PLEASE READ AND PASS ON

# The Riverporter

COVERING THE NEWS FOR ST IVES AND AROUND

Issue 183: 2 May 2025

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

# Election results awaited

**Thursday's elections for the County Council and for the Mayor of the Combined Authority are due to be counted today, Friday 2nd May at the Burgess Hall here in St Ives. But the results won't be known until well after we have gone to print.**

We are unable to bring you the results until our next edition on 16th May. We will however post the results on *The Riverporter* Facebook page as soon as they are known.

*The Riverport Radio* interviews with many of the candidates gave a great deal of insight into the main candidates for the two County Council seats in St Ives. We hope it helped you choose who to vote for.

You can still listen to them at: https://riverportradiopodcast.buzzsprout.com

You can also listen to the outgoing Mayor, Dr Nik Johnson and the difficulties he faced when he was elected back in 2021. The interviews over the last two podcasts, are quite lengthy as they delved into the candidates backgrounds, but the good news is that you can chose which parts to listen to by selecting the chapter you want to hear.

And you can also dip into the podcasts at any time. Meanwhile we await the results in what are likely to be very close contests.

# FINAL CALL for St Ives Green Week!

**Plans are coming together really well for St Ives Green Week. A full timetable will be published in the next *Riverporter*, with events also appearing on the Community Hub and the national Great Big Green Week website. If your organisation has an activity you would like to add, contact Hattie or Ann via St Ives in Bloom siibinfo@gmail.com.**

THE GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK

# Easter Saturday - a day of dancing

It was a pretty busy day in St Ives on Easter Saturday as not only was there a Farmers' Market but four Morris Dancing sides brought music and colour to town.

The groups from Ely, Fenstanton, Coton and Sutton enjoyed dancing at the Bandstand, on The Quay and the Sheepmarket as guests of the Town Team.

*Pictured right and below are Ely Riot and far right, are members of Coton Morris caught in mid air on The Waits.*










## DIARY OF EVENTS

**Please email: editor@theriverporter.uk**

### MAY 2025

**Wednesday 7th** - **Policing in St Ives** Local Police Sergeant Andy Caruana shares details of his role. St Ives Library 2pm.

**Thursday 8th** - **VE Day celebrations** see back page.

**Tuesday 13th** - **An open invitation from St Ives Rotary Club** for prospective members to attend a meeting where the Mayor-elect, Julie Kerr, will be talking about her plans for the year ahead. 6pm at St Ives Golf Club. Email membership@stivesrotarycambs.org.uk to secure a place

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

**Friday 16th** - **Eating on the Ration -** Civic Society presentation by C. Carr on rationing in WW2. 7.30pm, Free Church. Members Free £3 non members.

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

**Tuesday 20th** - **St Ives Rotary Club AGM** open for prospective members. 6pm St Ives Golf Club. Email membership@stivesrotarycambs.org.uk

**Tuesday 27th** - **St Ives Rotary Club social evening** with a guest speaker for prospective members to attend. 6pm at St Ives Golf Club.

**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 FREE Town Team concert at The Bandstand 2pm. Part of the Big Green Week.

**Saturday 14th** - **The Quo Experience** 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.

### JULY

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

**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.**

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# £1.5m for fire station and clinic site



Now there is a new Fire Station being constructed on land near Aldi this important area, close to the town centre, would seem ripe for redevelopment..

Older readers may recall that the NHS buildings were the St Ives Library many years ago. Although it was used as a clinic by the NHS, it's full potential as a large town centre site on a public transport route was never realised.

The site offers great potential for redevelopment and measuring around 1.61 acres is likely to be attractive to house builders. It is offered for sale by informal tender with offers invited by 27th May.

# WELCOME TO ROTARY

## Do you care about others and want to help the community whilst enjoying yourself and getting to know similarly minded people?



Are you new to the area? Then St Ives Rotary Club could be for you. Anyone is welcome and our catchment area includes St Ives and surrounding villages like Somersham, Houghton, Earith, Wyton and Fenstanton.

IN MAY, we are encouraging anyone who is interested to come to any one of our Tuesday meetings and judge for themselves what we're like and what we do.

We meet every Tuesday at St Ives Golf Club at 6.15pm, but turn up a little earlier and you'll meet and get to know our Club members. A chance to make new friends. Our meetings begin with a meal together and afterwards there may well be an interesting speaker or a discussion of upcoming money raising or social events. Meetings usually end before 9.00pm. If you would like to come along one Tuesday evening contact:

**membership@stivesrotarycambs.org.uk**

If you can't get to a meeting come and talk to us at St Ives Community Information Day--17th May the Corn Exchange.

## Wonder where he'll stick a cone?



**Seen last week.**
**Other comments included:**
**Was he on Tik Tok?**
**It's Fred Dibnah. It's Harold Lloyd.**
**Replacing the batteries?**
**Forgot to put the clocks forward?**

# FIND OUT IF ROTARY IS FOR YOU - COULD YOU HELP?

**Have you a special skill or interest that you'd like to share? (We'd love to find someone to help us with our website and online presence); could you be the one?**

**In December Santa needs help from active 'elves' who follow the float and collect money. Get fit with Rotary! There are many more opportunities to help throughout the year as well as social events.**

**Come along on any Tuesday evening in May and see for yourself.**


The Ermine Street Band
Wind Quintet
Plays
Hindemith
Ibert
Poulenc



organised by Chamber Orchestra St. Ives

16th May
Free Church, St Ives
1pm
Free Admission



SSI

Supported by BOONGATE KIA
Peterborough PE1 5UA, Tel: 01733 344344

Unfortunately, tickets are sold out for our May screening of Conclave




**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*.




**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.

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


# TALKING TOGETHER

COPE

**May and June programme**

These weekly telephone-based series of discussion groups offered by COPE work like a business conference call, and can be joined from the comfort of your home. Choose one of the groups, or more than one if you wish, and register your interest.

Each of the groups, led by a skilled facilitator, provides an opportunity to share your ideas, experiences and life-long learning with other older adults. The programme is completely free, with registration required.

**MONDAY AFTERNOONS**

**Mondays 1.15pm 19 May – 16 June**

**Let's travel north to Denny Abbey** - Marian French, facilitator.

Join Marian on a virtual journey to Denny Abbey – via Milton, Fen Ditton, Horningsea, Landbeach and Waterbeach, including the locks on the River Cam. We will complete our journey with an actual visit to Denny Abbey and its Farmland Museum.

**Mondays 2.15 19 May – 16 June**

**A Poem For Every Summer Day** - Liz Williams, facilitator.

To welcome in the summer season, our poetry group will examine poems from the volume we will provide, as well as poems that you might wish to share, those you may have created yourself, or will create, together as we meet.

**THURSDAY AFTERNOONS**

**Thursdays 1.15pm 22 May – 19 June**

**The Joy of Cricket** - David Perry, facilitator.

Your guide, David Perry, has long been fascinated by this game which originated on the playing fields of English schools and was then disseminated throughout the British Empire.

His five sessions will cover the origins of the game and its formal laws; the way it was taken up with enthusiasm in the British colonies and their response; the magic of Test Match radio commentary and finally the sheer mystery of cricket: how to explain its appeal.

**Thursdays 2.15pm 22 May –26 June**

**What goes on at the Babraham Institute?**

Mike Norman and other facilitators. Researchers at the Babraham Institute study how our bodies work at the molecular level, to discover ways to maintain health and wellbeing as we age. Their work is crucial for developing new treatments and strategies for us to live healthier, longer lives.

Together we will explore ethical questions about future use of their sciences, what it means for healthcare, and how different insects and mice are sometimes used to carry out their research.

Following the end of the discussion series, an outing to the Institute will be scheduled.

Registration is due by 15 May 2025. We look forward to having you with us.

**To register: phone the COPE office on 01223 364303**

The Riverporter



Milly and Tilly like your letters.

## having your say ...

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

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

**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 & Tilly,**

Just thought readers would like to be reminded of their parents/grandparents adult WEEKLY rations, which were introduced in 1941.

226g(8oz) fat ( including 2oz butter)
57g(2oz) tea
2 slices cooked meat
114g(4oz) ham
28g(1oz) cheese
226g(8oz) jam
5p worth of meat
1 egg - + dried egg, 1 packet per month
plenty of potatoes, carrots, onions and bread
NO oranges or bananas

PLUS If you had a garden: Chickens, eggs, green vegetables, seasonal fruits (plums, apples, pears, gooseberries, blackcurrants, redcurrants, strawberries, rhubarb);

The countryside also provided opportunities for Rabbit, Blackberries, Mushrooms.

I can't recall obesity being an issue

Food for thought.

Fish & Chips were popular. Shop carefully

**Philip Noble**

**Hi, Tilly & Milly,**

Do you know what wildlife lurks in your garden or on your patio?

What are you doing to encourage it – even in an old sink or flower pot?

Do you follow No Mow May, and has planting wildflower seeds been successful?

Bring your ideas & tips and learn from others; bring photos of a surprising wildlife find!

We're all learning, so join us at the Eco Café: St Ives Library – Sat 10 May, 10.00 - 12.00.

St ves eco café

All Welcome. **stivesecocafe@gmail.com**

**Dear Milly & Tilly,**

Can I remind readers that rehearsals are currently in full swing for The Centre Theatre Players forthcoming production of the Divine Musical Comedy **'SISTER ACT'** which they will be staging in The Burgess Hall of One Leisure St. Ives on May 8th - 10th. Evenings 7.30pm, Sat matinee 2-30pm.

Based on the hit 1992 film of the same name, the show has enjoyed tremendous success in London's West End. Great characters and fabulous music all combining to make this a really feel-good show not to be missed. Tickets at **www.ticketsource.co.uk/burgesshall** or from the One Leisure main reception. **Dick**

## OTHER NEWS

### Friends raise £21,000 for Parkinson's

Michael Speed and his friends Oliver Dale, Jacob Martin, Sam Stevenson, Will Greatorex and Ben Francis cycled to the Eiffel Tower to raise money for Parkinson's UK. Michael's mum, Sharon Speed, was diagnosed with Parkinson's in September 2022 and the group of friends decided to cycle the 400 miles to raise awareness of the disease. The total raised for Parkinson's UK stands at more than £21,000.



### Massive support for Tom and the Olly

The welcomed reopening of the Oliver Cromwell pub on Good Friday provided a great start for Tom Bletsoe as he became landlord.

Support was so good over the weekend that he temporarily ran out of beer. He plans to start providing food on 15th May.

*Tom and staff at the reopening.*



### Mountain Warehouse a big improvement




There was also good news for the Town centre with shop fitters beginning the installation of the old M&CO building for Mountain Warehouse.

Although not open the freshly painted shop front certainly brightens up Market Hill.

### New garden terrace for Whisky Café

And the improvements continue as The Whisky Café opened its garden terrace to customers, just in time to take advantage of the sunny weather we are enjoying.

The stunning brickwork and planting have created a really beautiful space, justifying the long wait for the transformation from the old Robin Hood pub.







with
St Ives Slimming World Groups
at
The Burleigh Hill Centre,
St Ives, PE27 3ER

Thursdays 5.30 pm Fridays 9.30 am
Saturdays 8.00 am & 9.30 am

real food, real support, real results

Slimming World



SUNDAY 4TH MAY
FROM
10AM TO 1PM

Flea on the Quay

COLLECTABLES • CURIOUS ITEMS
CRAFTS • OBJETS D'ART • ANTIQUES



Cambridgeshire libraries



'Policing St Ives'
St Ives Library
Wednesday 7th May at 2pm

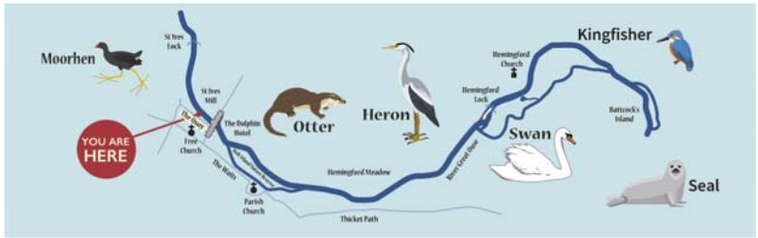
Our local Police Sergeant Andy Caruana will be with us today sharing details of his role and answering all your questions.

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

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

**Call us to reserve your seat for £19 pp**




# The Courtyard in St Ives is celebrating VE day

Situated between St Ives Bus Station and Hyperion Auctions on Station Road

PE27 5BH









Join us at The Courtyard and The Antiques Centre to celebrate VE day, between 10am-4pm on **the 5th of May, Bank Holiday Monday!**

There are over 40 independent traders' stalls of artisan crafts and goods. The sun will be shining, there will be 1940's music and costumes, what's not to love?

Come and show your support! We are proud supporters of the Armed Forces Para Snow Sports Team, a registered military charity.