

# The Riverporter

ST IVES AWARD WINNING NEWSPAPER

Issue 90: 23 July 2021

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

## It's coming home!

Not that one - football's on holiday in Italy for a while, but the Town Council has announced that the weekly markets and the twice monthly Farmers Market are coming home to their original location in Market Hill and on the Sheepmarket.

The Town Council's announcement reads 'As England moves into Step 4, we welcome back the Farmers' Market to Sheep Market (Market Hill) from the 7th August! The Farmers' Market has missed being in the Town Centre for so long now. Whilst COVID restrictions have been lifted, we encourage people to still be actively cautious and respectful of others around them and our stallholders. We will be posting a list of who will be in attendance closer to the date.' Shortly after this announcement the Town Council website issued this statement from the

District Council, who run the Monday and Friday markets: 'Huntingdonshire District Council's St Ives Market will be returning to Market Hill from Monday 2nd August.'

District Councillor Marge Beuttell, who is in charge, was quoted as saying she was very excited to see the market back where it belongs after a year of temporary arrangements. We thought she'd be excited!

Right: Happy customers line up to buy cakes from George's stall at the Farmers' Market. Will we see scenes like this again?

THE RIVERPORTER COVERING THE NEWS OTHER PAPERS DON'T



## And there they were ... Gone!

As we approached the Government's 'Freedom Day' last Monday, Huntingdonshire District Council had their workmen removing the orange barriers that lined the streets and divided opinions these past few months.

Early Sunday morning the teams could be found stacking the barriers neatly into the trucks and tidying the streets. There can be no doubt that St Ives town centre looks the better for it but talking with residents, opinions are divided. Comments were that 'It's too soon', that we should remain separated and keep our masks on, while others spoke of better late than never.

The hope is that our bars and restaurants keep their outdoor seating and that people will still use masks when in close groups or enclosed spaces. The barriers were contentious from the moment they arrived, St Ives has the benefit of wide pavements, and the barriers simply became a difficult obstacle for the elderly, disabled and even dog walkers. Shops complained of problems with deliveries and when selfish drivers chose to park alongside the barriers, trucks found it almost impossible to pass through town.

In many instances drivers took it on themselves to move the barriers to suit themselves. In the past few days' people have taken to social media to enquire when the Monday Market can return to the town centre?(see above) and people are demanding to know when parking will be policed to prevent what has now become a 'free-for-all' with cars being left anywhere with no thought for other road users. So what are your thoughts? As we come out of this latest lock down.

Will you still use a mask? Do you think the barriers should have remained? You can always let Erik know by writing to: [editor@theriverporter.uk](mailto:editor@theriverporter.uk)

Can you spot the change?



The Town Team and St Ives Corn Exchange are delighted to be welcoming live music back to the Town centre and thanks to the generosity of The Rhythm & Blues Band you can enjoy it too for FREE.

The band, who will be playing at The Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival later in September wanted to say thanks for inviting them to play and give everyone a lift after being 'locked up' for so long. So here is your chance to listen to a great band and enjoy the new bar facilities in the Corn Exchange, which is hoping to hold regular live music events throughout the year. The concert starts at 7.30pm and the Corn Exchange doors open at 6pm. Of course Covid rules will apply, should they be in force on the day.

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> August

## THE RHYTHM & BLUES BAND

Live music back at the Corn Exchange

FREE ENTRY

[www.Thecornexchange.uk.org](http://www.Thecornexchange.uk.org)

Join us as we return to LIVE music

## SUMMER CRAFT FAIR - THIS SUNDAY

The Rotary Club of St Ives are delighted to bring you another craft fair.

We will be having a Summer Craft Fair at Slepe Hall this Sunday 25th July from 10am to 4pm

There will be a variety of locally produced goods ranging from artworks, handcrafted jewellery, stationery, candles, books and much, much more...

Why not come along and visit our outdoor stalls?

Please be aware there is no parking available at the Hotel

Read on-line at [www.theriverporter.uk](http://www.theriverporter.uk) or see our Facebook page. Email: [editor@theriverporter.uk](mailto:editor@theriverporter.uk)

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# Why you need to look after your teeth

Among the papers Jean Chandler gave the Editor (see RP89) was a single page from the St Ives Mercury dated November 1719, which showed the weekly mortality rate.

One of the features of the past 18 months has been a daily update in the coronavirus data, including the death toll. For many it has been a sobering comment, which has probably affected us all in one way or another.

Well it appears that in St Ives in 1719 the 'Mortality Rate' was a weekly set of statistics for readers of the St Ives Mercury newspaper.

Was this the precursor of our very own Riverporter newspaper? Well not exactly for the figures seemed to cover the deaths in London, so the Mercury's job was to enlighten St Ives residents about what was going on elsewhere.

Today St Ives residents know almost instantly what is happening throughout the world and it's mainly

local news that *The Riverporter* covers.

None-the-less this weekly bill of mortality, which covers the period from Tuesday 2nd November to Tuesday 10 November [that's curious for the 2nd was a Thursday and the 10th a Friday] gives some very interesting causes of death.

The highest cause of mortality was 'Convulsion' at 112 people, followed by 'Consumption' 78 people and 'Fever' with 76 people dying.

**The causes of death included:**

Aged (52), Abortive, Apoplexy, Ague, Asthma, Bloody Flux, Cancer, Child-bed, Chrisoms [a child dying within a month of birth], Colick, Dropsie, Evil [only 1 fortunately], French-pox, Gangrene, Gout, Gripping in the guts (14)

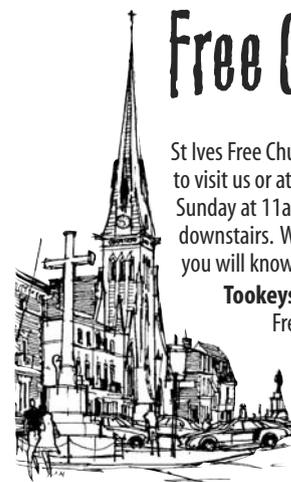
[ 63 ]	
St. Ives Mercury	
Lender: The Weekly Bill of Mortality, From Tue. day, November 2, to Tue. day, November 10, 1719.	
Aged	52
Abortive	1
Apoplexy	1
Ague	1
Asthma	1
Bloody Flux	1
Cancer	1
Child-bed	1
Chrisoms	1
Colick	1
Consumption	78
Convulsion	112
Dropsie	1
Evil	1
Fever	76
French-Pox	1
Gangrene	1
Gout	1
Gripping in the Guts	14
Head-swind-dot	1
Impoſthume	1
Jandice	1
Mortification	1
Rash	1
Rising of the Lights	1
Rheumatism	1
Rickets	1
Rupture	1
Small-Pox	54
Still-born	1
Stomach	1
Spicen	1
Still-born	1
Stone	1
Struck	1
Teeth	1
Thrush	1
Ulcers	1

Christen'd 327. Buried 529. Decreas'd in the Burials this Week 72.

Head mould shot, Impoſthume, Jaundice, Mortification [does this mean shame?], Pleurisy, Rash, Rising of the lights (lungs), Rheumatism, Rickets, Rupture, Stoppage in the stomach, Small-pox (54), Spleen, Still-born, Stone, Tisick [a cough], Thrush and Ulcers.

The most surprising cause of death is that 30 people died of 'Teeth', but we're not sure if that's because they had some or none. Only one person died 'Suddenly', which was probably a surprise for them.

# Free Church opens up



St Ives Free Church is so pleased to welcome everyone in to visit us or attend out Services which are now on every Sunday at 11am or just sit and reflect in the Chapel downstairs. We are very central in the town as many of you will know being on Market Hill.

**Tookeys Coffee Shop** which is situated within the

Free Church and is almost entirely run by volunteer staff. They offer a selection of hot and cold drinks, cakes, biscuits, fresh sandwiches and hot toasties.

**Homecooked meals** are available on Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays between 9.45 - 2pm. There are a variety

of meals all at very competitive prices. On Tuesdays and Saturdays we offer snacks. You can sit in our friendly cafe and relax or takeaway.

Why not pop in and see us in this little haven in St Ives. Well behaved dogs are welcome.

**Just Sharing** is St Ives Fair Trade shop inside the Free Church. They have beautiful crafts, jewellery and toys from around the World, some very unique pieces and a really good selection of cards for any occasion. They are open Monday to Saturday (Every day but Thursday) from 10am - 3pm. Come in and see us. A great place for presents and browsing around.

**Groups** - We have a variety of groups that use the Church for their meetings throughout the week - ranging from the Photography Club, CRUSE, Baby Yoga classes, Jingle n Shake (for children), Sunny Steps (children's group) U3A groups, Gardening Club, FAME aimed at staying Fall Free (over 65s), Saints and Crafters. If you want any information on any of the groups, or to enquire about the cost of hiring any of our rooms please get in contact via email: [Office@stivesfreechurch.org](mailto:Office@stivesfreechurch.org).

# Okay so we lost the football . . .

But on a positive note . . . how fantastic to see our Corn Exchange back in post lockdown action. An appreciative and very excitable audience were treated to watching the match on a giant 6.5 metre screen and fabulous sound system with bar table service provided by the great new CornX team.

The match didn't go quite to plan but now as we pass lockdown restrictions the Corn Exchange has already staged it's first cinema night and now we can look forward to the return of great live music first with the 'Open Mic Night' this Friday and then the Fabulous Rhythm & Blues band performing free on Friday 6th August.



# A New Act for St Ives

Fran McGillivray and Mike Burke, who hail from Forest Hill, south of the Thames will be making their first appearance in St Ives over the August Bank Holiday weekend. They are exciting and compelling performers with a strong following on the roots music scene and have spent many years honing their craft.

Fran (vocals & bass guitar) and Mike (acoustic, electric & resonator guitars & vocals) have performed at many major festivals in Europe and the UK including Rotterdam, Cambridge and Shrewsbury, and have shared the bill with artists such as Bob Dylan, Bert Jansch, John Renbourne and Elvis Costello. They are regulars on the club and concert circuit, and on BBC and local music radio shows. Fran and Mike's own vibrant and original songs are complemented by soulful, dynamic and powerful interpretations of songs from a broad range of genres from Americana through to Country and Blues.

**The Town Team are excited that Fran and Mike are able to appear in this year's Chapel Arts @ The Corn Exchange concerts.**

**Don't take our word for how good they are. Here is what the music press say:**

**'Splendid!'** Paul Jones Radio 2; **'Mighty good!'** Maverick magazine; **'Very impressive'** Robin Denselow, The Guardian **'Beautifully delivered, a thoroughly enjoyable set'** Blues Matters;

Tickets for this and other Chapel Arts @ The Corn Exchange concerts cost £10 (plus booking fee) and are limited in number and sold on a first come first served basis. They can be obtained at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives).

PLEASE NOTE: this concert replaces Dickie De Vere, & The Dorchester Mavericks who sadly had to withdraw from this performance. They will appear, as billed, at The Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival in September.



# Illuminated Boat Parade - set for 16th October

Following on from the success of the previous Disney themed parade in 2019, the Town Team and FESt have been busy organising this year's event. The theme will be Halloween and the organisers hope that the spectators will join in and dress spooky too!

The event starts at 6.30pm with the illuminated boat sail past starting at 7pm.

This event will go ahead providing relevant coronavirus regulations in place at the time can be met.

Photo of the 2019 parade by Simon Reeves [soreeves@gmail.com](mailto:soreeves@gmail.com).



# Cambs Community Road Safety BBQ Kicks off the New Life under COVID

On Saturday 10 July Community Roadwatch resumed its bi-annual social gathering of 30 of its growing 50+ 'kindred spirits' and supporters with a socially-distanced but nevertheless most enjoyable BBQ at the Mad Cat Pitdley.



David McCandless, Managing Director of Community Roadwatch (UK) CIC, explains that 'Community Roadwatch, often confused with - but poles apart from - the Police-managed and controlled Community Speedwatch, is a unique private Community Interest Company (CIC) founded in 2015 and ethically run by 5 unpaid, volunteer directors'.

'With our Data Loggers and calibrated Bushnell speed guns we are able to discretely and accurately quantify bi-directional traffic volumes/speeds or detect and dashcam-record dangerous speeds or reckless/dangerous behaviour within the community to submit to the Police for actioning.

'We also check the Tax and MoT status of all vehicles we detect at or over 35 mph in a 30 zone and report them to either the DVLA or Police. Also if a commercial vehicle is speeding - or the driver tailgating, reading a schedule, on the phone or otherwise provably distracted - we bring our observation to the attention of the business owner to have an 'educational' word with the driver.'

David laments, 'Whilst shunned by the Constabulary, we believe that we the public, using calibrated kit, dashcams and ethical, auditable processes, can complement the educational efforts of the Police Speedwatch scheme. Remember every little helps a lot and any little is always better than absolutely no little at all.' Go to: [www.roadwatch.org.uk/Cambs](http://www.roadwatch.org.uk/Cambs) for more information.

# Time to pay the piper

Sunday evening saw a small (legal) family gathering to celebrate a 50th wedding anniversary on the Quayside and guests and Quayside visitors were surprised and entertained by the arrival of a resplendent piper who marched the length of the Quay and then played for some time near Freechurch Passage before marching the length of the Quay. The spectacle was well received and diners at a nearby eatery were heard offering cash to keep him there.

**Don't you just LOVE St Ives!**





having your say ...



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

# The Riverporter

Voted Best local newspaper of the year 2019/20 in the Cambridge Building Society's Community Magazine Awards

## NEWS UPDATE

### Importance of the neighbourhood plan

St Ives Town Council have been working on the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan, see RP89. David Stewart, Chairman of the Civic Society explained recently that Neighbourhood plans were introduced around nine years ago. Historic England state on their website: 'Where they are in place neighbourhood plans form part of the development plan for the area, along with the local planning authority's local development plan ... The neighbourhood plan takes precedence over the local authority's development plan on matters that are not of strategic importance to the local authority's area.'



The neighbourhood plan, when completed and approved by voters in a local referendum will become an important tool in shaping the way St Ives is developed. There is a questionnaire that you can complete to report your views on the proposals. The display and questionnaire is online at: [https://www.stivestowncouncil.gov.uk/Public\\_Consultation\\_29968.aspx](https://www.stivestowncouncil.gov.uk/Public_Consultation_29968.aspx) Paper copies of the display and questionnaire will be available from the Town Hall.

### Are the Councils accounts accurate?

The latest edition of The Bridge contains a summary of the Town Council's accounts that vary from the audited ones by a considerable amount. The problem could have arisen in 2019 when the audited statement was not available until October that year. However The Bridge reports a deficit in the general reserve, which if accurate, is surely a catastrophe!

### Exploitation of Young People in St Ives

Neighbourhood officers in St Ives are aware that young people are being lured into the local drug culture by being given 'free weed' by dealers and are then being pressured into selling cannabis, crack cocaine and heroin to pay off their debts.

This is not 'free weed' – this is child exploitation. If you have concerns for your child, you can speak to the police via the on-line '101 Live Chat' service at this link: <https://bit.ly/331Z5bB> Alternatively, you can obtain drug support advice from the NHS 'Child and Adolescent Substance Use Service' (CASUS) at this link: <https://bit.ly/3hlvqz0>

### The road to Brigadoon, sorry I mean St Ives!

It was almost as soon as the new A14 was finished confused drivers started complaining that St Ives appears a little overlooked as far as



road signage goes. In a very small way a slightly clearer St Ives sign was included at the A14 Exit, however the road layout at this junction is considered counter intuitive. Drivers have left the A14 and then driven straight back on it ending up with a lengthy round trip to Huntingdon as a frustrating result. But it doesn't end there. St Ives is a visitor town and on these sunny days people come to visit, walk along the river, eat at our restaurants and bars. So where are the signs to help them find their way here? Where are the brown signs that say Historic St Ives this way? Or signs that show off our bridge and river frontage? At a time when our businesses need all the help they can get, now is the time to get this sorted. But in looking at this story we learn of one our near neighbours also very cross at an omission. It seems that Fenstanton Parish Council are also very upset as their village doesn't have any signage that directs people to them until you are actually on the doorstep. So come on Highways dept. give us a hand here and show us a sign.

### Erik shows how the signs could be on A14

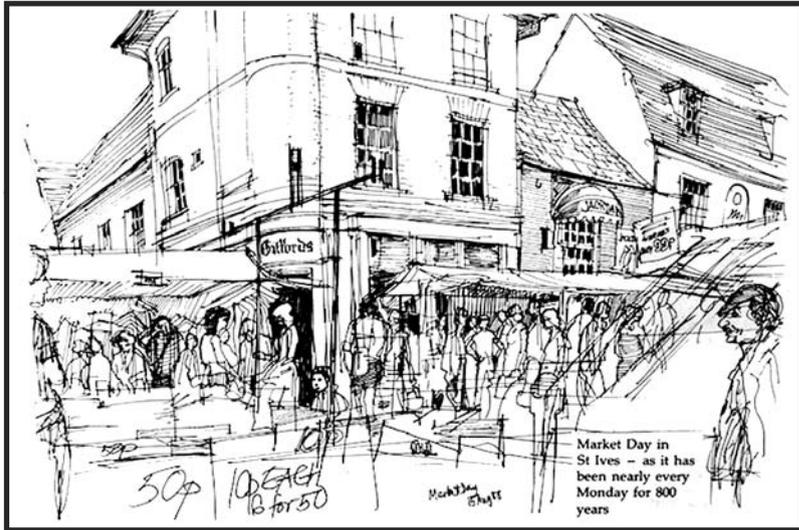


Dear Erik,

This week I happened to browse through a treasured booklet - 'St Ives Sketchbook' - by John Hutchinson and published by The Friends of Norris Museum in 1990. This is a superb collection of sketches of the town which John made whilst living here in the 1970/80's. He had a small studio in East Street where he also lived.

One of his great images jumped out immediately - the Market Square as it used to be on Mondays and Fridays (see below). You can see John's own comment in the bottom right hand corner - 'Market Day in St Ives - as it has been nearly every Monday for 800 years.' **Stewart Denham**

**Dear Stewart,** Many thanks for the letter and picture. Ed says we should show it now that the market is coming back to town. Will it be busy, like this again? Time will tell. **Erik**



Dear Erik,

Can you please enlighten me why the St Ives council allow the Italian restaurant situated on the Quay to block the pavement with tables and chairs forcing pedestrians to have to walk in the road risking danger from motor vehicles. They have tables on the waters edge which is financially good for them but it shows an element of greed to put profits before the safety of their future costumers.

Also it has to be noted that for disabled and more importantly blind people it's a selfish thing to do. The Quay is not a designated pedestrian area it is a highway and has been confirmed by the Cambridgeshire highways department. Yours sincerely

**Raymond** a concerned pedestrian.

**Dear Raymond,**

As is often the case the answer to your query is probably not what you imagine. Firstly St Ives Town Council is not involved in the decisions to have tables on the highway. It is the County Council who give permission and determine if it is safe to do so. They also charge a great deal for restaurants to have outside seating.

This restaurant certainly doesn't make a lot of profit from the seating, which is mostly used by customers to enjoy a coffee on the Quayside.

Whilst I can understand your concern about walking in the road and the difficulties for people with impaired vision in this case this is not a through road with a lot of traffic. Only delivery vehicles and a few residents use the road, pedestrians are prioritised.

Most pedestrians walk in the road and families enjoy it, many with pushchairs. This is a very popular area and in my opinion enhanced by restaurant's outside seating. **Erik.**

Dear Erik

Anybody know about 'free weed'?  
Do the best deed:  
PROTECT OUR KIDS,  
Tell the Peelers  
Who are the dealers!

**Doberman**

Dear Erik,

Please could you help in locating the original purchaser of this lovely light fitting, who had carefully annotated the missing components inside the box - I would like to thank them for their efforts. I have discussed the issue with Dunelm, who say I have to return the defective product for them to sell to some other mug, before I can have a replacement, and they can't do that on-line! I cannot afford to do that. I think anyone visiting Dunelm in Huntingdon should carefully unpack their product in store before taking it home - else we won't meet our country's greenhouse emissions targets! Many thanks **Sandra**



# HEIDI ON THE TURN

It's funny how things sometimes turn out isn't it? Luka, who is always telling me what he has spotted here and there throughout the town (he's always on about untidy notices and scruffy banners), suddenly said one evening, 'Heidi, what's a turning point?' Well dear, I replied, 'for me it's when Ed Gasket really goes too far and I say 'No', quite firmly, and he disappears down the Olly for three days.

Luka said he wasn't interested in the limit of my patience, but rather what the new sign meant on The Waits. Well, I took a look, made a few enquiries (I do seem to know a lot of people) and can explain all to you my darlings - it's a Heidi Riverporter exclusive!

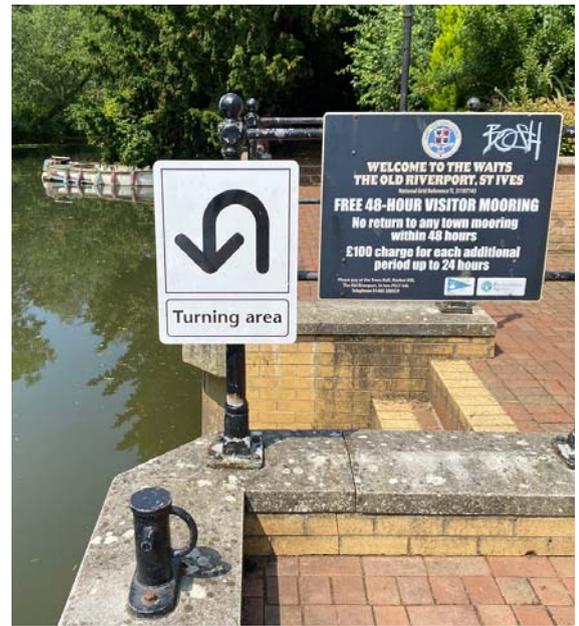
It turns out those lovely people who care for the Holt Island Nature Reserve, looking beautiful at the moment by the way (get on with it Heidi -Ed), have been concerned about the increasing number of visiting boats coming up The Waits, thinking they can go round the island, and crashing into the footbridge. Worse, getting firmly stuck!

After much research, enquiries and quiet lobbying by the Friends group, this week the Environment Agency finally replaced the original sign, which had disappeared long ago, with a brand new, bigger one. It announces the last available space on the backwater where it is possible for a large boat to turn around - and is impossible to miss!

I'm among those who are fearful of too many signs in the town telling us what to do and what not to do - but this is one that is desperately needed. And I think the boaters will thank us for it.

In fact, I shall now saunter along The Waits to approach some of them . . . .Byeek!

Love from Heidi x



# The COURTYARD

St Ives  
*Open-air boutique market, run by independents*

## Dolci

Crêpes & Waffles

Next door to @lorenzocoffee and now adding to our drinks offerings we've got Rosaria @dolci.crepes.waffles serving the most yummy crepes and waffles



L'ORENZO'S COFFEE

## G M Leather Works

We've got our very own Bespoke Leather Worker @gmleatherworks. You will find Graeme cutting, hand-sewing, and creating beautiful leather goods throughout the week visit the GM Leatherworks pod for a selection of belts (some can be made while you wait), wallets, bags, and other home decor items I think you will agree the craftsmanship on offer down at The Courtyard is something very special



Now with a large range of Plants, Garden Pots and Outdoor Items

Every Thursday is Late Night Shopping 6-8pm with a Live Band & BBQ to accompany your shopping experience!

The Courtyard, The Salerooms, Station Road, St Ives PE27 5BH [www.hyperionauctions.co.uk/the-courtyard-shopping](http://www.hyperionauctions.co.uk/the-courtyard-shopping) Tel: 01480 464140

ADVERTORIAL

# GET VIEWER READY!



The hottest week of the year so far also heralds the start of the school summer holidays and as millions of families embark on their 'staycations' indications are that the housing market will remain busy.

If you're on the market already, it's the perfect time to spruce up the garden or decorate a room or two as there are still many serious buyers around who need to move and are looking for their ideal home. Remember, first impressions count and buyers are forming their opinions as soon as they get out of their car so make your house as welcoming as possible, mow the lawn and put out a few hanging baskets.

If you are not yet on the market, now is also a great time to sell, with fewer properties around, your house will stand out - new instructions always get more views on Rightmove, Zoopla and On The Market - more views, more viewings, more sales - one always follows the other.

Whether you're looking to get the best possible price or sell quickly because you've seen another property you're interested in, we'll tailor your marketing accordingly, experience tells us that using different strategies brings the best results.

And finally, remember, if you are looking to move before Christmas, the average length of time for a sale to go through once solicitors are instructed is three months, which means time is running out if you'd like to be eating Christmas dinner in your new home!

# ellis&co winters