

The Riverporter

COVERING THE NEWS FOR ST IVES AND AROUND

PLEASE READ AND PASS ON

Issue I92: 12 September 2025

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

St Ives Triumphs at Anglia in Bloom

Yet again St Ives In Bloom win big. In this their 30th Anniversary Year, not only did they win a Gold Award for the eighth time in a row but were also awarded four other major accolades.



St Ives Mayor, Julie Kerr and SIIB Members.

St Ives has struck gold at the Anglia in Bloom Awards, sweeping up five major accolades during a sparkling 30th anniversary celebration at the Burgess Hall on 4th September.

Town Mayor Cllr Julie Kerr (right) was on hand to cut the celebratory cake as participants from across the region gathered for the ceremony. St Ives in Bloom clinched its eighth Gold Award, while the Park and Ride was crowned winner in the 'Sustainable Planting' category. The Norris Garden took home the prize for 'Best Floral Display by an Individual', the Recycling Garden at The Waits was awarded second place in the 'Best Young People's Project (12-18)' category, and Holt Island achieved Gold, and was named 'Best Wildlife/Nature Reserve 2025'.

Phil Davies, Chair of St Ives in Bloom, said: 'I am delighted that the judges recognised the dedication of our volunteers and the way the In Bloom team has fostered partnerships across schools, businesses and local groups.

They commented that from the vibrant floral displays at The Waits to the inspiring Recycling Garden and the rejuvenated Park and Ride borders, the town showcased horticultural excellence alongside a clear passion for the environment. St Ives has once again demonstrated the strength of its community spirit, creativity and commitment to sustainability.'



Communities Officer at the Norris Museum, Susan Bate, commented: 'We're incredibly proud of the Norris Museum Garden winning Best Floral Display by an Individual – a well-

deserved recognition of the dedication and care shown by our wonderful volunteer, Bob. We're also thrilled that the Recycling Garden on The Waits, created by the talented students of Spring Common Academy, was awarded second place in the Best Young People's Project (12-18). It's inspiring to see the next generation leading the way in creativity, sustainability, and community pride.'

Keith Grimwade, Chair of the Friends of Holt Island Nature Reserve, added: 'The judges described Holt Island as a 'green oasis in a busy town'; we agree! Winning Best Wildlife/Nature Reserve 2025 is testament to the commitment of our many volunteers, under the direction of Huntingdonshire District Council's team of rangers. It's a small island but maintaining the boardwalk, the wet woodland, the reedbeds and the willow plantations, and caring for the wildlife, requires hard work, knowledge and skill. The bees help by making the best honey you can buy!'

A Tribute to Stewart Denham

It is entirely possible that many of our readers didn't know Stewart Denham, partly because he was a quiet, gentle man. I fortunately did know Stewart, firstly because he was also a designer, who shared our offices. During that time his daughter died in an accident on the old A14, which involved several St Ives teenagers and shook the whole community. Since then Stewart has been involved in helping at the Corn Exchange and as a member of the Free Church, doing much valuable work behind the scenes. **Ed.**



Left: Stewart pictured with his wife Elizabeth. He died last Saturday 6th September, see letter Pg3.

Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival starts

At 6pm yesterday the 11th Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival started in the Golden Lion with the phenomenal guitarist Brooks Williams and brilliant violinist Aaron Catlow. After a few weeks in the studio Brooks and Aaron are now touring the UK and their first stop was here, to open our Festival with their brilliant renditions of American classics.

Meanwhile those wise people who had booked a meal at Amore enjoyed some cool tunes from Soloman Smith with Chris Newman and Art Toper. Also on during the evening were Claude Bourbon at the Oliver Cromwell, The Lightwaves at the Nelson's Head and the sensational Houndogs in the Corn Exchange. Right: The Houndogs set the place on fire!

Above is the revised programme for the weekend.



DIARY OF EVENTS

Please email: editor@theriverporter.uk

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 13th - Heritage Day see page 4.

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. 7.30pm. Tickets ticketsource.co.uk/rafa-wings-concert.

Friday 26th - COSI lunchtime concert - CANCELLED

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.

Monday 13th - Wednesday 15th - The Michaelmas Fair.

Saturday 18th - Huntingdonshire Philatelic Society Stamp and Postcard Fair Corn Exchange 10am-3pm Free admission. 01480 468037.

NOVEMBER

Sunday 9th - Remembrance Sunday 10am Market Hill, St Ives.

Saturday 15th - Christmas Market and Lights Switch On.

Friday 28th - Chapel Arts Concert - Stella Hensley's Magical Colours St Ives Corn Exchange 7.30pm. Tickets www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents.

DECEMBER

Saturday 6th - Christmas Charity Concert The Free Church 7pm.

THURSDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER

6pm	Golden Lion Hotel	Brooks Williams & Aaron Catlow	UK Americana
6.30pm	Amore Restaurant	Soloman Smith Trio	Folk, Funk, Blues and Jazz
7.30pm	The Oliver Cromwell	Claude Bourbon	Guitar virtuoso
8.30pm	Nelson's Head	The Lightwaves	A bit of everything ...
10pm	The Corn Exchange	The Houndogs	Rockabilly

FRIDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER

5.30pm	Floods Tavern	GETNOTGOT	Funk, Soul and Jazz
6pm	Slepe Hall Hotel	Greg Brice Duo	Acoustic Blues
7pm	The Corn Exchange	Mr Griff & The Grifters	Dynamic Soul Fusion
7.30pm	Ivy leaf Club	The Scoundrels	Punchy covers
8.30pm	Golden Lion Hotel	Mim Grey	Acclaimed singer songwriter
10pm	The Corn Exchange	Connor Selby	UK's No1 Blues artist

SATURDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER

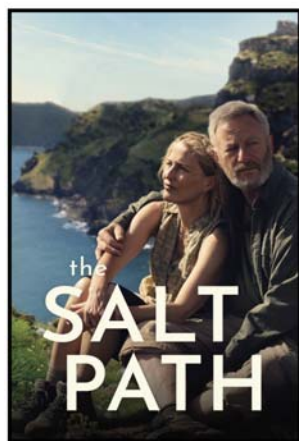
11am	Sheep Market	The Barefoot Doctors	Electric Blues
12.30pm	Golden Lion Hotel	Will Sketches Band	Jazz, Funk, Fusion
1pm	The Bandstand	We Got That Swing!	Swing Band Jazz
2pm	The Quay	The 29th Funktion	Blues, Funk, R&B
4pm	Floods Tavern	Upwood Ukuleles	Reggae with attitude
5pm	The Corn Exchange	Riverport Dancers	Blues dance lesson
6pm	Golden Lion Hotel	Split Whiskers	Chicago Blues
7pm	The Royal Oak	Dan Walsh	Banjo Virtuoso
8pm	Ivy leaf Club	The Blues Boy Kings	Rocking Blues
10pm	The Corn Exchange	Santiago and the Soulmovers	Rock & Soul

SUNDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER

11.30am	Golden Lion Hotel	Myke Clifford Quartet	Pure Jazz
12.30pm	Ivo Lounge	Django's Tiger	Gypsy Jazz
1.30pm	The Quay	Chris Lord & her Blues Express	Rhythm & Blues
3pm	The Corn Exchange	Fred's House	Award-winning Folk/Rock
3pm	The Bandstand	Jazz Division	Big Band Jazz
4.30pm	Nelson's Head	Jonno's 3 piece Blues Quartet	Blues
6.30pm	The Lounge	The Reavey Brothers	Rock, Blues, Funk and Soul

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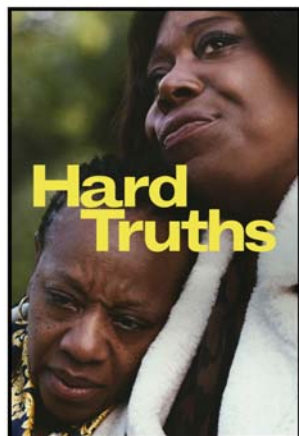
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The Salt Path

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.



Hard Truths

Thursday 6 November 2025 at 7:30pm
Doors open 6:30pm. Tickets £7
Director: Mike Leigh, 97m, Cert: 12

Synopsis: Hard Truths is a 2024 comedy-drama film written and directed by Mike Leigh, starring Marianne Jean-Baptiste, Michele Austin, and David Webber. Set in London, its plot follows the plight of a depressed and nay-saying woman (Jean-Baptiste) and the relationship with her jovial sister Chantelle (Austin). Two polar opposite sisters navigate the world in different ways in the wake of personal hardship. This contemporary British tragicomedy tackles serious topics such as grief, family disputes and healing.

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

St Ives eco café Saturday 13 September From 10 am

The constant talk about hotter, drier summers, warmer winters without snow, torrential rain causing floods, more hurricanes in the Caribbean – it can get us all down, even if we are doing 'our bit' for the environment. If that's how you're feeling do come along to the joint venture between the Eco Café and St Ives Library at the Library on Saturday 13 September, 10.00 – 12.00.

Elisabeth Goodman will speak about how to deal with Climate Anxiety; Elisabeth is a local personal well-being coach and environmental activist so we're sure we'll come away feeling more at ease. All welcome. stivesecocafe@gmail.com

Civic Society announces its Autumn programme

Monthly talks run from September to May each year and are held in The Centrum at the Free Church, St Ives, starting at 7:30 pm.

Non-members are welcome. £3 is requested to help cover costs.

19 September - What lay beneath the Robert Sale Building & the Grand Arcade?

A presentation by Alison Dickens renowned Cambridge archaeologist which reveals the story of past human life and activities in this well-known Cambridge landmark

17 October - AGM followed by Re-enactment of the Trial of Colonel Francis Hacker

Your chance to take part in the trial run by The Field Detectives a re-enactment of the trial of Colonel Hacker who was one of three of Cromwell's soldiers instructed to execute King Charles 1

21 November - The Story of Wing Commander Baker DFC DFM

Helen Cooper delivers a presentation based on her grandfather's war diary, detailing his incarceration at Stalag Luft III, the subsequent long march home, and the family history that inspired the establishment of the St Ives Books of Honour & Remembrance.



Riverport Rocks to return next year?!

According to the organisers their 6th September bash at the Dolphin was a great success. Nothing but smiles and fun from all - they reported. Jordan of the headliners 'Bleed the Fifth', a Welsh band, had a 'sick' experience saying 'All the bands smashed it'. He also reported on the comments from 'locals' complaining about the event, which you can see on Bleed The Fifts facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/reel/1151027980247515>.

Keep your eyes peeled for next year's date. Some residents and businesses in the area may want to book their holiday then as apparently it was quite loud.

Red ribbon-cutting ceremony opens Sixth Form centre

St Ivo Academy in St Ives has officially opened its newly refurbished Sixth Form Centre, welcoming students into a state-of-the-art facility designed to support A Level, BTEC, and vocational studies in a modern, university-style environment.

The red ribbon was cut by St Ives Mayor, Councillor Julie Kerr and Principal of St Ivo, Tony Meneagh, at a special event on Thursday 4th September, attended by staff, governors, students, parents and other members of the local community.

Completed over the summer, the project was shaped by extensive consultation with students, staff, the wider school community and the school's trust, Astrea Academy Trust.

The result is a transformed educational space that combines quiet study areas, collaborative zones, and vibrant social spaces - all designed to help students thrive both academically and personally. This year's Year 12 and Year 13 students are delighted with the new centre and look forward to embracing all its facilities.

Zara, a Year 13 student studying English Literature, History and Textiles, said: 'The new sixth form is a great environment allowing students to have a quiet study area to continue with their own studies as well as a welcoming and mature area to socialise.'



Biri, a Year 13 student studying Psychology, Photography, Sociology, added: 'The new sixth form has a great communal area to socialise with friends as well as a calm space to study which is exclusive to the sixth formers. I am looking forward to embracing this new environment.' Principal at St Ivo, Tony Meneagh welcomed students into the new centre on their first day of term, describing it as 'a significant step forward' for post-16 education in the region.

Mr Meneagh commented: 'I was pleased to welcome so many people from the school, academy trust central team, Local Governing Committee, Parents Advisory Committee, and especially the local community, come along to celebrate the 'Grand Reopening' of our refurbished sixth form centre on Thursday.'

'This is a huge investment in the

futures of our young people in St Ives and demonstrates everyone's commitment to the St Ivo Academy Sixth Form being the preferred post-16 destination for our community.'

Rowena Hackwood, CEO of Astrea Academy Trust, said: 'It is vital that students and staff at St Ivo have access to modern, inspiring spaces and I am delighted that this new Sixth Form Centre is now open for them to enjoy.'

Below: The centre is also housing a piece of artwork by former student, Kiera Hufford, who is very proud to see her work displayed there; Kiera is now off to the University of Bath to study Art.



Talking Together - Autumn 2025 Events

We are delighted to introduce COPE's new autumn programme of telephone-based discussion groups which start this month.

MONDAYS at 1.15pm 2 Sept (6 wks)

A virtual journey to Madingley Hall

Marian French, facilitator

Join Marian on a virtual journey to Madingley Hall observing the changes to our landscape on our way. On the last Monday of the series, there will be an optional group trip organised to Madingley Hall.

MONDAYS at 2.15pm 6 Oct (6 wks)

The wonder of astronomy

Avishai Gilkis, facilitator

Explore the wonders of the sky - from familiar stars to distant galaxies, supernovae, and black holes. We will talk about our Solar System, the life cycle of stars, cosmic events like gravitational waves, and discover how these phenomena shape our understanding of the Universe and our place within it.

MONDAYS at 3.15pm 22 Sept. (5wks)

The short stories of O. Henry

Liz Williams, facilitator

In his lifetime, O. Henry (1862-1910) wrote over three hundred short stories. The author wrote twist endings so often that they became his trademark - an 'O. Henry ending' can usually be expected when reading these amusing tales.



THURSDAYS at 1.15pm 16 Oct (4 wks)

Romans in Fenstanton -- archaeology

David Ingham, facilitator

In 2017 during the construction of a new housing estate the remains of a large Roman settlement were discovered in Fenstanton. Join archaeologist David Ingham to learn more about the settlement, why one of its inhabitants may have been crucified and the significance of this extraordinary find.

THURSDAYS at 3.15pm 25 Sept and 2 Oct and 9 Oct (3 sessions)

How emotions affect Us

Estherina Trachtenberg PhD, facilitator

Our discussions will examine how emotional stress affects both mind and body, drawing connections between our feelings and our physical health. We will explore the fascinating science of empathy and pro-social behaviour in rats, revealing that these animals can recognise distress in others and sometimes help their peers.

Registration is due by 19 September 2025. To register: phone 01223 364303 or Email:

copetalkingtogether@hotmail.com



Milly is back from her hols!



having your say ...

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

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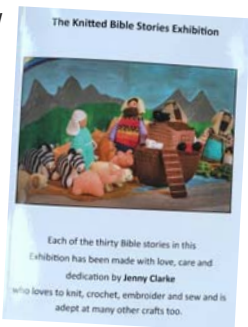
Dear Milly and Tilly,

Ref: Heritage open day at the Free Church

On Saturday September 13th the Church will be open to visitors as part of the Heritage celebrations in St Ives. The Knitted Bible Stories will be on display in the Centrum.

There is now a booklet to accompany the exhibition which features photographs and text of each of the 30 Bible scenes. These will be on sale (price £6.00 per copy) at the Open Day and they are also available from Marjorie. All proceeds from the sale of the book will go to St Ives Free Church.

Marjorie Carrier, Waddle House, Splash Lane, Wyton, Huntingdon PE28 2AF



Dear Milly and Tilly,

Ref: A Tribute to Stewart Denham

In the Church Notices, members of St Ives Free Church have paid full and majestic tributes to Stewart for his huge contribution there.

Perhaps less well known are the considerable contributions that Stewart made to the wider community life of St Ives. In his retirement he put his professional expertise as an architect previously at HDC to good use. At the planning approvals stage Stewart made his keenness to improve and soften the visual impact of developers' designs for town-centre buildings very evident to the Town and District Councils.

Stewart also penned letters to *The Riverporter* about his concerns and was a big supporter of saving and renovating the Corn Exchange as an important public amenity in St Ives. Not long after the re-opening in 2010 he identified that the 'CORN EXCHANGE' lettering above the front doors needed to have greater prominence. Next thing Stewart was up a ladder cleaning and applying gold paint to each of the letters individually, all at his own expense.

In 2014 Stewart was the prime mover in ensuring that both the Free Church and the Corn Exchange marked and celebrated their joint 150th Anniversaries. Stewart was a lovely man and a gentleman in every sense of the word. He will be greatly missed. **Ian Dobson**

The Riverporter

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

OTHER NEWS

Anglian Water to reduce sewage?!

Ofwat has confirmed that Anglian Water must spend £62.8m on improvements because of 'excessive' sewage spills in times of storms. Ofwat has also revealed that 16% of sewage plants owned by Anglian Water did not have the necessary capacity to hold untreated sewage at times of high rainfall, risking it pouring into rivers. A spokesperson for the firm, which serves most of the East of England, said it would spend £1bn reducing sewage discharge.

Whisky Café wins top award

On Bank Holiday Monday the Café's management team enjoyed a day out in London at the Prestige Awards and brought home the **New Restaurant of the Year** award. Management said 'A huge thank you to our team for all their hard work and dedication. Be sure to keep your eyes peeled for our trophy on display in the restaurant on your next visit!'



County Council wants 'Option A'

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This would mean HDC merging with Peterborough and Fenland. The main problem with the re-organisation of our local authorities is that the existing boundaries cannot change so different parts of a district cannot move in a different direction. Therefore any solution is likely to annoy someone. For instance St Ives residents would feel more aligned with Cambridge, while Huntingdon and Ramsey may prefer Peterborough.

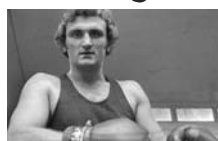
From Bank Vault to Property Vault

Once a place where money was stored behind heavy doors, the old HSBC bank on Market Hill has been given a new lease of life. Today (Friday 12 Sept.) Cameron Bosque Brooks Architects (CBBA) will officially open the doors to their reimagined headquarters: **The Property Vault**. Over the past few months, they've stripped back the old banking hall, preserved its sense of solidity, and breathed new purpose into it – creating an interactive hub, designed to spark conversations about property and development.



Pictured are CBBA directors Grant Cameron, Silvia Bosque, and Oliver Brookes.

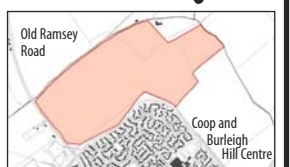
Joe Bugner memorial in St Ives?



Following the death of Joe Bugner at the age of 75 in a care home in Brisbane, Australia on 1st September, David Glover has posed the question on-line if there should be a memorial to Joe who, although born in Hungary, lived in St Ives. At the time of writing this 76% voted yes and 23% no.

Plan submitted for 650 homes off Marley Rd

Comments about the plans to build 650 homes North of Marley Road have been divided between those people who believe St Ives infrastructure can't cope and those who want to see more housing especially for young people. It may be that our MP, Ben Obese-Jecty may have a view. He has just been ranked as No.1 for his parliamentary contributions, confirming that he has done more in one year than our previous MP did in 20 years.



CALL Cambridgeshire Alliance
of Lifelong Learners

Continuing Learning for Adults in St Ives ("CLASI")

We are a group of between 20 and 30 people who meet in the

Methodist Church Hall

on The Waits, St Ives on a Thursday.

Our courses start at **10.30am** and finish at **12.15pm**

2025 Autumn Programme

18th September - 20th November (10 Weeks)

Rise of the Superpowers

Lecturer – Mike Muncaster

Cost is £55 for the 10 weeks

Tea/Coffee and cake provided by the Church for a donation

For further details:

Tel: 01480 493895

Mobile: 07980 864 543

E mail: peter.german@ntlworld.com

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St Ives

Heritage Open Day 2025



Saturday 13th September

Join us in St Ives for a great day of heritage and music!

Part of the national **Heritage Open Days 2025**, it's an opportunity to see inside some of the wonderful old buildings in the town and learn about their histories. At the same time you can experience a day of our fantastic **Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival**, which starts from 11am at Sheep Market.

Free music all day plus interesting places to visit (with activities for children at some), you'll have a great time, so

SEE YOU THERE!

Check the websites below for full details.

[www.stivescivic.org.uk /events/heritage-open-day/](http://www.stivescivic.org.uk/events/heritage-open-day/)

The Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival - www.stivescambridgeshire.co.uk

HOD's - www.heritageopendays.org.uk

Civic Society of St Ives - www.stivescivic.org



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