



ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL

OCTOBER 2026



✠ Message from the Mayor

I have had an incredibly busy and rewarding summer as Mayor of St Austell and really enjoyed visiting and supporting some of the fantastic community organisations across the area. As well as many civic events I attended the St Austell Community Hub Fete, a community art show and spent time with St Austell Canoe Club and St Austell Camera Club. I also visited Chaos Radio to talk about St Austell, the role of the Mayor and the many positive things happening across our town.

During the summer holidays, Young People Cornwall delivered Park Games sessions on behalf of St Austell

Town Council, providing free outdoor activities for local children and families. September also saw the first-ever St Austell Proms in the Park, a free brass band concert that brought local people together for a wonderful evening of music. It has been a real pleasure to see so many people enjoying the events and activities taking place across the town.

Community engagement remains hugely important to me, and I was delighted to host my first "Meet the Mayor Coffee Morning" at St Austell Library on Saturday 19th September 2026 alongside the local Cornwall Councillors. It was a valuable opportunity to speak directly with residents, hear about local issues and discuss how we can continue working together to improve our town.

I wish you all a very pleasant autumn.

Councillor Ethan Stephens, Mayor of St Austell

✠ St Austell Library's Record-Breaking Summer

St Austell Library has enjoyed a remarkable summer, achieving some of its strongest results on record and cementing its position as one of Cornwall's busiest and most successful libraries.

During both June and July, St Austell Library topped Cornwall's library borrowing charts, with more books borrowed than any other library in the county. The library recorded 9,172 loans in June and 10,503 in July, demonstrating the community's continued enthusiasm for reading and library services.

The summer holidays also saw the launch of the first-ever Cornwall Reading Challenge. Delivered by Cornwall Libraries, the programme replaced the national Summer Reading Challenge with a new initiative inspired by Cornwall's unique culture and heritage. An impressive 484 children completed the challenge at St Austell Library, earning prizes for reading six books over the holidays and helping to maintain their reading habits throughout the summer break.

These achievements reflect the library's important role at the heart of the community and the ongoing popularity of its services. With a record-breaking summer now behind them, staff are looking forward to building on this success and welcoming even more readers through the doors in the months ahead.



Two members of staff at St Austell Library in 'explorers' costume to advertise the Cornwall Reading Challenge.



Mayor Ethan Stephens makes a speech to open the St Austell Community Proms in the Park event.



Mount Charles Band performs at the Community Proms in the Park event.



Alison Harvey sings with Mount Charles Band



From St Austell
Town Council

- St Austell library issued over 30,000 books, DVDs and audiobooks across June, July & August 2026.
- So far in 2026 St Austell Town Council's Small Grants Scheme has awarded grants to 17 local organisations.
- The Town Council's grounds team manage 17 parks and open spaces, and 5KM of rural footpaths.
- The grounds team cut over 10 miles of highway verges on behalf of Cornwall Council.

St Austell's First Community Proms in the Park Makes a Memorable Debut

Residents gathered at Poltair Park in September for St Austell's first-ever Community Proms in the Park, enjoying an evening of music, community spirit and fundraising in a beautiful outdoor setting. The event brought together people of all ages for a celebration of live music, with Mount Charles Band providing a fantastic soundtrack accompanied by Alison Harvey singing during the second half of the evening.

The park was transformed for the occasion thanks to the support of Blackbeam Cinematic, whose lighting created a memorable atmosphere and helped make the event feel truly special.

As well as bringing the community together, the event raised £127 for the Mayor's chosen charities, A Band of Brothers Cornwall and Georgia's Voice. Following such a positive response, it is hoped that Community Proms in the Park will become a regular feature in the town's events calendar for years to come.

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