

The Riverporter

COVERING THE NEWS FOR ST IVES AND AROUND

PLEASE READ AND PASS ON

Issue I86: 13 June 2025

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

So much happening during Green Week

Mayor Julie Kerr launched St Ives Green Week when she cut the giant paper chain at last Saturday's very busy Farmers' Market.

Among the many events planned was the St Ives Eco Café, which took place in the Free Church, with a swap rail and a display of 'green' issues (see below).



The Farmers' Market had nine tables run by organisations taking part in St Ives Green Week: The Wildlife Trust, HDC Waste Minimisation team,



St Ives Against Rubbish (StAR) (above), Friends of Holt Island, RSPB Hunts local group, St Ives in Bloom, The Civic Society, Sew, Mend and Save and the St Ives Repair Café. There was the first of many events at the Library: 'hedgehog crafts' with the Shepreth Wildlife Conservation Trust.

The St Ives Electric Riverboat and the Hunts Ramblers both held their first event on Sunday, discovering the Ouse Valley on boat and by foot. The gardeners of St Ives in Bloom and the Hill Rise Allotment Association

also ran community events and the Town Team hosted a great concert at the Bandstand (below), while the Wildlife Trust led a fascinating guided walk around Houghton Meadows Nature Reserve.

We plan to have photos from Wednesday's Community Day at the Coop and the Burleigh Hill Community Centre in the next issue, along with reports on contributions by all the Schools in St Ives, and the competition run by the Rotary Club for all the primary schoolchildren. The 'week' has a second weekend, with an art event at the Norris Museum, the St Ives Repair Café at the Methodist Church (just drop in even if you haven't booked), and another guided walk on Holt Island - all on Saturday. The final event is on Sunday afternoon - a Pilgrimage



Walk from the Free Church to Holywell. Details are on the bottom of page 5 of *The Riverporter* 184. The idea of the week is to raise awareness of the many issues of climate, pollution and biodiversity loss facing us even here in green St Ives. Visit the Library and make a pledge to help St Ives become an even more eco-friendly place to live!

Dickie de Vere & The Dorchester Mavericks at the Bandstand.



THE 600th ANNIVERSARY

On Friday 30th May, the first of three concerts took place in the Chapel playing music from the past 600 years. The Karen Hubbard String Quartet (left) played to a full house as part of the celebrations for the 600 anniversary of our famous bridge.

The next concert, by the Four Winds Sax Quartet, takes place on Friday 11th July and will feature two performances. The first at 7pm is sold out, however the second at 8.30pm, still has seats available. The concerts are free to attend but seats must be booked at: www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives

There will be a chance to donate to the funds for the celebrations at the end.



DIARY OF EVENTS

Please email: editor@theriverporter.uk

JUNE 2025

Sunday 22nd - Civic Parade & Service 11.30am All Saints Church.

Sunday 22nd - Picnic in The Park. Warners Park from noon. **FREE**

Friday 27th - COSI lunchtime concert. A collection of pieces performed by a woodwind quartet. 1pm at St Ives Free Church **FREE**.

Friday 27th - Chapel Arts concert with Lexie Green and Johnny 'Magic Boy' Wright - Play Americana. St Ives Corn Exchange 7.30pm. Tickets £10 from the Bar or www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents.

JULY

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

Wednesday 2nd - Engage: Cambridgeshire During the Civil War - 2pm, St Ives Library - Donations Encouraged. Discover details of local sieges and skirmishes that took place during the rise of Oliver Cromwell and his victory over the King. Sample 17th century food and view replica weapons and costumes.

Saturday 5th - St Ives Community Choir 'Rock and Pop Icons' in the Free Church at 7.30 pm. Tickets £9/children £5 at the door or in advance .

Sunday 6th - Flea on The Quay - 10am to 1pm The Quay St Ives.

Sunday 6th - COSI Summer Concert - Across time and imagination 7pm St Ives Free Church Tickets £10 (u16 free) from www.ticketsource.co.uk/chamber-orchestra-of-st-ives or on the door.

Friday 11th - Four Winds Sax Quartet Music from the past 6 centuries. Two performances at 7pm and 8.30pm, The Bridge Chapel. A free event but tickets must be booked from www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives.

Saturday 12th/Sunday 13th - Carnival and Music Festival - Hill Rise.

Sunday 20th - WOW - A series of events and walks along the Ouse Valley Way. For details of what is happening see page 2.

Sunday 20th - 600 Anniversary Celebrations - Toll Games Day. Instead of paying a Toll to cross the bridge - play a game. Hence 'Toll Games Day'!

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.

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

Thursday 11th - Sun 14th - The Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival - A FREE to attend Festival. Details from www.stivescambridgeshire.co.uk

OCTOBER

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



Read on-line at www.theriverporter.uk or see our Facebook page. Email: editor@theriverporter.uk

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

PICNIC IN THE PARK

THIS SUMMER OUR TENTH ANNIVERSARY

Beer Tent
Food Stalls
Family Fun
Live Music

Warner's Park, St Ives
Sunday 22nd June 2025
12noon - 6pm

Also featuring: Five Star Swing & So 80s

Joyrider

FREE EVENT

QR Code

Sawtry

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FEST support GREEN WEEK

FEST St Ives www.stivesfest.org.uk

Otters at Holt Island Nature Reserve Meeting!

Want to know more about Otters locally, and further afield? Read on!

Peter Pilbeam, from the Cambridgeshire Mammal Group, has a vast experience of this enigmatic animal, and is the guest speaker at the Friends of Holt Island Nature Reserve Annual Meeting on **Thursday 17th July at 7pm in St Ives Corn Exchange.**

This will be a popular event so please save the date and let us know you are coming by emailing us at: meeting@holtisland.org

We can then reserve your place and make sure we have pizza, cake and soft drinks to go round!

Peter's talk will cover Otter habitats and sightings, their lifestyle, behaviour and diet. He will include (and display) details of the county's five-yearly survey for signs of otters, and information about the sixth National Otter Survey. He'll also give you some tips on how to increase your chances of seeing one, on an evening or early morning.

Before Peter's talk there will be a short AGM and some extraordinary footage of Holt Island wildlife from our hidden cameras. If you are already a Friend of the reserve you'll have the opportunity to renew your subscription, and if not we'll have forms available for you! And copies of our newsletter The Islander.



Photograph by Nigel Sprowell.

Keith Grimwade, Chair of FOHINR, says, *'This is set to be our event of the year so don't miss it. After all, everyone loves an otter! And we have some amazing footage of our local visitors to show you.'*

The Friends of Holt Island Nature Reserve is a registered charity dedicated to the promotion and protection of the reserve in St Ives for the benefit of all.

Visit us at www.holtisland.org

THE 600th ANNIVERSARY

The celebrations for the 600th Anniversary of our bridge include concerts (see front page), talks (see right), and other events, as well as the Civil War re-enactment taking place on 26th and 27th July.

One of the events is the Toll Games Day (see far right). On Sunday 20th July anyone crossing the bridge will be asked to pay a toll. But you needn't worry as the toll is not a payment of money but the playing of a game.

Sally Stenton and Caroline Wendling have been researching the games played over the past 600 years and some of these will be played to cross the bridge that day. They have also been engaging with our local schools and asking students to invent new games.

Tolls played an important part in the history of the bridge and were in place for several hundred years, only ceasing in 1920, following lots of complaints. This must have been quite a relief at the time as the bridge was the only way in and out of St Ives for all traffic.

The main event will take place on Saturday 26th July when, in the morning, troops will battle in the town centre and simulate blowing up the bridge. From 2pm on Saturday and all day Sunday 27th July the action moves to Hill Rise Park. There will be a free shuttle bus to and from the park from the bus station on the Saturday.

Cambridgeshire libraries

St Ives Library
Wednesday 2nd July at 2pm
Cambridgeshire During The Civil War

Discover details of local sieges and skirmishes that took place during the rise of Oliver Cromwell and his victory over the King. Sample 17th Century food whilst viewing replica weapons and costumes.

Reserve your place by email:
stives.referral@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Or phone 0345 045 5225

Donation Event Refreshments available

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, Spotify, SoundCloud, Apple Music, Amazon Music, Google Play Music, Deezer, Pandora, Last.fm, iHeartRadio, TuneIn, Radio.com, iHeart, Pandora, Last.fm, iHeartRadio, TuneIn, Radio.com, iHeart, Pandora, Last.fm, iHeartRadio, TuneIn, Radio.com

THE 600th ANNIVERSARY

TOLL GAMES

artists Caroline Wendling and Sally Stenton invite you to

play here

SUNDAY 20TH JULY

for all ages

On the bridge, St Ives PE27 5UW

games through the ages

11am to 4pm

QR Code

Civic Society's new environmental projects

Calling gardeners, walkers & lovers of nature in St Ives!

The Civic Society launched two environmental projects this week to help protect our beautiful environment and needs your help!

A new Friends of the Thicket Path group is being set up jointly with Houghton & Wyton Parish Council to help clear our beloved Thicket of debris and invasive species so it can rejuvenate naturally and to plant woodland bulbs this autumn for a spring showing.

HDC's Countryside Services will guide us as to what to weed and will

provide bags. Anyone interested in helping set up the first Friends group, or clearing, or planting or fundraising please contact Christine at Chair@stivescivic.org.uk.

Public Rights of Way Project

Many of our public rights of way are well-trodden but others have fallen into disuse, have been built over or unwalkable. Will you join us in walking the paths, record and photograph what you find? Go to www.stivescivic.org.uk/PublicRightsOfWay to check out the maps and download the record sheet. We'd love to know what you discover.



Antiques Valuation Day & Vintage Stall

The Free Church, Saturday 28th June, 10-2 pm

Presented by St Ives Civic Society & Hyperion Auction House

Bring your items for valuation, Guess the Value Quiz, Raffle.

£3 entry fee to support new heritage projects in the town.

chair@stivescivic.org.uk





Milly has been busy joining in Green Week Walks and showing 'Jeff' the ropes on how to answer the letters.



having your say ...

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

The Riverporter

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

OTHER NEWS

Help needed for struggling blood stocks

The NHS have issued a plea to find 4,500 'missing' O neg donors in the region who haven't donated in the past year. Four bank holidays and two school breaks in just six weeks have led to critically low blood stocks and O negative blood can be given to anyone – making it vital in emergencies. Thousands of 'missing' blood donors across the East of England are being urgently called on as the NHS warns that supplies of O negative are critically low. Donating a unit of blood takes just an hour and each donation can save up to three lives. Men can give blood every three months and women every four months. **To book an appointment today at www.blood.co.uk, use the GiveBlood app or call 0300 123 23 23.**

Did lack of street lights contribute?

We were all shocked to hear of the attack on Christine Simpson who was grabbed and thrown to the ground on the driveway of her home, just 10 feet from her front door on North Road. The suspect fled with the 73-year-old's handbag. An investigation has since been launched by Cambridgeshire Police after she was left with a nasty head injury. Although no arrests have yet been made Christine's husband, Terry, told *The Riverporter* that the police had responded well and so had the public. Although still very upset by the experience Christine had received flowers from well wishers and people they did not know. Some years ago the street lights near their home had been removed. Could this have contributed to such a brazen assault? Meanwhile the Police would like to hear from anyone with information about the attack and they should contact the police via Cambridgeshire Constabulary's website.

Better odds and help for local groups

That is the what Cambridgeshire Community Lottery (CCL) says as it launches its business - All good local causes supported by the lottery will benefit.



Tickets cost just £1 a week. Each ticket has a 1 in 50 chance to win a prize each week, with a top prize of £25,000! There's a better chance of winning the jackpot than the National Lottery or the Health Lottery. Local groups can sign up with CCL in order to receive funds by going to their website at: cambridgeshirecommunitylottery.co.uk and who knows perhaps this could help our local groups replace the ever decreasing funds available.



Directors required for Corn Exchange

St Ives Corn Exchange are seeking volunteers who could help as Directors to shape the future of this well loved community centre. People with business and organisational skills are urgently needed. If you have a few hours spare a week, or perhaps you are retired and would like to help using your skills gained to benefit the management of the centre, then please contact them on 01480 496454. As I write this (Thursday 12 June) it is the funeral of Martin Collier, who was instrumental in the campaign to Save the Corn Exchange over fifteen years ago.

Dear Milly and Tilley, Response to the letter from Dazzled Driver in RP185

I welcome the new reduction of speed limits within St Ives. Speed is a major cause of pedestrian fatality risk, as shown in the following table. As you can see the risk of fatality is reduced by around a factor of 10 when reducing max speed from 30 to 20mph.

Impact Speed	Approximate Risk of Fatality (Pedestrian)
20 mph (32 km/h)	~2–5%
30 mph (48 km/h)	~20–25%
35 mph	~30–40%
40 mph	~80%
50+ mph	~Almost 100%

(Source: Department for Transport (DfT), ROSPA, WHO, and other studies)

Strange that 'Dazzled Driver' doesn't need to use his speedo in a 30mph zone, but spends all his time looking at the speedo when doing 20mph. **Roberto Zancanato** (Resident, within 20mph zone, St Ives)

Dear Milly and Tilley, Subject: Listed buildings and grab rails

Having just been to my dentist in the Broadway I was just about able to climb the steps into the building without help, I am 81. Anyone over pension age and beyond will

know what I'm talking about. Why no grab rail I ask myself? I am told the same story every time, that because it is a listed building a grab rail is not allowed.

How long before someone has an accident or has it already happened? There are several of these listed buildings with difficult steps about the town. Is it possible to have a grab rail fitted that is in keeping with the style of the buildings?

It is impossible for wheelchair users to get into these buildings meaning that the businesses are losing potential customers who have no access. I don't know who is responsible for this problem. Is it the council or the Listed Building committee, but something needs to be done.

Thanks to the young lady at the dentist who helped me down the steps.

Betty Brown

Dear Betty, Whoever is telling you this is probably wrong. I consulted a specialist in listed buildings who said it may be the owner of the building doesn't want the expense of fitting an appropriate rail.

Our famous Chapel on our bridge, which is an ancient monument of the highest classification for listed buildings, recently had a rail (a very common modern one) put in to allow people to use the stairs there, so it could be done.

Milly.

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.

Hi Millie & Tilly,

I am researching the buildings and companies which have come and gone on the River Mill site during the last 70 years. Do any of your readers have a copy of The Sinclair Story they no longer want, please? **Steve Puttick**

Dear Milly and Tilly, Ref: The slow lane

Several years ago, there was a fatality on what is now the A1307. As a result, it was decided to do a series of works to make the road safer. No problem there in principle. The first step was the imposition of a 40 mph zone from Fenstanton to Huntingdon. This was to be followed by a series of works, which were always being delayed. Time passed, and eventually, on 12 January 2025, works started. The signs said completion by Spring 2025. Spring has come and gone. Summer has arrived, but the speed restrictions, and cones, remain.

It has been announced that work is due to be finished soon. Soon appears to be the end of summer. Hopefully that is 2025. **A reader.**

Dear Milly and Tilly

Regarding the block paved riverside path that runs from the Norris to the church yard. There is a Tree that overhangs the steps at the end which needs pruning. Also the bench that is just before the steps either needs replacing or power washing. The whole area is dark and is covered in bird poo and dangerous when wet.

I have contacted both the parish council and HDC sending photographs, both say it is not their problem. Can you shed light on who's problem it is and who could clean it up.

Kind regards Barrie Sullivan

Dear Barrie, That leaves the County Council. They did replace the railings a while ago, when a car ended up in the river. So the best person to contact is your new County Councillor, Alex Bulat. We have asked her to look into it. **Milly**

Dear Milly and Tilly,

As you know I'm a newcomer to St Ives. But in this short time I have noticed all sorts of interesting things with our lovely High street shops. Some closures and some exciting new openings, and of course lots of exciting new events happening through the Summer. But I wanted to ask if you know what is going on at the old Barclays bank building?

I get to pass there regularly and often hear banging and crashing sounds of men working. The scaffolding is huge but there's nothing I can see happening below it.

I understand that losing the banks and cash machines is a big blow. Could it be that the bankers haven't decided what to build? Or have they lost the plans! **Love Jeffery**

Dear Milly and Tilly,

Having been away until recently, I have been catching up with local news etc., and your issue dated 16th May caught my eye, particularly the commentary on the recent local elections.

You seem to be taking a pop at Paul Bristow and the Conservatives, by questioning the validity of his mandate having secured only 28.4% of the vote, and only 9% of the total electorate. Unfortunately, you did not extend your analysis and opinion to the results of the local elections in the two St Ives wards. In St Ives North and Wyton, Julie Kerr won with 28.5% of the vote and 9.4% of the total electorate. In St Ives South and Needingworth, Alex Bulat won with only 23.1% of the vote and 8.3% of the total electorate.

You also make a somewhat rash and unsubstantiated statement that had a supplementary vote (SV) voting system been in place for the mayoral election, any of the candidates could have won. Really? For that to happen, the Labour and Lib Dem candidates on 20% and 19% of the vote respectively would have to more than doubled their vote. Whilst not impossible, highly improbable. You also claim that under SV voting the winner would have the support of the majority of the voters. Even the winner with 28% of the vote would be unlikely to increase their share of the vote to more than 50%, and therefore any winner under SV voting would be unlikely to enjoy the support of the majority of voters.

Strangely, you have not considered the possible effect of a SV voting system on the result of the two local elections. Given that both elections were won with small majorities, 91 and 88 votes respectively, and that the two centre-right candidates polled together 1167 and 1147 votes respectively, a SV voting system might well have produced different results - a 'proper mandate' according to you.

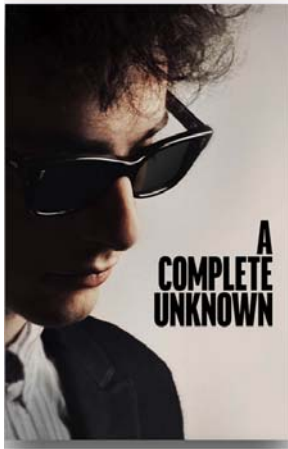
I think your readers deserve better than selective reporting, which also undermines your claim to be 'A totally independent newspaper unconnected with any group or organisation'. If you disagree with me, why not publish this email and invite your readers to respond with their own opinions?

Yours sincerely **Esmond Edwards, Ramsey**

Dear Esmond, Thank you for your letter and you are correct. I made an error stating any party could have won. I forgot that under SV only the top two candidates go through so the winners could have only been the Conservative or Reform candidates.

However Paul's exaggerated claim to have a **big** mandate is not a matter of opinion, he claimed it and it is certainly not a **big** mandate under any circumstance.

Unlike some local press we do ask questions of people in charge and we will continue to do that, regardless of which party they are from. I make no apology for that. The article wasn't just about SV so it wasn't relevant to compare the two elections. Anyway thank you for your comments, it is better to have some criticism rather than getting no response and I hope other readers will respond as you stated.



A Complete Unknown
Thursday 3 July 2025 at 7:30pm
Doors open 6:30pm. Tickets £7
Director: James Mangold, 141m, Cert: 15

Synopsis: *A Complete Unknown* (2024), directed by James Mangold, follows a young Bob Dylan (Timothée Chalamet) as he arrives in New York City in 1961, seeking folk legend Woody Guthrie. Under Pete Seeger's guidance, Dylan rises in the Greenwich Village folk scene, forging key relationships with Joan Baez and girlfriend Sylvie Russo. As his fame grows, he struggles with artistic expectations, culminating in his controversial electric performance at the 1965 Newport Folk Festival. The film captures Dylan's transformation from folk troubadour to rock icon, showcasing his early career and musical evolution.



Mr. Burton
Thursday 7 August 2025 at 7:30pm
Doors open 6:30pm. Tickets £7
Director: James Mangold, 141m, Cert: 15

Synopsis: *Mr. Burton* is a dramatic biopic that follows the life of enigmatic educator Edward Burton, whose unconventional teaching methods inspire a generation of troubled youth. Set in a struggling inner-city school, the film explores Burton's complex past, his battle against bureaucracy, and his deep belief in the power of second chances. As students begin to thrive under his guidance, Mr. Burton must confront personal demons to fully realise his mission. A story of redemption, resilience, and transformative education.

Tickets at screenstives.org.uk or in the Corn Exchange

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The Courtyard St Ives

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 **the courtyard**

The courtyard, behind Hyperion Auctions, Station Road, St Ives, PE27 5BH