at the front of the audience.



### Govt vows to protect 'pavement pints'

An article published by Sky News reports a new government plan but here in St Ives I think we may be ahead of the game. *A wave of new cafes, bars, music venues and outdoor dining' could come to the UK - as the government unveils plans to overhaul planning rules and 'breathe new life into the high street'.* Under the proposals, ministers also want to reform licensing rules to make it easier for disused shops to be converted into hospitality venues.

### Take Care of Door-to-door sellers!

The following notice has been received from Detective Sergeant Jonathan Lockwood stating Police had reports of door-to-door sellers visiting homes in the area.

They are often nicknamed 'Nottingham Knockers' and involve people claiming to have recently been released from prison and selling goods to help them raise funds and mend their ways. However, this is not part of any officially recognised offender rehabilitation programme and residents are being urged to remain cautious and report any suspicious behaviour to police. If a crime is taking place call 999 otherwise report online or call 101.

The Riverporter can confirm that a group of women were seen working their way through the centre of town around a week ago and they are working together. Please take care.

### Two resignations at Town Council

St Ives Town Council has advertised the resignation of two councillors. Sadly the excellent Rebecca Chapman has resigned due to poor health, however it is likely that she will remain active as a campaigner for the environment and *The Riverporter* wish her all the best in the future. Her North Ward seat will now be filled by co-option and applicants should contact the Council by noon on Wednesday 10th September if they wish to be considered for the post.

The other resignation is for Sajjad Khan's West Ward seat. Sajjad was co-opted to the Town Council last October and stood as a candidate in May's County Council elections stating in *The Riverporter* 'As your Town Councillor and former Magistrate, I've always pushed for transparency at every level. I've fought for safer streets, reliable buses, and a future our kids deserve.' Sadly his fight didn't last long! Since failing to win the CC seat he has only attended one full TC meeting.

### Band of the Welsh Guards to play here

On Saturday 27th September at the Freedom Parade by 42 Engineers (Geographic) the public will be able to see the renowned Band of the Welsh Guards who will lead the parade.

### Listen to our day at the seaside

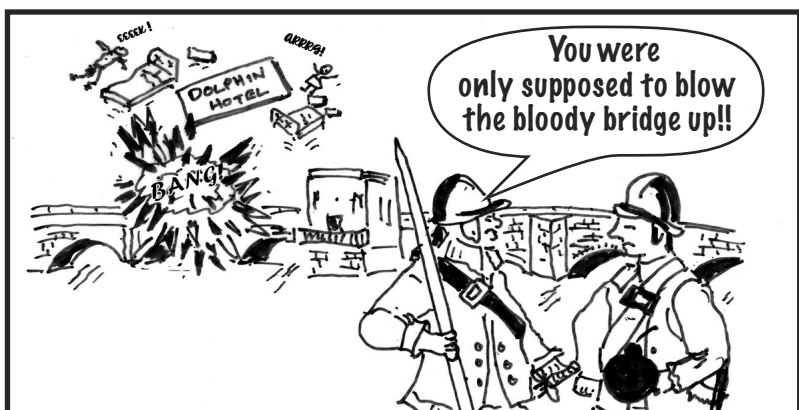
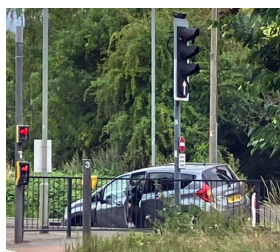
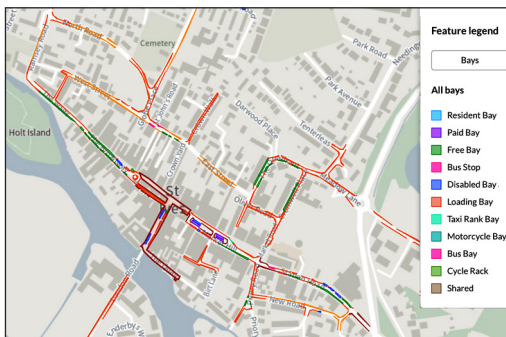
Riverport Radio's latest podcast is now available to listen to. Episode 10 features our day trip to Hunstanton on the Whippet Coach service. We speak with fellow travellers and people enjoying a day in the sunshine. You can hear it, and all the other nine episodes at: [//riverportradiopodcast.buzzsprout.com](https://riverportradiopodcast.buzzsprout.com)



## Parking Enforcement starts

The long awaited parking enforcement powers have now started as penalty notices were issued on London Road this week. The usual negative comments appeared on-line with some suggesting enforcing parking will kill the town. The map below shows where the restrictions are and that there's lots of free parking. Perhaps enforcing the rules that already exist will have the opposite effect and improve the town for many visitors. The Dolphin, which is being guided by Amanda Buttriss, formerly of the Taproom is offering all day parking for £2.

However the trap is working well!



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### 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



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