

THE OLD RIVERPORT
ST IVES
Jazz & Blues
FESTIVAL
2026

10th to 13th September 2026
www.stivescambridgeshire.co.uk

Welcome to the 2026 Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival

This year's Festival sees 31 concerts at sixteen locations over four days featuring some of the best musicians in the UK. As well as some of our favourite musicians returning to entertain us, there are ten new bands to see. Our thanks go to the musicians and venues and you, who come to enjoy the music and our town, buy our T-Shirts and CDs, and make the Festival such a happy and enjoyable event.



THURSDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER

6pm	Golden Lion Hotel	Richard Exall's Benny Goodman Quartet	The music of Benny Goodman
6.30pm	Amore Restaurant	Chris Newman & Humfry Finkel	Ragtime
7pm	Oliver Cromwell	The Lightwaves	A bit of everything
7.30pm	The Taproom	Brooks Williams & Aaron Catlow	UK folk and Americana
8.30pm	Nelson's Head	Sure-Can Playboys	Roots & Blues
10pm	The Corn Exchange	Santiago & The Soul Movers	Rock & Soul

FRIDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER

5.30pm	Floods Tavern	Split Whiskers	Chicago Blues
6.30pm	Golden Lion Hotel	Shufflepack	Shuffling Blues
7pm	Broadway Cellars	Trio Plus	Jazz, Funk
7.30pm	The Taproom	Greg Brice	Accoustic Blues
8.30pm	Ivy leaf Club	Max & Veronica	Vintage Blues, Jazz & Ragtime
10pm	The Corn Exchange	The Kendall Connection	Blues-Rock

SATURDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER

11am	Sheep Market	The Barefoot Doctors	Electric Blues
12.30pm	Whisky Café	Gravy Train Trio	Funk, Soul, Jazz
1pm	The Bandstand	RUBY MUSE	Folk, Blues and Americana
2pm	The Quay	GETNOTGOT	Groovy Jazz-funk
4pm	The Corn Exchange	The Gray Project	Jazz and Soul
5pm	Floods Tavern	Johnny Wright & Marina Bush	Feisty Country
6.30pm	The Taproom	Will Sketches Quartet	Funk, Soul, Blues
7pm	Golden Lion Hotel	Blues Boy Kings	Blues
8.30pm	Ivy leaf Club	Chris Lord & her Blues Express	Rhythm & Blues
10pm	The Corn Exchange	Thomas Atlas	Contemporary Blues & Soul

SUNDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER

11.30am	Golden Lion Hotel	M G Boulter & Jenny Sturgeon	Indie Folk
12.30pm	Ivo Lounge	Django's Tiger	Gypsy Jazz
1pm	The Quay	The 29th Funktion	Rhythm & Blues
2.30pm	The Free Church	Upbeat Big Band	Big Band Swing and Jazz
3pm	The Taproom	Dan Walsh	Banjo Virtuoso
3.30pm	Broadway Cellars	Myke Clifford Quartet	Pure Jazz
4pm	Oliver Cromwell	Jonno's 3 piece Blues Quartet	Blues
4.30pm	Nelson's Head	Rich Young & Chris Newman	Roots
6.30pm	The Lounge	Mr Griff & The Griffers	Dynamic Soul Fusion

The Bands

Richard Exall's Benny Goodman Quartet

Golden Lion Hotel - Thursday 10th September 6pm

Richard formed his own jazz quartet and big band while still at college and quickly became a familiar figure on the London jazz scene, playing with a wide range of bands and artists from the National Youth Jazz Orchestra to the Ink Spots.

Richard is definitely one of our very best jazz musicians. His list of credits includes playing with Kenny Ball, The Pasadena Roof Orchestra and Syd Lawrence Orchestra. He will be opening the Festival in The Golden Lion with the magnificent Art Toper on piano.



Chris Newman & Humfrey Finkel

Amoré Restaurant - Thursday 10th September 6.30pm

Enjoy an evening of improvised ragtime music, whilst eating a fine meal at one of St Ives' best restaurants. Join these exceptional 'duelling' guitarists. on a musical journey in the tradition of thumb-picking, boom chicking fingerstyle guitar with a mix of classics and originals. Expect solid bass lines, fat chords and even a little harmony! **Due to the restricted size of the venue you must book a meal to enjoy this duo.**



The Lightwaves

Oliver Cromwell - Thursday 10th September 7pm

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.



Brooks Williams & Aaron Catlow

The Taproom - Thursday 10th September 7.30pm

'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 third year, this fantastic duo will be the fourth act of our 2026 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!'





Lexie Green & Johnny 'Magic Boy' Wright

Nelson's Head - Thursday 10th September 8.30pm

Lexie Green is a multiple genre singer/songwriter who's influences include Americana, Vintage Blues, Gospel, Country & good ol' Rock 'n' Roll. Her passion for songwriting and hard work has gained her a number of international song writing awards and multiple album releases to critical success. Lexie will be supported by the phenomenal Johnny 'Magic Boy' Wright to deliver her brand of Soulful Country, Rock 'n' Roll and Vintage Blues.

Santiago & The Soulmoovers

The Corn Exchange - Thursday 10th September 10pm

Santiago is a passionate songwriter/guitarist who brings the vibrant energy of his native Argentina to his regular appearances on the London music scene. In 2017 he embarked upon his solo career that opened the doors for performances in Australia, New Zealand, Italy, Mexico, Ecuador, and Brazil before making London his home.



Split Whiskers

Floods Tavern - Friday 11th September 5.30pm

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.



The Shufflepack *Golden Lion Hotel - Friday 11th September 6.30pm*

This is blues to make you want to jump and shout. With a blazing front line of harmonica, sax and guitar, and shuffling, swinging rhythms in the classic style, The Shufflepack is for dancers as well as true blues fans. Darlings of the Birmingham Jazz & Blues Festival they've had standing ovations at the UK's finest blues clubs. They are: Tom Domagala, sax and flute; Barney Nikolic, guitar; Les Calvert, bass; Chris Lloyd, drums and Stuart Maxwell, vocals harmonica.



Trio Plus

Broadway Cellars - Friday 11th September 7pm

We expect Trio Plus to be one of the most exciting bands at this year's Festival as it features guitarist Keith Winters of Shakatak fame. Keith is one of the original founders of Shakatak and still plays with this iconic, chart topping band. He is accompanied by Martin Hallmark on piano, Alan Carruthers (of Spiral G's) on bass, Stuart Pringle on drums and our very own Festival favourite, Myke Clifford, on sax and flute.





Greg Brice *The Taproom - Friday 11th September 7.30pm*

Nominated for the third year running in the 2025 UK Blues Awards – Greg's reviews include: *'The most exquisite finger-picked acoustic blues that you could wish to hear'* and *'The quality of Greg's song writing is capturing people's imagination'*.

Max De Bernardi & Veronica Sbergia

Ivy Leaf Club - Friday 11th September 8.30pm

Veronica are truly something special. With just their voices and a few acoustic instruments, this delightful duo has assembled an extraordinary repertoire of American Roots music from Country and Folk, to Ragtime and Swing, plus Gospel and Blues. Max: vocals, acoustic guitar, Veronica: vocals, washboard and baritone ukulele.



The Kendall Connection *The Corn Exchange - Friday 11th September 10pm*

Guitar-driven blues rock spearheaded by Nick Kendall. Four of London's finest session musicians joined forces to create a band that Blues Matters Magazine said produced *'One of the best debut albums heard in a long time'*. Band members have performed with 10cc, Brian May, Adele, Paul Weller, Alice Cooper, Gordon Giltrap and in over 20 West End shows. Jools Holland invited the band to support him on his 2022 Autumn/Winter tour, and Nick has recently been touring internationally with Sting in The Last Ship. The band released their second album *'Blood & Water'* and are currently recording their third due to be released soon.

The Barefoot Doctors *Sheep Market - Saturday 12th 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 souls!!



Gravy Train Trio

Whisky Café - Saturday 12th September 12.30pm

The Gravy Train are a funky organ trio hailing from Cambridge. The line-up consists of; Justin Dwyer, guitar; Hugh Birkenhead, organ and Ian Griffith, drums. They have supported big acts such as The Average White Band. Their influences range from Booker T & the MGs to John Schofield and the Delvon Lamarr Trio. The band have released two studio albums and their 'always popular' set will feature some of their own original material from these releases.



RUBY MUSE *The Bandstand - Saturday 12th September 1pm*

Original, warm-hearted folk-blues and Americana, with touches of jazz and ambient poetry, sprinkled with 70's flower-power and prog-dust – you may just get the idea! Songwriters Jools and Mal Heyes have shared stages with high-profile UK performers and their songs have been used in award-winning Film & TV. With Dave Cammish (bass) and Matt Kelly (fiddle).



GETNOTGOT

The Quay - Saturday 12th September 2pm

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. They are: Emmerson Dutton - guitar, Baz O'Neill - tenor and alto saxophone, Steve Plumridge - bass, Jonny Foreman - keys and Pete Fraser - drums.



The Gray Project

The Corn Exchange - Saturday 12th September 4pm

The Gray Project is a 10-piece jazz funk and soul band from East Anglia whose sole objective is to fill the floor with hip urban grooves. They're no tribute band, but a cool collective paying homage to the golden age of soulful, sassy, jazz-funk. TGP play songs which have been lost but not forgotten. Think Average White Band and you aren't far off!



Johnny 'Magic Boy' Wright & Marina Bush

Floods Tavern - Saturday 12th September 5pm

A first appearance for singer Marina Bush, accompanied by the always brilliant Johnny 'Magic Boy' Wright. Get ready for feisty country songs about heartache, rage and vengeance, as well as classics to sing along with.



Will Sketches Quartet

The Taproom - Sat 12th September 6.30pm

The will.sketches Quartet is a London funk, soul and jazz outfit led by session guitarist Will Sketches (Joel Sarakula tour band, sessions for Anthony Stephens, BBC Introducing, The Voice artists). Inspired by George Benson, Larry Carlton and Eric Clapton, the band mixes soulful melodies, tight funk grooves and jazz-flavoured improvisation. With players who've appeared at Ronnie Scott's and major UK festivals, the quartet brings high-level musicianship and feel-good energy to any stage.



The Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival

The Venues

- 1 The Bandstand
- 2 Broadway Cellars
- 3 Floods Tavern
- 4 Ivy Leaf Club
- 5 The Lounge
- 6 Nelson's Head
- 7 The Taproom
- 8 The Corn Exchange
- 9 The Free Church
- 10 Golden Lion Hotel
- 11 Whisky Café
- 12 Sheep Market
- 13 Ivo Lounge
- 14 The Oliver Cromwell
- 15 Amore Restaurant
- 16 The Quay

'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

10th to 13th September 2026



Cambridge is just 30 minutes away on the Guided Bus

Buses stop in the bus station, or on the corner of Station Road and also a short distance away in the Park & Ride, the other side of Harrison Way.

To Park & Ride and additional coach parking on Meadow Lane

Guided Busway

To A14 Cambridge & M11

St Ives

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

PRODUCED BY
ST IVES TOWN TEAM AND SPONSORED BY



Map created by John Souter based on an original drawing by Bob Burn-Murdoch.
© John Souter

BLUES BOY KINGS



The Blues Boy Kings

Golden Lion Hotel - Saturday 12th September 7pm

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, Flea, Nathan East and Suzi Quatro. This combination is guaranteed to get the audience singing, dancing and smiling all night long!

Chris Lord & her Blues Express

Ivy Leaf Club - Saturday 12th September 8.30pm

A powerful and raunchy rhythm & blues 5-piece producing classic blues with a hint of jazz, a touch of 'saucy' 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; Bob Lee - drums and Geoff Burroughs - bass. Influences range from early artists like Bessie Smith, Zuzu Bollin and Big Mama Thornton.



Thomas Atlas *The Corn Exchange - Saturday 12th September 10pm*

This UK-based singer/songwriter, and blues guitarist is taking 2026 by storm, playing at some of the most highly regarded festivals and venues across the UK, including here in St Ives. Playing in his band are some of the very best session musicians, performing Thomas's original songs and his chosen favorite covers. This makes for a versatile and exciting show for his ever-growing audience. Thomas' music is a blend of blues, soul, funk, Americana, and rock - all in one. With Eric Clapton listening to Thomas on YouTube and calling him 'Pretty Nifty,' Saturday nights concert in St Ives Corn Exchange will definitely be one not to miss.



M G Boulter & Jenny Sturgeon

Golden Lion Hotel - Sunday 13th September 11.30am

Jenny Sturgeon and M G Boulter have been pen pals since 2021, maintaining a musical conversation between their respective homes on Shetland and Southend-on-Sea. Both established songwriters in their own right, those catch-ups led to the quiet creation of a collection of songs, which will be released on the Indie folk label in 2026.



Django's Tiger

Ivo Lounge - Sunday 13th 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 Glasfurd-Brown on rhythm guitar, Pete Newman on clarinet and vocals and Joel Humann on bass.



The 29th Funktion

The Quay - Sunday 13th September 1pm

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.

Upbeat Big Band

The Free Church - Sunday 13th September 2.30pm

The Upbeat Big Band is an 18-piece jazz orchestra, playing a wide range of jazz, funk, swing and vocal arrangements from throughout the decades. Featuring a classic Big Band-style line up plus stunning vocals, they are guaranteed to get the crowd moving. They are regular performers at the Cambridge Jazz Festival so why not come along and listen to 'the best band in the land' and other tunes!



Dan Walsh

The Taproom - Sunday 13th September 3pm

Dan's performance at last year's Festival proved one of the very best as the audience delighted in his mastery of this delightful instrument. Dan, a BBC Folk Awards 'Best Musician' nominee 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.



Myke Clifford Quartet

Broadway Cellars - Sunday 13th September 3.30pm

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 Scurl. 'Interactive improvisation' is the aim of this band, so expect some melodic swinging jazz, whilst enjoying a Sunday lunch.



Jonno's 3-piece Quartet

Oliver Cromwell - Sunday 13th September 4pm

On bass, we've got Lee Charles Phillips, one half of the very successful Lightwaves. On guitar is the fabulous and ubiquitous Johnny Wright - despite his distinctive style he really does only have five digits on his left hand. 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.

Rich Young & Chris Newman

Nelson's Head - Sunday 13th September 4.30pm

Rich describes himself as a singer, songwriter, musician, producer, raconteur, OCD archivist and one-time tortoise smuggler - so he's been around! Acoustic based, he plays Americana/blues/rock 'n roots. He also plays boogie piano and is just as happy playing covers as well as original material. Rich is accompanied by Chris, one of our finest guitarists who is well-known at our Festival for his superb performances.



Mr Griff & The Grifters

The Lounge - Sunday 13th September 6.30pm

Multi-instrumentalist, singer, songwriter and performer Ian Griffith is no stranger to the Festival having played here on several occasions. This year we are featuring Ian's 5 piece band, playing some funk and soul at the final concert of the Festival. You will need to preserve a little energy because this band specialises in dynamic, high energy and engaging performances. Ian has now established one of the freshest and most exciting new sounds to emerge from Cambridge in recent years and we welcome them back to our Festival.

The Venues

Golden Lion Hotel

Thursday 10 September 6pm
Friday 11th September 6.30pm
Saturday 12th September 7pm
Sunday 13th September 11.30am



The Golden Lion Hotel in the heart of The Old Riverport provides comfortable accommodation and hosts Richard Exall's Benny Goodman Quartet, Shufflepack, the Blues Boy Kings, and M G Boulter & Jenny Sturgeon.

Amore Thursday 10th September 6.30pm



Start your Festival with a great meal overlooking the river and mediaeval bridge whilst enjoying the wonderful guitarists Chris Newman and Humfry Finkel. Due to limited space, booking a meal is essential.

The Oliver Cromwell

Thurs 10th September 7pm
Sunday 13th September 4pm
The Oliver Cromwell, with a reputation for serving a great Sunday lunch, returns to the Festival with the extraordinary duo The Lightwaves and Jonno's 3 piece Quartet.



The Taproom

Thursday 10th September 7.30pm
Friday 11th September 7.30pm
Saturday 12th September 6.30pm
Sunday 13th September 3pm

A variety of music can regularly be heard in this popular Café Lounge Bar that re-opened in 2025. Bands playing include Brooks Williams & Aaron Catlow, Greg Brice, the Will Sketches Quartet and Dan Walsh.



Nelson's Head

Thursday 10th September 8.30pm
Sunday 13th September 4.30pm
The Nelson's Head in Merryland is one of our most popular venues and this year is hosting Lexie Green & Johnny Wright on Thursday and Rich Young with Chris Newman on Sunday.



The Corn Exchange

Thursday 10th September 10pm, Friday 11th September 10pm, Saturday 12th September 4pm & 10pm

The Corn Exchange has become the premier music venue in town and hosts four great bands. They are in order: Santiago and The Soulmovers, The Kendall Connection, The Gray Project and Thomas Atlas. It is also used for some outdoor concerts if the weather is poor.

Floods Tavern

Friday 11th September 5.30pm
Saturday 12th September 5pm
On a fine day Floods' patio overlooking the river and meadow is one of the very best venues. This year it hosts Split Whiskers and Johnny Wright and Marina Bush.



Broadway Cellars

Friday 11th September 7pm
Sunday 13th September 3.30pm
This newly opened wine shop and bar has already proved popular and is one of two new venues for the Festival. Playing here are Trio

Plus, a treat for lovers of Shakatak, and the always popular Myke Clifford Quartet playing some of the coolest jazz around.

Ivy Leaf Club

Friday 11th September 8.30pm

Sat. 12th September 8.30pm

The Ivy Leaf Club is the venue for a night of Swing, Gospel and Blues with Italians Max & Veronica and all out Blues with Chris Lord & her Blues Express.



Sheep Market

Saturday 12th 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!



Whisky Café

Saturday 12th Sept 12.30pm

Also new to the Festival the Whisky Café has already won awards for its cuisine and fine buildings. It hosts Festival favourites the Gravy Train Trio.



The Bandstand on The Waits

Saturday 12th September 1pm

This bandstand by The Waits is a perfect venue for a Saturday afternoon listening to the cultured tones of RUBY MUSE.



The Quay

Saturday 12th September 2pm & Sunday 13th September 1pm

If the weather is kind this is a great place to listen to music in the sunshine. This year we have the groovy GETNOTGOT and the always energetic The 29th Funktion.

Ivo Lounge

Sunday 13th 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. The Ivo Lounge has rapidly established itself in St Ives and you will be able to enjoy the superb Django's Tiger over lunch.





The Free Church

*Sunday
13th September
2.30pm*

This is the perfect setting for the 20 musicians that comprise the Upbeat Big Band.

The Church can trace its roots to the time of Cromwell. Although the current building was built in 1864 it was transformed in 1980 to

provide community facilities and the wonderful Centrum on the first floor which can accommodate 200 people.

The Lounge

Sunday 13th September 6.30pm

The Lounge, which is usually a nightclub, once again opens its doors to accommodate their annual night of live music, when it hosts the final act of the Festival.



This year it is the increasingly popular Mr Griff & The Grifters, who have always provided great performances since their first appearance in 2022 and 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 12th Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival. Plus get your Festival T-Shirt with its unique logo and details of every band and venue on the back. You can also order **T-Shirts and CDs online@**

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

For all enquiries email: townteam@stivescambridgeshire.co.uk





In tune with every move...

Like a great blues riff, your perfect home just feels right.

Let Ellis Winters orchestrate your next property journey from first note to final key.

PROUD SPONSORS
OF THE OLD RIVERPORT
JAZZ & BLUES FESTIVAL



ellis winters

Celebrating 25 years of helping people move

www.elliswinters.co.uk