PLEASE READ AND PASS ON

# The Riverporter

COVERING THE NEWS FOR ST IVES AND AROUND

Issue 185: 30 May 2025

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION




## Floods Tavern voted best beer garden by Cambridgeshire Live readers.

Once again St Ives is listed as one of the best places to live in the UK, this time by the lifestyle magazine Muddy Stilettos. An article in Cambridge News, explains that once again our St Ives was confused with St Ives in Cornwall, which was not in the list of best places to live.

The article went on to praise our *postcard-perfect riverside views* by heading to one of the food and drink spots near the River, including Amore, on The Quay, *which offers an impressive selection of seafood dishes* and Floods Tavern *with river views from its garden, voted the best in Cambridgeshire by Cambridgeshire Live readers.*

It went on to mention the many events that happen here, including the Illuminated Boat Parade (IBP), which Muddy Stilettos describes as *'not-to-be-missed.* Incidentally the next IBP will be in 2026.

The article continued with … *the Monday and Friday markets on Market Hill are part of a tradition that dates back to 1110.* It ended by saying that *St Ives has plenty of opportunity to keep alive a community spirit that has been lost in many UK towns.*




# Fancy a day out at the coast for just £12?

Whippet, Cambridgeshires' oldest bus company will be running direct routes to the North Norfolk coast this summer, allowing people an easy way to enjoy a day at the seaside.

Route 101, which started last Saturday and runs every Saturday, Sunday and bank holiday right through to 31 August 2025, offers several local pick ups then runs direct to Heacham and Hunstanton. An ever-popular seaside resort, Hunstanton has something for everyone to enjoy, from a relaxing day on the beach, to playing the arcade machines, to a seal trip or even exploring the Sea Life Centre.

At Heacham, there is the option of enjoying the world-famous Norfolk Lavender, or a day at the beach.

Founded in 1919, Whippet's 101 will pick up from St Ives bus station at 08:30 and return at 17:40, giving you over 5 hours on the coast. Fares are just £12 return for adults, with a bus pass, and children 5-15yrs.

Director at Whippet Ed Cameron said, *'Years ago, Whippet ran day trips to a number of coastal destinations, and we're pleased to re-start one of these routes in 2025. There's so much on offer in North Norfolk, and our new bus link makes it easy to get there for an enjoyable day out.'*

For details about the route go to www.whippetbus.co.uk/Hunstanton

**Riverport Radio goes for a day to the coast!**

The team here at *The Riverporter* thought this sounded such a great day out that we would take Milly and possibly Jeffery (see P3), on one of these trips and interview people on the way. Look out for the podcast.

Our latest Podcast with Tom Bletsoe of the Oliver Cromwell and Rod Best of Hyperion is available now. Just search for **Riverport Radio.**

Below: *Some of the Whippet team ready to enjoy a day out on the coast.*




Flea on the Quay

**This Sunday from 10am to 1pm**

on The Quay St Ives

For details contact Sandra Souter email: townteam@stivescambridgeshire.co.uk

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

## DIARY OF EVENTS

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

### JUNE 2025

**Wednesday 4th** - **Engage Talk: Huntingdon Gym Club** - 2pm, St Ives Library. A talk by club manager Adam Scott about our local world class community club.

**Saturday 7th** - **Summer Charity Concert**, 7.30pm the Free Church in aid of Huntingdonshire Society for the Blind (see page 3).

**Sunday 8th** - **Dickie de Vere & The Dorchester Mavericks** - a FREE Town Team concert at The Bandstand 2pm. Part of the Big Green Week.

**Wednesday 11th** - **Water: Making better use in our homes** - 2.30pm, St Ives Library. Part of the Big Green Week.

**Saturday 14th** - **Repair Cafe** -St Ives Methodist Church 1-4pm Tea and home-made cakes. Book a slot on stivesrepaircafe@gmail.com.

**Saturday 14th** - **The Quo Experience** St Ives Corn Exchange 8pm. Tickets £15 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents or from venue or on the door.

**Saturday 14th** - **The St Ives Choral Society A Choral Journey,** Songs of Peace and Love. 7:30pm St Ives Free Church. Tickets £16 (u12 free) from www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-ives-choral-society.

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

**Saturday 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.

**Saturday 5th** - **St Ives Community Choir 'Rock and Pop Icons'** in the Free Church at 730 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'!

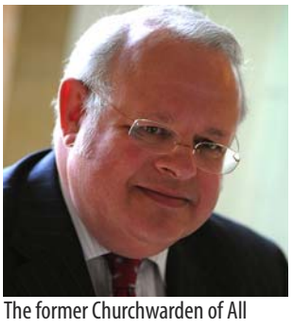
**Saturday 26th** - **600 Anniversary Celebrations** - Civil War re-enactment blowing up the bridge. Town centre 11am and at Hill Rise Park from 2pm.

**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.

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# Ex Mayor, Martin Collier, dies aged 65



The former Churchwarden of All Saints passed away peacefully in his sleep on 15th May. Martin was a Barrister at Law and his colleague Andrew Gore gave details of his life.

Martin Melton Collier was born on 23 September 1959. He grew up near Great Yarmouth and later in Farnham, Surrey. He won a place to study law at Mansfield College, Oxford, graduating in 1981. Martin dabbled in student politics, but his focus was on becoming a barrister. He was called to the Bar in 1982 and joined Fenners Chambers in 1983.

Martin married Sharon and had two children, Alexandra ('Alex') and George, but sadly divorced in 2002. Martin moved to St Ives, where he really threw himself into the life of the town, becoming a key figure in the fight to save the Corn Exchange and a director of its community interest company.

He felt that the domination of party politics had been harmful to the Town Council and the town and with his fellow Independents secured a majority on the Council. The highlight of Martin's years in St Ives was his eventual election as Mayor in 2012, with Alex as Mayoress.

Mark Amy, Vicar of St Ives, said that Martin was a private person and good friend to many and will be greatly missed. He is survived by his children.

# Rumour is NOT true

*The Riverporter* was surprised to hear a rumour that The Whisky Café was up for sale, especially as **Riverport Radio** uses a room there for our studio. So we wasted no time in asking Sam, the owner, if it was true.

We are glad to say that The Whisky Café is **NOT FOR SALE!** (However an offer of over £5million may be considered!)

Indeed Sam has told us that plans are being made to expand the business and as we reported in RP183 the fabulous courtyard is now open and the Café is about to host their first live music event.




It should prove to be a great evening on Saturday 7th June, starting with Cocktails from 4pm, a BBQ from 5pm and the band, *LeRoy & the Euphonics* all the way from Birmingham at 6pm.

# Don't forget to book for the events during Green Week

**Come along to the walks, the cafés, the Library or the Coop. The week will be officially launched by The Mayor on the steps of the Free Church at 10am on Saturday 7th June. Look out for the green bunting!**







## CALLING ALL BROKEN HOUSEHOLD ITEMS!

Do you want to escape a wretched fate, cast into the gaping maw of county Landfill? Here's how:- Get yourselves along to St Ives Methodist Church on Saturday 14th June 1-4pm where experienced volunteer repairers will give you a new lease of life. And, what's more, educate your owners who will watch your repair, fortified by tea and home-made cake in our friendly cafe.

Book a slot on stivesrepaircafe@gmail.com or turn up on the day. We're ready for you!

**For full details of the events in the St Ives Big Green Week go to the centre pages of *The Riverporter* issue No. 184 or scan this QR code.**




# Grove Medical Practice Open Day

Grove Medical Practice at Cromwell Place is having an Open Day on the 17th June. It is an opportunity for patients to informally interact with staff and learn more about specific support networks and services available in the area.

The Practice told us *'Our staff and local support services (Dementia, Mental Health, LGBTQIA+, Young Families) will be present throughout the day to chat to our patients. We are hoping the Open Day will be a fantastic opportunity for both staff and patients'.* Refreshments will also be provided.




# Festival CDs and T-shirts available

Fans of The Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival will be delighted to hear that this double CD, featuring tracks from the bands playing this year, is now available along with the (slimming) T-shirt. And for those without a CD player you can purchase a Slim Card USB stick that not only contains all the tracks for you to download to your computer and phone, but also the Festival programme and the Complimentary Guide to St Ives with map, and still has half a GB space for you to use!




It's not too late to get tickets for **The Quo Experience on Saturday 14th June** - just £15 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/cexevents The Quo sold over 118 million records and had more British hit singles than any other band.

*Pictured below in the 'Heart of St Ives', Sheila Stones, Chair of the Town Team and John Souter looking slim in his 'Slimming' T-shirt.*




# Rotary's busy month of May

During May, Saint Ives Rotary Club has been seeking new members to enable it to continue to raise funds and offer its services in support of the community. Perhaps you met them on the Farmers' Market or came across them in the Corn Exchange? Many people stopped to chat and discovered something of what Rotary is all about. Since then several have attended our meetings.

We held our Annual General Meeting at St Ives Golf Club, where we highlighted our achievements over the last 12 months, which include:

- Sending 2 young people on a leadership course and providing a young carers activity day out and supporting youngsters boating at Grafham Water.
- A Holt Island visit and tea for local Care Home residents.
- Young Artist, Young Photographer and Young Writer Competitions.
- Donations to local schools.
- Provided Shelter Boxes to bring relief to stricken areas of the world, donated funds towards the elimination of polio.
- During St Ives Green Week we are sponsoring a Celebration Evening in the Corn Exchange.

We raise funds from Santa's Sleigh, the Christmas Cracker Concert, the Winter Craft Fair, the bi-annual Pub Quiz and other activities. Last year we raised in excess of £27,000 thanks to the generosity of the people of St Ives and surrounding villages. More than £22,000 has been allocated.

**WHY NOT JOIN US ON A TUESDAY EVENING?**

to make arrangements email: membership@stivesrotarycambs.org.uk

The Riverporter



Introducing Jeffery. Milly and Tilly having stepped into Erik's shoes are now showing 'Jeff' the ropes as he may take over the role when trained.

## 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 and Tilly,**

I hope you haven't had to dodge the new paint recently – you know, 20 mph signs written on our roads; a bit of a shock for most people, it seems. We'd heard mention of the plan but nothing more – and then the road markings suddenly appeared glistening white - even half way down a road that is too short and narrow to speed in previously!

Don't you think the paint could have been better used to re-mark all the erased markings that we really need, like at stop signs and double-white lines down the middle, which are really crucial to instruct drivers? And of course, we're now all looking at our speedometers as we drive, to try to keep to the limit, instead of watching the road ahead for stray pedestrians and errant cyclists and drivers. Hopefully Erik has given you shoes to protect your paws.

**Dazzled Driver**

**Dear Milly and Tilly,**

**Subject: Eyesore on the Sheepmarket and The Broadway**

These black boxes are total eyesores and need to be removed. Not only are they eyesores, they are completely discriminatory towards any person who does not have a smart phone.

Does the Council think everyone has a smart phone, well they DO NOT. Many choose not to have one, some can't afford one, whatever the reason, they should not be discriminated against especially at taxpayer cost, they all pay Council Tax.

Horrible things, get rid of them, the old one in the market square was fine and not an eyesore.

Jennifer Coville (resident for over 50 years.)

**Dear Jennifer**, I think the boxes may not have been connected when you saw them. They have been now and the large touch screen should allow you to see lots of information about the town. I believe like most new installations there are a few teething troubles but hopefully they will be resolved soon.

**Dear Milly and Tilly,**

We have noticed that the containers for flowers by the bus station and at the bottom of Needingworth road have been empty since the last lot of flowers were removed some time ago. Who is responsible for the upkeep?

**David and Sheila Birkert**

**Dear David and Sheila**, I believe the Town Hall have this in hand and they are about to be filled for the summer season. **Ed.**

**Dear Milly and Tilly,**

I have just heard that there is to be an evening of **'DRAG QUEEN BINGO'**

It will be a night of comedy and entertainment on SATURDAY 21 JUNE 2025 at 7.30pm in St Ives Corn Exchange. Tickets are £15.00 each

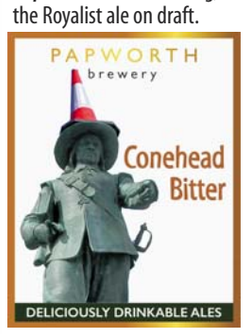
Payment should be made to St Ives Town Council with the reference: MC Bingo 2025 Unity Trust Bank Plc, Sort Code: 60-83-01 Bank account: 20510826.

Should be fun! **Ann Nominus**

THE 600 ANNIVERSARY

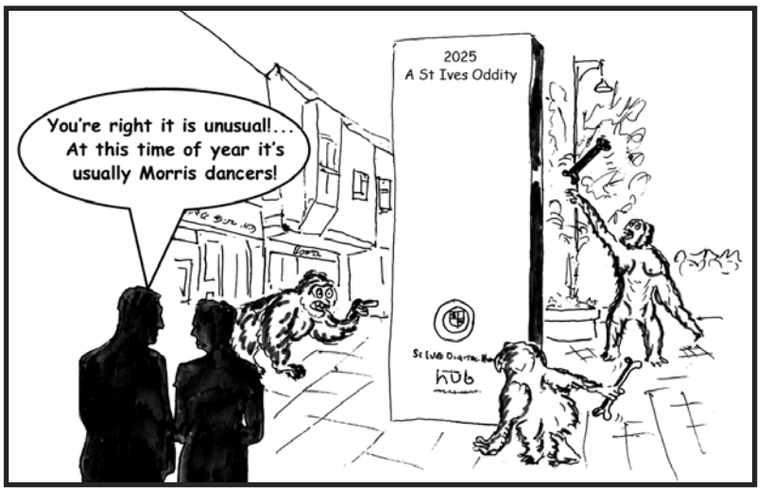
## Celebration beers to be available 7 June

Saturday 7th June is going to be a busy day. It is the start of the Big Green Week, Whisky Café's Rum & Reggae bash and in the morning it is our fabulous Farmers Market, where you will be able to buy ***'Conehead Bitter'*** from the Papworth Brewery stall. A special ale bottled to celebrate the 600th Anniversary of our bridge. You can also get a glass or two of ***'Prince Rupert Ale'*** from The Snug, who are supplying the Royalist ale on draft.




Earlier this year a worker tried out the beer, before removing Olly's Cone.






## OTHER NEWS

### Summer Charity Concert local charity

A Summer Charity Concert is to be held on Saturday 7th June at The Free Church, St Ives in aid of local charity Huntingdonshire Society for the Blind. Featuring Huntingdon Male Voice Choir and a children's choir from the local Westfield Junior choir the programme will be varied and fun including several joint numbers.

Huntingdonshire Society for the Blind is an independent, local charity dedicated to support blind and partially sighted people, their carers and families who reside in Huntingdonshire. The team at Hunts Blind recognise that experiences are different, and are here to support everyone on their sight loss journey by offering advice, resources, and helpful services to enable them to live a full and independent life.

Please support this wonderful fundraising evening, tickets are available from Huntingdon Society for the Blind Office, The St Ives Electric Riverboat Co, or online: https://www.trybooking.com/uk/ESQX

### Blooming Tradition: Hemingford Abbots Flower Festival returns this June ...

The beloved Village Flower Festival returns once again this summer, celebrating over six decades of floral beauty and community spirit.




This long-established charity event raises essential funds for the conservation and repair of St Margaret's Church a Grade I listed building.

Highlights of the Festival Include:

• Over 20 private gardens • The church decorated with stunning floral arrangements with musical accompaniment • Morris dancing • hog roast • Electric river boat trips • Art exhibitions, displays of historic cars, motorcycles and vintage tractors • plant stall, arts and crafts market, second hand books, and live bands • Teas with homemade cakes are available in some gardens

For more information and purchasing tickets, please visit https://www.haflowerfestival.org

### CALLING ALL DRIVERS!

Huntingdonshire Volunteer Centre Car Scheme drove St Ives Residents over 35,000 Miles last year. Imagine you are advancing in years, not that mobile, and need to get to hospital for an appointment. Public transport is rarely an option, taxis are expensive, and you may not have family locally you could ask or you may not like 'troubling' them. This is where the Huntingdonshire Volunteer Centre can help.

In addition to drives to hospitals, opticians, GP and dental appointments we are sometimes able to take clients shopping or to social events if we have a driver available, though medical always takes priority. We were recently asked to take over the voluntary car scheme from Good Neighbours serving Needingworth and Holywell Residents, and demand is increasing from clients living in St Ives and surrounding villages. A registered charity since 2008, we have grown to cover most of Huntingdonshire from our 4 offices.

**We always need more drivers!** There is no obligation to accept any drive, or you could say you are only available at certain times or for certain destinations. All drivers are DBS checked and will receive 45p per mile from the client to cover expenses.

If you would like to enquire about being a driver, or using our service, please contact the St Ives office on 01480 301462, giving as much notice as possible if you are needing a drive. The cost of a drive is 45p per mile plus a £2 booking fee payable in cash to the driver.

For more detailed information, or to make a donation please see our website www.huntsvc.org.uk or contact us on 01480 301462, email: stives@huntsvc.org.uk




### YMCA reopens across road

The popular YMCA Charity shop that operated from, what is now the Ivo Lounge until 2023, has now reopened with the same staff, literally across the road, next door to Coral's bookies and The Courtyard.

Pictured are (left to right) Manager Rae, Paco, and assistant managers Monica Mallol Wright and Stella Hensley. So you can expect the same friendly service and a lot of bargains.

### Civic Sunday Parade & Service 22 June

The parade which serves as a symbol of unity, community spirit and pride in local government, culture and our town, will be led by the RAF Wyton Area Voluntary Band, The 42 Engineer Regiment (Geographic), The Royal British Legion, along with a number of our youth groups.

Setting off at about 11am, from near Waitrose, the parade arrives at the Town Hall, where the Town Mayor, Councillors and dignitaries join the parade, led by the town Mace Bearer. They then march along The Pavement, Crown Street and The Broadway, to All Saints Parish Church, for a short church service. The parade then re-forms and marches back to Market Hill at about 12.15pm, where the Town Mayor inspects the parade and thanks all of those who have participated. All are welcome.

VisitEngland QUALITY ACCREDITED BOATYARD BRITISH MARINE

St Ives Electric Riverboat Co

# Great Ouse RIVER TRIPS & Self Drive Hire

## PASSENGER TRIPS FROM THE QUAY

## Mindfulness Cruise

Join us for an evening of relaxing contemplation along the River Great Ouse. Experience the calming effect of an evening cruise whilst travelling in one of our Electric Riverboats. Poetry and meditation will be provided by Dee, Mindfulness Coach and we may even get to see a sunset . . .







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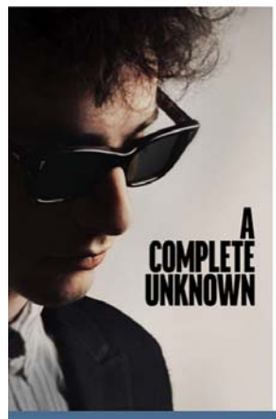
Unfortunately, tickets are sold out for our May screening of Conclave




### 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

## Hyperion Auctions- Antiques Centre

Come and explore our Antiques Centre and discover plenty of hidden treasures! There is something for everyone here at Hyperion. From Jewellery, Collectables, Home Décor, Vintage furniture, Art and so much more! Find that perfect piece to complete your collection or add character to your home. Visit us today and bring home a piece of history!








Location: The Saleroom, Station Road, St Ives, Cambs, PE27 5BH

Opening hours: Monday-Saturday 9:30am-5pm Sunday: 10am-4pm