

The Riverporter

PLEASE READ AND PASS ON

COVERING THE NEWS FOR ST IVES AND AROUND

Issue I8I: 4 April 2025

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

Town Meeting - a bit of a damp squib?

Around 40 people attended the Annual Town Meeting on Thursday 20th March in the Corn Exchange, several coming to hear the Principle of St Ivo Academy, Tony Meneagh, who pulled out at the last minute due to ill health.



The audience at the Town meeting hanging on every word!

This was clearly a disappointment to those who wanted to hear what he had to say about the school, since it has received quite a lot of negative publicity recently.

The Town Meeting is usually about the Council and its work rather than the School, however the presence of Mr Meneagh was considered quite important by councillors due to the problem of numbers in the 6th form and its future, that will affect the majority of the children in the town. The Chairman for the evening, Ed Goodman, read out a report from Mr Meneagh, which, despite Ed's fine reading, didn't have quite the same appeal as a delivery in person.

The rest of the business, which included a short report by the Mayor and reports on the work of the Council by Chairs of the various committees went ahead. This included a presentation by the new Town Clerk, Libby White, about the Council's plans for the next five years. Libby explained that rather than being reactive to current situations that arise, she hoped that, with the help of the community, a vision for the town could be put in place, allowing forward planning. Also in attendance was Police Sgt Andy Caruana, District Councillor Cath Gleadow and Matthew Setchel of FLAG, the flood action group.

After the reports attendees asked questions on the following issues:

- Seeking the Council to help get the EA to look after the river better.
- The replacement of the damaged lights on The Bridge.
- The progress on the Neighbourhood Plan.
- A request for a replacement meeting about the School.
- Parking and the latest on HDC taking over parking enforcement.

On the last point the audience were told the date for this is expected to be August this year, when it is assumed a Traffic Warden might be seen in St Ives.



Poppy Man gets second medal 70 years apart

St Ives' most famous centenarian, George 'Ed' Kelly was awarded an MBE at Windsor Castle last week for his remarkable service to the Royal British Legion and RAF veterans.

At 101 years old and 70 years after receiving the Air Force medal from Queen Elizabeth II, His Majesty the King told Ed that this award was long overdue.

25th April Greg Brice



Nominated for the third year running in the 2025 UK Blues Awards - Best Acoustic Act, Best Contemporary Act and Emerging Act of the Year - that's Greg Brice. Reviews include -

'The most exquisite finger-picked acoustic blues that you could wish to hear' - Fatea. 'A brilliant set, mellow, and thought provoking, a treat for the senses.' - Blues Matters. Greg's first appearance in St Ives, will surely not be his last - a wonderful evening is in store!

Doors open at 7pm. Concerts start at 7.30pm.

Tickets £10 from the venue or www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents



DIARY OF EVENTS

Please email: editor@theriverporter.uk

APRIL 2025

Tuesday 8th - HOSPICE and PALLIATIVE CARE a talk at St Ives Free Church. 11.30 to 12.30 £3.00

Friday 11th - The Enclosure Act: How Farming Practice in St Ives changed irrevocably. A Civic Society presentation by Bill Franklin. 7.30pm St Ives Free Church. Members Free £3 for non members.

Saturday 12th - Eco Café - St Ives Library 10am-Noon. We'll consider how our habit of Fast Fashion is at odds with the environment.

Saturday 19th - Easter Saturday Day of Dance. Four sets of Morris Dancers in the Town Centre. A free event to watch, enjoy and take part in?

Friday 25th - Chapel Arts Concert with Greg Brice see above.

MAY 2025

Saturday 3rd - Craft fair - Saints Crafters and every 1st Saturday of the month at the Free Church. Doors 9:30am. FREE ENTRY.

Sunday 4th - Flea on The Quay. A free to attend Flea market on The Quay, St Ives form 10am until 1pm on 1st Sunday of each month May - August.

Saturday 10th - Toby Lee Jazz & Blues Festival Fundraiser **SOLD OUT**

Wednesday 14th - Mayor Making - The Corn Exchange 7.30pm.

Friday 16th - Eating on the Ration - A Civic Society presentation by Chris Carr on rationing in WW2 and opportunity to try some wartime chocolate cake. 7.30pm St Ives Free Church. Members Free £3 for non members.

Saturday 17th - Community Information Day St Ives Corn Exchange from 10am to 1pm. Your chance to find out about local community groups.

Friday 30th - Karen Hubbard String Quartet An evening of music from the past 600 years! The Bridge Chapel. A free event but tickets must be booked from www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives.

JUNE

Sunday 8th - Dickie de Vere & The Dorchester Mavericks - a concert at The Bandstand on The Waits 2pm. Part of the Big Green Week see page 3.

Saturday 14th - The Quo Experience featuring Jeff Rich, Status Quo's drummer from 1985 to 2000. Jazz & Blues Festival Fundraiser St Ives Corn Exchange 8pm. Tickets - www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents or from venue.

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

BREAKING NEWS • BREAKING NEWS

IVES reduce admission for key match

St Ives Town Football Club are offering a reduced admission with 'football for a fiver' for their home league match against Halesowen, tomorrow 5 April. All adult and concession tickets will be reduced to £5.00 with under 16's - 12 years priced at £2.00 and anyone under 12 free of charge if accompanied by an adult. Tickets can be purchased in advance at www.stivestownfc.co.uk whilst cash and card payments will be accepted on the door, on the day. Kick-off at the Ives Quattro-Tech Westwood Road stadium is at 3:00pm.



ST IVES GREEN WEEK: 7th - 15th June

Plans for St Ives Green Week are going ahead at pace. If you would like to organise an event please get in touch with the coordinators through the St Ives eco café email address: stivesecocafe@gmail.com or on Facebook

You will be in good company! Very many local organisations are already committed to joining in:

WALKS and NATURE: We have guided walks planned by the Hunts Ramblers, the Wildlife Trust and Friends of Holt Island; a survey of local footpaths by the Civic Society; a pilgrimage to Holywell with the EcoFaith group; a BioBlitz led by HDC at Hill Rise Park; the Town Council's support for an extended "green" Farmers' Market; two St Ives in Bloom gardening sessions; and extra nature trips on the river by the St Ives Electric Riverboat Company.

RE-USE, RECYCLE and LITTER PICKS: The Coop is hosting a community day with bike repair and marking, shared with 'Sew, Mend and Save' at the Burleigh Hill Community Centre; St Ives Against Rubbish is organising two litter picks - with more run by the Schools; the Free Church is hosting the St Ives Eco Café with a clothes swap; the Methodist Church is hosting the St Ives Repair Café; and the local re-fill and repair shops will be in support.

EDUCATION and ARTS: The Rotary Club is supporting schools' nature writing; the Library and Norris Museum are running special art clubs and storytime activities, including 'Crafty Hedgehogs' from Shepreth Wildlife Park; the Town Team is organising a concert; and the Library and the Bookshop will have special displays.

A detailed programme will be published after Easter.

Follow St Ives Green Week on Facebook

Let's swap together for good



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

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St Ives Nature reserve opens after tough winter

The Friends of Holt Island Nature Reserve announce the reserve will be welcoming visitors again from Saturday 19 April

It has been touch and go, but thanks to the hard work of our volunteers we can re-open this month. It has been a difficult winter for the Island, with major damage to the boardwalk caused by a falling tree. Many hours of cold, muddy work by the Island's dedicated volunteers, guided by the District Council Ranger, has repaired the damage. This has been on top of winter maintenance - pollarding osiers, clearing areas of reed to allow regrowth and installing a new picnic table.

We are open from **10am - 4pm** on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays between April and the end of October, but do check our website <https://www.holtisland.org> because

we may have to close at short notice if there is bad weather and/or flooding. On weekdays a key is available from either the Norris Museum on The Waits, or One Leisure, Westwood Road.

Want to see more about the island reserve now? Use the QR code for a viewing of the wonderful new video made by volunteer David Brooks. You won't be able to resist a visit!

Keith Grimwade,
Chair: Friends of Holt Island Nature Reserve.



Photograph FOHINR.



Kidney Cancer UK Fundraising Event

Live Country Music + Dancing + Raffle

Nibbles on tables

Professional Vocalist

SARA HONEY

Come join us for a night of country and western fun! Sara will be singing some classic hits from popular artists like Patsy Cline, Dolly Parton, and Shania Twain. We'll also be doing some country line dancing, so put on your cowboy boots and hat, and get ready to kick up your heels! Don't miss out on this exciting event full of great music, dancing, and good company. Yeehaw!

Saturday 17th May

7:30pm to 11:00pm
Doors open 7:00pm

£20.95 per person

At St. Ives Corn Exchange

PE27 5AD

Purchase Tickets:

From the St. Ives Corn Exchange

Or Call Shirley on 07718 920019

Or visit Shirley's Coffee Shop

This year Shirley celebrates 10 years of Fundraising for Kidney Cancer UK

Tickets also available on the night at the door!

Net Proceeds donated to Kidney Cancer UK. The UK's leading kidney cancer charity. Registered Charity No. 1120146 in England www.kcuk.org.uk

Know your candidates on 1 May

On 1st May you will be able to elect your County Councillors for St Ives. There are two seats, St Ives North & Wyton and St Ives South & Needingworth. We hope to print statements from each of the candidates to help you choose who to vote for.

The candidates in each ward are:

St Ives North & Wyton
 BROWN Keith James, Lib Dems
 GILL Martin James, Conservative
 HOEKSMAN Tom, Greens
 KERR Julie Elizabeth, Independent
 KHAN Sajjad Ahmed, Labour
 SANDERSON Noah, Reform UK

St Ives South & Needingworth
 BULAT Alex, Labour and Co-op
 REYNOLDS Kevin A. Independent
 SMITH Chris, Greens
 SMITH Craig Thomas, Conservative
 TURLEY Mark Joseph, Reform UK
 WELLS Nic, Lib Dems

These elections are not a forgone conclusion as they used to be some years ago when the Conservatives were in control. The recent surge of Independent candidates has changed the political landscape locally along with national and local success for the Lib Dems.

Reform are touted as a Government in waiting by some national media although there have been some recent problems for them and their local candidates are largely unknown.

Whilst the Greens are slowly building support, Labour is slipping in the polls, despite PM Starmer's personal rating increasing following Trumps increasingly bizarre policies.

These elections will be hard fought as will the election for the Combined Authority Mayor also taking place on 1st May. We hope to cover those candidates in our next issue so *The Riverporter* might help you choose who to support.

You can also hear from some of the candidates in our latest **Riverport Radio Podcast**, which you find at <https://riverportradio.podcast.buzzsprout.com>

Statements from the candidates

Julie Kerr, Independent. St Ives North & Wyton Ward



You've seen the political parties and heard what they stand for. I am an Independent Candidate standing not for a Political Party but for the benefit of our community, free from party politics and outside influences.

Having lived in St Ives for 55 years, I have many years of experience in various community and voluntary organisations, and am currently an active Town and District Councillor; demonstrating an understanding of how I can serve as a County Councillor, whilst remaining in touch with the community and caring for needs of our residents. I have demonstrated a commitment and drive to serve and be our

spokesperson, showing initiative and determination with the various projects and roles I have undertaken, with residents needs always at the centre of any decisions, using public consultation to understand all views and get the best for everyone to improve our area.

A resident said 'we have learnt to trust you because you are honest, take the time to listen and will always do your best'. That is my promise to everyone. *Julie.*

Alex Bulat, Labour and Co-Op St Ives South & Needingworth



I did not grow up with politics - I learnt after realising how it impacts my life. I used to be a non-voter because I did not see politicians representing me and council debates simply seemed remote from my everyday life.

It was my personal experience navigating complex government systems that politicised me in my 20s. I have a pragmatic approach to local politics. Local council funding is challenging and I won't pretend everything that is needed can be done quickly - as I have learnt during the last 4 years as a councillor, the question always is, what to prioritise according to residents' needs and how to get the best value for our taxes.

We need more councillors who are proactive and present, holding councillor surgeries, raising local issues in meetings and delivering results for our towns and villages. While I cannot promise I will sort out every issue, I can promise that I will be visible, vocal and responsive. *Alex.*

Nic Wells Liberal Democrat St Ives South & Needingworth



Since being elected to serve our community as a District Councillor in 2022, it has been a genuine privilege to have been able to support so many people across our community with a range of issues. I care deeply about our wonderful Town and I'm standing to be our County Councillor on 1st May so that I can do even more for those who live here.

If elected, I will press for improvements in the Town's highway infrastructure, including improved cycling routes in town and between St Ives and Huntingdon. Recently I have been pressing Mayor Nik Johnson for improvements to the speed and frequency of bus services

between our communities. I am pleased to see the commitment that is now being made to this, however I am very concerned that this may all be cancelled if the Conservatives win power here.

I'm also very concerned about the current level of health and dental care provision locally. If elected, I will fight with my fellow Liberal Democrat County Councillors and the three Cambridgeshire Liberal Democrat MPs to deliver better healthcare services. *Nic.*

Kevin Reynolds, Independent St Ives South & Needingworth



Kevin has a record of service to the community; having retired from the Fire Service He has spent most of his life serving the community in one form or another. After almost 20 years serving on the Local and District Council's, Kevin decided to focus on Cambridgeshire County Council.

During his time as an elected representative he has served as Town Mayor of St Ives twice, Chairman of Huntingdonshire District Council and Chairman of Cambridgeshire County Council and was also the Chairman of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority.

Kevin is a rare commodity in local government have being born, worked and lived in St Ives all his life. A true St Ivian with the towns best interest always foremost. *Kevin.*

Craig Smith, Conservative St Ives South & Needingworth



I'm honoured to stand as your Conservative candidate for St Ives South and Needingworth. As a long-time resident, I care deeply about our community and want to ensure our voices are heard.

I've represented St Ives on the District and Town council, where I worked to support local needs. Professionally, I'm an electrical engineer at Addenbrooke's, managing teams to solve problems efficiently - skills I'll bring to the County Council.

I'll fight for better roads, schools, social care, and investment in skills and infrastructure, while fighting to protect our area from overdevelopment. *Craig.*

The Riverporter has written to the other candidates seeking their comments for inclusion in our next issue. Please remember you need a photo ID to vote.



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

Tilly and Milly like your letters.

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 Tilly and Milly,
Subject: Elections

I'm getting old and forget things quite quickly. The residents of St Ives South and Needingworth, need updating on past local events. I'm sure Erik's records will still be available to you. I can't remember all the detail but I think the Conservative candidate for the two mentioned communities has been here before. Elected as a Town Councillor and Deputy Mayor, but then resigning for reasons I can't remember. I'm sure Erik's records will enable locals to make their own minds up before the election.

Old and concerned of St Ives

Dear Old and concerned, I hope the information on the left will help you decide who to vote for. **ED.**

Dear Tilly and Milly,
Subject: Cycling

As someone who cycles in to St Ives to get to work, I agree with the letter in your last issue lamenting the state of the local roads. However, I write in support of the Broadway renovations which received short shrift in that letter.

The general ambiance of the Broadway has, in my view, been greatly enhanced by the changes. I'm currently sat in the Local Cafe, as I often am at lunch time, and through the window I can see benches, wonderful floral planters and handy cycle racks.

Reclaiming space from motor vehicles for the benefit of those spending time (and money) in our town can only be a good thing. I would also point to the new lunch offerings in this area (Chinese Thai Cafe, and Taj Street Kitchen) as evidence that this side of town is increasingly a place people want to visit and spend time. Now if only we could stop cars parking in the No Waiting At Any Time zone on Crown Street and Bridge Street. . . Kind regards, **Jonathan**

Dear Tilly and Milly,
Subject: Walk of Witness

As Easter approaches this year, I would like to comment on Easter 2026! I do not know when it all first began, but I know that for many folk, the Good Friday Walk of Witness in St Ives was a very special event, which many of us had been part of for more than 30 years.

For some reason, last year and this year we have been denied this event.

The only reason given is the intricacies of Police procedures for gaining permission for it to happen. It is a mystery to the church community in St Ives why this should be so.



For two hours at most, once a year, to stand in our town square, with the Somersham Town Band playing hymns so wonderfully, while passers-by lingered to take part, and hear the message of Jesus on Good Friday - does not seem a lot to ask for. **Elizabeth Denham**

The Old Riverport Easter Ukulele Festival is another success



St Ives is becoming a major 'player' in the Ukulele world. On 20th March over 130 Uke players from around the region enjoyed a day strumming in St Ives Corn Exchange. Pictured is Craig Wheatley (right) from Market Harborough collecting his prize for the best dressed Roundhead or Cavalier. Tickets for 11th October Festival are already selling fast. The theme is Mods and Rockers and it is expected to sell out, so hurry if you wish to attend to: www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives

So who made your clothes?

And does it matter that you'll hardly wear some, then bin them? Do you buy at charity shops or would you hire for an 'event', or go to a Clothes Swap? Are we responsible for the very poorly paid workers suffering in dangerous conditions? Or do we care about landfill sites full of our clothing waste? Come and join our discussion on how we affect our own country and others by our 'need' or want for Fast Fashion - whatever that means.

Join us at Eco Café in St Ives Library on Saturday 12 April: 10.00 - 12.00. Everyone is welcome. stivesecocafe@gmail.com



Local pubs help raise funds for charity

Pubs and clubs across St Ives and the local villages took part in the **Rotary St Ives Charity pub quiz** on Thursday, March 27th, competing simultaneously against each other to vie for prize money to donate to a charity of their choice. Held twice a year, this event is always well attended, and around 470 quizzers attended 34 venues across Cambridgeshire. Pictured below are the team from Floods Tavern, including Quizmaster Simon Townend and landlord Philip Pope.



Five local venues were in the top ten, all choosing different charities to donate their prize money to; The Prince of Wales in Hilton donated to Jimmy's night shelter in Cambridge, The Three Horseshoes in Houghton chose The Ladybird Boat Trust, and Lakeside Lodge Golf Club nominated the Royal Papworth Charity. The Admiral donated to Over Day Care Centre, and The Mad Cat in Pidley, to Alzheimers UK. In total, £1430 was donated in prize money with a further £700 going into the Rotary charity fund to meet future requests for support.

The Rotary St Ives Charity Pub Quiz has now raised more than £72,500 since its inception. Many Rotarians and Rotary Friends volunteer as Quizmasters; if you'd like to get involved with future fundraising and community service projects, please contact membership@stivesrotarycams.org.uk

Olly to re-open on Good Friday

Tom Bletsoe (pictured) has taken the plunge and signed a five-year lease with Wells & Co to re-open this St Ives institution, the Oliver Cromwell Pub, taking it back to its origins as a traditional local serving traditional pub food. *The Riverporter* wishes him well as we've missed having lunch in the Olly and especially the lively Friday evenings.



Cambridge Flex tickets no longer valid

According to a useful entry on a local Facebook page, if you bought bundles of Cambridge Flex tickets on Stagecoach's app, they are no longer valid from St Ives. They have changed the area. If you call Stagecoach they will give you a refund if you can no longer use them. The new bundles are of course more expensive, so better to buy single trip ones until they change that price too!

Another night at the Movies

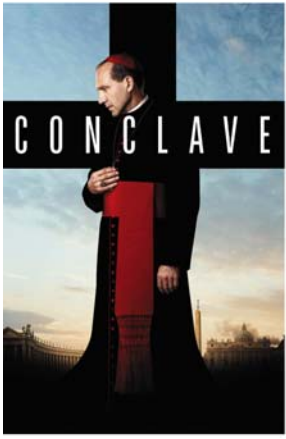
Local film maker Dan Attrill shared his film making experiences with the Riverport radio team in the latest pod cast out this week. Dan spoke of some of his successes at film festivals and especially 'The Haunted Hall' shot in our Corn exchange. His latest movie titled 'Dead To Me' was shown recently at the Romford horror film festival as part of a season described as 'Cheap thrills part 1'. You can hear Dan's story and movie making experiences by checking out our pod cast at Riverport radio pod cast on any major pod cast platform.

Photo shows Dan (far right) and his cast at their recent festival appearance.



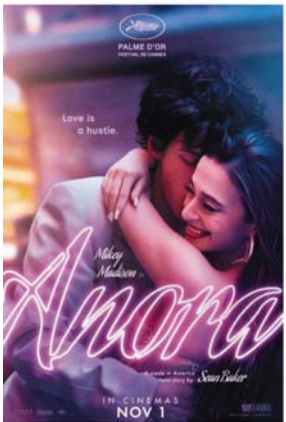
The Riverporter has received several requests for information regarding the new development on the corner by the boat yard as it appears to be taking a long time and is looking like a very major development. The RP understands that it contains 94 affordable homes (whatever that means) and the development is due to be completed in the last quarter of this year. Social media has not been kind to the development's appearance so we have yet to see the final project.





Conclave
 Thursday 1 May 2025 at 7:30pm
 Doors open 6:30pm. Tickets £7
 Director: Edward Berger, 120m, Cert: 12A

Synopsis: From director *Edward Berger* (*All Quiet on the Western Front*), *Conclave* follows one of the world's most secretive and ancient events -- selecting a new Pope. Cardinal Lawrence (*Ralph Fiennes*) is tasked with running this covert process after the unexpected death of the beloved Pope. Once the Catholic Church's most powerful leaders have gathered from around the world and are locked together in the Vatican halls, Cardinal Lawrence finds himself at the centre of a conspiracy and discovers a secret that could shake the very foundation of The Church. Also stars *Stanley Tucci, John Lithgow* and *Isabella Rossellini*.



Anora
 Thursday 5 June 2025 at 7:30pm
 Doors open 6:30pm. Tickets £7
 Director: Sean Baker, 139m, Cert: 18

Synopsis: *Anora* (2024), directed by *Sean Baker*, follows Ani Mikheeva (*Mikey Madison*), a Brooklyn stripper who becomes involved with Ivan "Vanya" Zakharov, the immature son of a Russian oligarch. Their impulsive Las Vegas marriage faces challenges when Vanya's disapproving parents intervene, seeking an annulment. The film explores themes of love, class disparity, and personal agency, blending screwball comedy with raw drama. *Anora* premiered at the Cannes Film Festival, winning the Palme d'Or, and went on to secure five Academy Awards, including Best Picture and Best Actress for *Mikey Madison*.

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

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APRIL 27
MAY 4, 11, 18, 25
JUNE 1, 8

Call us to reserve your seat for £19 pp

Entries invited for our Fine Art, Antiques & Interiors Sales

Certificated 18ct white gold oval ruby and diamond cluster ring.
Sold £1,800

Cartier - A Swiss 18ct gold and stainless steel 'Tank Solo' wristwatch. Circa 2006.
Sold £2,600

Morso Foot operated Industrial Mitre
Sold £370

Boxed Subbuteo Table Soccer manufactured by P A Adolph Langton Green Tunbridge Wells Kent
Sold £260

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