

THE OLD RIVERPORT
ST IVES

Jazz & Blues FESTIVAL

2025

www.stivescambridgeshire.co.uk

Welcome to our 11th Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival

We hope you will enjoy our Festival, which features 12 new bands to St Ives and the return of acts that have proved so popular over the past 11 years. They are some of the finest musicians around.

Our thanks go to all of you, who come to enjoy the music and our Town, and buy our T-Shirts and CDs, and make the Festival such a happy and enjoyable event. Without you there would be no Festival.



THURSDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER

6pm	Golden Lion Hotel	Brooks Williams & Aaron Catlow	UK Americana
6.30pm	Amore Restaurant	Soloman Smith Trio	Folk, Funk, Blues & Jazz
7pm	Floods Tavern	JUDVH	Black Soul & Funk
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	Jazz , Funk & Soul
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	Brilliant 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 & 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	Jamie Williams & the Roots Collective	Rocking Roots

The Bands

Brooks Williams & Aaron Catlow

Golden Lion Hotel - Thursday 11th September 6pm

'Live music at its best', says AmericanaUK of Brooks Williams and Aaron Catlow, 'how such a complete and sensational sound can come from just two voices and two instruments is awe-inspiring.'

Returning for a second year, this fantastic duo will be the first act of our 2025 Festival. There is literally no one else on the scene playing this kind of music. One part Blues, one part Jazz, one part Americana and one part Bluegrass, Folk Radio UK, calls it 'a thing of beauty!'



Soloman Smith Trio

Amore Restaurant - Thursday 11th September 6.30pm (Booking a meal is required).

The Soloman Smith Trio, comprises Soloman Smith on Vocal/Acoustic Guitar, Chris Newman on Lead Guitar and Malek Hyde-Smith on percussion. Their sound is influenced by Folk Roots, Americana, Blues, Jazz, Soul, Funk and more, and delivered with a laid-back groove and vibe. The mix of Chris Newman's amazing guitar wizardry, and Malek Hyde-Smith's subtle rhythms along with Soloman's well-crafted songs, makes for a great combination. And a perfect accompaniment to the fine Italian cuisine experience of dining at Amore.



JUDVH

Floods Tavern - Thursday 11th September 7pm

Born in Nigeria, JUDVH (pronounced Judah) was raised by parents with strong, differing musical influences. Now 26, he tells stories of love, loneliness and power through music, blending genres to create a powerful soundscape and a captivating live performance. For lovers of Gary Clark Jr, Michael

Kiwanuka and Jacob Banks, powerful vocals, driving rhythms and exciting instrumental arrangements are promised. **'An extraordinary new soul voice' - Tom Robinson BBC6Music.**



Claude Bourbon

The Oliver Cromwell - Thursday 11th September 7.30pm

It's not easy to describe the mix of merging influences in this amazing playing ... Claude moves from classical to Mississippi Delta Blues, from the Balearic Islands to the Balkans. A Spanish Blues evolves into Gypsy music, travels to Eastern Europe, with a splash of Paco de Lucía. Influences range from Richie Blackmore, Joaquín Rodrigo, JJ Cale and even J.S. Bach. Claude Bourbon has impeccable timing and does things on six strings that are simply amazing. Experience a stunning acoustic fusion of Blues, Jazz, Folk, Classical and Spanish guitar.





The Lightwaves

Nelson's Head - Thursday 11th September 8.30pm

Festival regulars will know just how good these guys are. Their versions of well-known songs ranging from 'Just a Gigolo' to 'Life on Mars' show off their creative arrangements and super tight vocal harmonies. Ranjan Vasudevan and Lee Charles Phillips are two of Cambridgeshire's most accomplished musicians.

The Houndogs

The Corn Exchange - Thursday 11th September 10pm

Last year The Houndogs literally set the house on fire and instantly became a firm favourite of the Festival with their exhilarating performance. Their music is, however, not just for Rock'n'Roll fans. All shapes and sizes can enjoy watching what is not just a music concert, but an enthralling show.



GETNOTGOT

Floods Tavern - Friday 12th September 5.30pm

Rapidly establishing themselves as one of the must-see live bands in the UK, GETNOTGOT create musical landscapes that are fused in the Blue Note heritage with contemporary acid-jazz nuances and a funk-fuelled musical energy.

Their EP 'Pull To Open' was released on 14th June 2024 to critical acclaim - and is available on digital platforms, CD and Ltd Edition Orange vinyl!

They are: Emmerson Dutton - Guitar, Baz O'Neill - Tenor and Alto Saxophone, Steve Plumridge - Bass, Jonny Foreman - Keys and Pete Fraser - Drums.



Greg Brice Duo

Slepe Hall Hotel - Friday 12th September 6pm

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 featuring Jack Thomas on Bass.

'The most exquisite finger-picked acoustic blues that you could wish to hear' - Fatea.

'A brilliant set, mellow, musical, and thought provoking, a treat for the senses, a great musician.' - Blues Matters .

Greg's intricate fingerstyle Guitar and strident electric slide connect in the raw and immediate way that only proper roots music can. Following the release of his debut album, it's the quality of his song writing that's capturing people's imagination.





Mr Griff & The Grifters

The Corn Exchange- Friday 12th September 7pm

Mr Griff & The Grifters are an original 8-piece Funk, Soul, Fusion band specialising in dynamic, high energy and engaging performances, spreading messages of hope, unity and a serious get down. After spending 20 years as a session drummer, bandleader Ian Griffith, has now established one of the freshest and most exciting new sounds to emerge from Cambridge in recent years, and their full band returns for the second time to our Festival.

The Scoundrels

Ivy Leaf Club - Friday 12th September 7.30pm

This six-piece good rocking Blues/Soul, energetic ensemble is bound to get the audience up on their feet. They are a thoroughly entertaining and versatile band. Their line-up includes a sax horn section plus vocals and harp, which gives them a wonderful punchy sound and the ability to play in many different styles.

They are Eddie Mac, Vocals/Harmonica; Nick Bosworth, Guitar; Jack Dunkley, Bass; Paul Clarke, Sax; Brian Crow, Keys; Rockstar, Drums.



Mim Grey Golden Lion Hotel- Friday 12th September 8.30pm

'Mim is a wonderfully talented singer and an amazing lady', according to Rick Wakeman and *'She's my favourite singer',* says Sir Tom Jones. What better recommendation can one have? And the praise doesn't stop there ...

'Mim is like a female John Mayer', said legendary Guitarist Robbie McIntosh, and even Michael Ball agreed she was, *'The most beautiful voice to come out of the UK in a very long time'.* Originally from North London Mim's brand of soulful Country Pop is a delight to hear. *'She's rather good and rather gorgeous but don't let that influence you'* said Robert Elms of BBC Radio London.

Connor Selby The Corn Exchange - Friday 12th September 10pm

Connor Selby returns to headline the Friday night at this year's Festival after a sell-out fundraiser for us last year. Voted *'Young Artist of the Year'* at the UK Blues

Awards for three consecutive years he has an impressive venue checklist, including Wembley Stadium, where he opened for The Who in 2019, and Hyde Park with Pearl Jam, the Stereophonics and Johnny Marr in 2022.

His influences include Eric Clapton and Peter Green, and his great playing and wonderful voice will make this is an evening not to be missed by Blues fans.



The Barefoot Doctors

Sheep Market - Saturday 13th September 11am

The Barefoot Doctors are a six-piece powerhouse Blues Rock band featuring Jeff Rich (Status Quo/Def Leppard) on Drums, Jon Sykes (The Pineapple Thief) on Bass, Chris Newman (The Climax Blues Band) on Guitars, Myke Clifford on Sax, Flute, Clarinet and Vox, Art Toper on Keyboard and Sultry Blues songstress Stella Hensley on Lead Vocals. These musical doctors will be opening their surgery on the Sheepmarket in order to heal all your soles!!



Will Sketches Band

Golden Lion - Saturday 13th September 12.30pm

The Will Sketches Quartet are a Funk and Soul jam ensemble led by London-based Guitarist Will Sketches. Will is a session Guitarist and producer with credits that include BBC Introducing, and The Voice.

The combo play a blend of Soul, Funk, Smooth Jazz and pop covers from Herbie Hancock, to Vulfpeck and Amy Winehouse. Members of the band have played at venues such as Ronnie Scott's as well as Glastonbury and Latitude Festival. Expect a strong groove, soulful melodies, and excellent musicianship.



We Got That Swing!

The Bandstand - Saturday 13th September 1pm

We Got That Swing! was formed by Ian Morrison in 2022 to play for swing dancing in Cambridge and features Sara Morrison on Vocals. Expect classic swing songs and instrumentals from the 1920s to the 1960s - a bit of trad Jazz on Duke Ellington, Frank Sinatra and Van Morrison!



The 29th Funktion

The Quay - Saturday 13th September 2pm

The 29th Funktion are a Funky psychedelic Blues Rock/Soul band made up of up of the Wickedly Wild Lulu on Vocals, Wizard Tommy on the Guitar, Louis on Drums (lovesticks) and Mr Alex TickenBoy on Bass. They love performing a crafted varied set of covers, and their own passion-mad original music. They are recognized for their extremely high energy and captivating stage presence, and are sure to set The Quay alight during this, their fourth, appearance at our Festival.



The Venues

- ① Slepe Hall Hotel
- ② The Bandstand
- ③ Floods Tavern
- ④ Ivy Leaf Club
- ⑤ The Lounge
- ⑥ The Royal Oak
- ⑦ Nelson's Head
- ⑧ The Corn Exchange
- ⑨ Golden Lion Hotel
- ⑩ Sheep Market
- ⑪ The Oliver Cromwell
- ⑫ Amore Restaurant
- ⑬ The Quay

The Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival 11th to 14th September 2025

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St Ives Town Team

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of Harrison Way.



As I was going to St Ives



'Here are the most beautiful meadows on the
banks of the river Ouse, that I think are to be
seen in any part of England'
Daniel Defoe 1724



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John Souter based
on an original
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Upwood Ukuleles

Floods Tavern- Saturday 13th September 4pm

The Up U's are not your average uke band. They have built up an enviable reputation for providing great entertainment mixed with excellent musicianship and, in the 11 years since they were formed, have raised over £80,000 for Magpas Air Ambulance. For the Festival they will be playing some well-known reggae numbers alongside songs by the likes of Lady Gaga, Peter Gabriel and Paulo Nutini.



Riverport Dancers

The Corn Exchange - Saturday 13th September 5pm

Join Lydia, Dawn and the Riverport Dancers at the Corn Exchange for a free partner-led dance lesson, plus an opportunity to enjoy dancing with the group between 5 and 7pm.



Split Whiskers

Golden Lion Hotel Saturday 13th September 6pm

Split Whiskers have their roots firmly planted in Chicago Blues. Their musicianship, along with their infectious humour on stage, promises great entertainment. They are fronted by Gilby J. Fletcher on Vocals & Blues Harp with Johnny 'Magic Boy' Wright on Vocals, Acoustic Resonator & electric Guitars; Matt Willshaw on Keys; Robbie Stewart-Matthews on Bass and Rick Hudson on Drums.



Dan Walsh

The Royal Oak - Saturday 13th September 7pm

BBC Folk Awards 'Best Musician' nominee Dan Walsh plays British, Irish and American Folk music. His 'virtuoso playing' features a unique and dazzling take on clawhammer style Banjo helping to challenge all preconceptions about the instrument. 'Absolutely terrific' said Mark Radcliffe of BBC RADIO 2.

The Blues Boy Kings

Ivy Leaf Club - Saturday 13th September 8pm

Blues Boy Kings is a popular, rocking Blues band from the East Midlands. They are husband and wife, Jase North on Lead Guitar/Vocals and Sami on Bass/Vocals, backed up by Steve 'Keys' Gooding on Organ/Piano and Jeff Rich (Ex Status Quo, Climax Blues Band and Stretch) on Drums. Their influences are BB King, Freddie King, Muddy Waters, Peter Green, Mark Knopfler and Flea, Nathan East and Suzi Quatro. This combination is guaranteed to get the audience singing, dancing and smiling all night long!





Santiago & The Soulmovers

The Corn Exchange - Saturday 13th September 10pm

Santiago is a talented, passionate singer/songwriter/Guitarist who brings the vibrant energy of his native Argentina to his regular appearances on the London music scene. Santiago released three albums with his first band in Argentina. In 2017 Santiago embarked upon his solo career with two Blues releases that opened the doors for performances in Australia, New Zealand, Italy, Mexico, Ecuador, and Brazil before making London his home.

Myke Clifford Quartet

Golden Lion Hotel - Sunday 14th September 11.30am

No stranger to the Festival, Myke has performed many times over the years in several bands and in a variety of styles. This year he returns with his quartet of seasoned musicians. The lineup is: Myke Clifford on Sax, Flute and Clarinet, the extraordinary Art Tooper on Piano, the go-to Bass player, Joel Humann and master percussionist Derek Scurll. *'Interactive improvisation'* is the aim of this band, so expect some melodic swinging Jazz, whilst enjoying a Sunday lunch.



Chris Lord & her Blues Express

The Quay - Sunday 14th September 1.30pm

A powerful and raunchy Rhythm & Blues 5-piece producing classic Blues with a hint of Jazz, a touch of 'sauce' and lots of nostalgia. The band is driven by the superb voice of Chris Lord supported by a heady mix of Tenor Sax and Guitar, all built upon a first-class rhythm section. The band comprise Chris Lord (Lead Vocals); Rick Booth (Guitar and Vocals); Donald Lang (Sax); Rick Philpott (Drums) and Geoff Burroughs (Bass). Influences range from early artists like Bessie Smith, Zuzu Bollin and Big Mama Thornton.

Django's Tiger

Ivo Lounge - Sunday 14th September 12.30pm

Django's Tiger is a Cambridge-based band playing swinging Gypsy Jazz in the tradition of Django Reinhardt, Stephane Grappelli and the Quintet of the Hot Club of France. The repertoire includes standards from the 1920s to the 1950s, and some contemporary gypsy music. The current lineup is Louis Thorne on Lead Guitar, Damian Glasford-Brown on Rhythm Guitar, Pete Newman on Clarinet and Vocals by the wonderful Tiffany Lovegrove.





Fred's House

The Corn Exchange - Sunday 14th September 3pm

Vix, Prue, Lachlan, Gafyn and Paul are a group of friends based in Cambridge who make up the award-winning band. Expect catchy melodies, feel-good vibes and powerhouse vocals featuring four-part harmonies. Fred's House has performed more gigs than they care to remember, including headline tours of the UK and China. They return to St Ives having played on The Quay last year.

Jazz Division *The Bandstand - Sunday 14th September 3pm*

Jazz Division is a ten-piece swing band from Suffolk who love making great music that is uplifting, exciting and just great fun, both to play and listen to. They are all trained, avid musicians who love what they do. It's serious fun! Their repertoire includes Jazz, Swing, Blues and Soul. If they're not having a great time, you won't be either so they'll make sure it's music you LOVE.



Jonno's 3-piece Quartet

Nelson's Head - Sunday 14th September 4.30pm

On Bass, we've got Lee Charles Phillips, one half of the very successful Lightwaves who has taken time out of his busy schedule as a Cambridge lecturer to lay down grooves so deep even his physics degree can't explain its dramatic effect on the human brain. On Guitar is the fabulous and ubiquitous Johnny Wright. Despite his distinctive style he really does only have five digits on his left hand. And on Drums, the rhythmic backbone of the operation, and lead singer, is Jonno Stanford; he can

make a beat so solid, you'll swear your ancestors are dancing with you. . . He is the only one of them who can parallel park the van, which, let's be honest, is the real talent here. Come see them live, and they'll make you feel better about your own questionable life choices. Or at least, make you laugh about them!

Jamie Williams & the Roots Collective

The Lounge - Sunday 14th September 6.30pm

Indie Roots Rockers, Jamie Williams & the Roots Collective, have been busy releasing a new studio album 'Stay True' and playing to packed venues & festivals around the Country. Their super-tight line-up has played more than 500 shows. Their ethos is always to have fun and make sure the crowd does too. They're like the classic touring bands of the 70s: a travelling circus; a dysfunctional family of a band, leaving just enough rough edges to be one of the most exciting live bands on the circuit today.



The Venues

Golden Lion Hotel

*Thursday 11 September 6pm,
Friday 12th September 8pm,
Saturday 13th September
12.30pm and 6pm, Sunday 14th
September 11.30am*

The Golden Lion Hotel, in the heart of The Old Riverport, plays host to five bands. On Thursday it's Brooks Williams & Aaron Catlow, on Friday it's Mim Grey, on Saturday it's Will Sketches Band and Split Whiskers, and on Sunday lunchtime you can enjoy a lunch listening to the brilliant Myke Clifford Quartet.

Amore Thursday 11th September 6.30pm



Start your Festival with a great meal overlooking the river and mediaeval Bridge whilst enjoying the laid back groove and vibe from Soloman Smith accompanied by Chris Newman on Guitar and Malek Hyde-Smith on Percussion. Booking a meal is essential.

Floods Tavern

*Thursday 11 September 7pm, Friday 12th September 5.30pm
and Saturday 13th September 4pm*

Playing in Floods' great patio, overlooking the river and meadow on Thursday is the amazing Baritone-voiced JUDVH. On Friday you can hear the contemporary Jazz of GETNOTGOT, and on Saturday Floods becomes Reggae Central with the always entertaining Upwood Ukuleles.



The Oliver Cromwell

Thurs 11th September 7.30pm
The Oliver Cromwell returns to the Festival with the extraordinary guitarist Claude Bourbon.



Nelson's Head

*Thurs 11th September 8.30pm & Sun
14th September 4.30pm*

Nelson's Head in Merryland is hosting Festival favourites The Lightwaves on Thursday, and on Sunday it's Jonno's 3-piece Blues Quartet.

The Corn Exchange

*Thursday 11th September 10pm,
Friday 12th September 7pm & 10pm,
Saturday 13th September 5pm & 10pm,
Sunday 14th September 3pm,*

The Corn Exchange has become the premier music venue in town and hosts five great bands and a dance session this year. They are in order: The Houndogs, Mr Griff and The Grifters, Connor Selby, a dance lesson with the Riverport Dancers, Santiago and The Soulmovers and Fred's House. A line-up that would grace any venue.



Slepe Hall Hotel

Friday 12th September 6pm

Slepe Hall Hotel boasts an impressive grand exterior and 16 luxurious bedrooms, a restaurant, bar and function rooms. There is a gorgeous terrace to sit on and watch the sunset, while listening to the music of the Greg Brice Duo playing some of the very best accoustic finger-picking Blues. A perfect sound for an early Friday evening.

Ivy Leaf Club

*Friday 12th September
7.30pm & Saturday 13th
September 8pm*

The Ivy Leaf Club in The Broadway is the venue for a night of punchy covers with The Soundrels on Friday, and the out-and-out Blues from The Blues Boy Kings on Saturday.



Sheep Market

Saturday 13th Sept 11am

Sheep Market is perfect for a coffee or breakfast and a sunbathe, while listening to some brilliant music with the Festival stallwarts The Barefoot Doctors. It's a good place to dance as well!



The Bandstand on The Waits

Saturday 13th Sept 1pm and Sunday 14th Sept 3pm



This bandstand by The Waits is a perfect venue to listen to big Swinging Jazz with We Got That Swing!, and big-band music with Jazz Division, all the way from Suffolk.

The Quay



Saturday 13th Sept 2pm and Sunday 45th Sept 1.30pm

If the weather is kind this is a great place to listen to music in the sunshine. This year we have The 'very gifted' 29th Funktion and the return of Chris Lord and her Blues Express.

The Royal Oak

Saturday 13th September 7pm



One of St Ives oldest pubs in the heart of town, The Royal Oak was refurbished last year and some modern touches made. But it has kept lots of the charm and character that

has made it one of the most-loved pubs once again.

With a very friendly and light atmosphere it has been regularly hosting bands and is fast becoming a regular venue for lovers of live music. This year it features the amazing Banjo player Dan Walsh, who featured last year at Sleppe Hall with Brooks Williams.



Ivo Lounge *Sunday 14th September 12.30pm*

The Ivo Lounge is part of the group 'Loungers' which was founded in Bristol in 2002 by three friends who wanted to create a neighbourhood café-bar that they would want to go to. Their focus on hospitality, comfort and familiarity remains at the core of the company, driven by an independent culture and focus on the St Ives community. You can enjoy the superb Django's Tiger over lunch on Sunday.

The Lounge

Sunday 14th September 6.30pm



As usual The Lounge hosts the final act of the weekend and this year it is Jamie Williams and The Roots Collective. They have

always provided great performances since their first appearance in 2023 and so they are guaranteed to provide a lively and fun finale.

Thanks to all of you . . .

St Ives Town Team would like to thank everyone involved, especially all the venues, musicians and sponsors, for making this Festival possible. We also hope that you might discover a new band as well as enjoying some of your old favourites. We are constantly looking to keep The Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival a fresh experience featuring the best musicians around.

Details of the Festival can be found at **www.stivescambridgeshire.co.uk**

or see our Facebook page **www.facebook.com/theoldriverportjazzandbluesfestival**



Don't miss out on this year's Festival CD

This double CD featuring 30 tracks from the bands playing this year is a great souvenir of four days of fun and music at the 11th Old

Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival.

Plus get your Festival T-Shirt with its unique logo and details of every band and venue.

You can also order **T-Shirts and CDs online@**

<https://www.mitsa.co.uk/products/customer-shops/riverport-jazz/shop>

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