

The Riverporter

ST IVES AWARD WINNING NEWSPAPER

Issue 92: 20 August 2021

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

Incinerator plant protest gathers weight

In Riverporter 91 we included an article we spotted on social media regarding a planning proposal for a clinical waste incinerator to be built just off the Somersham Road at the junction to the council tip.

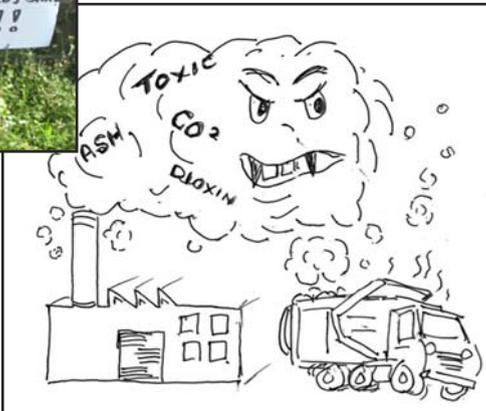
The site operated by a company named Envar plans a major redevelopment of the site. Following our article a major campaign has been started against the proposal and has encompassed many of the villages in the area. What started with one or two concerned residents has grown massively and at time of printing now has approaching 3000 members. The group is called POWI (People opposing Woodhurst incinerator) and can be found on facebook.

waste to cover eleven counties as far away as Kent. The POWI group were to hold a committee meeting this past week to discuss the full impact and plan their action including the possible impact on an adjacent egg farmer as with an output of 27,000 eggs per day air bourn dioxins are a major health concern. The group ask for interested residents to get in touch and lodge a complaint with Cambridgeshire County Council planning as soon as possible as a deadline date approaches and anyone unsure how to do this can ask the POWI group for assistance or call 07921 579387
<https://planning.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/online-applications>



Interesting that another article in this edition is the London Road speed group (below) and certainly the issue with the incinerator will bring even more heavy trucks from that direction.

Protesters speak of contaminated ash, bad smells and increased traffic with the collection area for the raw



London Road campaign for 30mph limit

Residents along London Road between town and the A1307 have been speaking with the media to explain their campaign to get the roads speed limit reduced from 40 mph down to 30mph. Residents speak of their safety fears and the continuous noise and disruption from speeding vehicles. The road is of course the main one into town across the river and this brings a constant stream of heavy lorries and commuter traffic.

The evenings and weekends see regular speeding cars racing through the town and protesters recalled the dreadful lorry fire near the petrol station only a few months ago. Residents from London Road stood with "Speed Kills" placards on Saturday morning to urge drivers to slow down.



Picture courtesy of London Road Campaign

COVERING THE NEWS OTHER PAPERS DON'T

Calendar of events 2021

Since we printed this calendar of events in our last issue we have been contacted by a number of organisations that are once again putting on events. We are pleased to list all the ones we know about here. If you know of other events in the pipeline or are a member of a community group that wants to let us know what you are planning, please email: editor@theriverporter.uk

AUGUST

Friday 27th - Chapel Arts @ The Corn Exchange Fran McGillivray and Mike Burke, see below.

Monday 30th - Mayors Charity Golf Day 10am at Lakeside Lodge Golf and Country Club - Pidley. To take part contact Linda Scales on 01480 388931.

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 4th - The St Ives Show A traditional town competition in St Ives Corn Exchange, involving flowers, baking, crafts and produce sections. To enter go to www.stivesshow.org.uk

Saturday, 4th and Sunday, 5th - Harvest Flower Festival, themed 'Thankyou!' St. Mary's Church, Houghton and Wyton. From 10am to 4pm Saturday and 11am to 4pm Sunday.

Friday 10th and Saturday 11th - The Centre Players presents A Moment In Time A charity cabaret in The Burgess Hall. Tickets £10 from ticketsource.co.uk/starliteroadshow

Thursday 16th to Sunday 19th - The Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival 23 FREE concerts throughout the town. Go to www.stivescambridgeshire.co.uk for details.

Saturday 18th - St Ives Eco Action and St Ives Methodist Church A mini eco-fair and a range of events, primarily aimed at children and families as part of the Heritage Open Day.

Friday 24th - Chapel Arts @ The Corn Exchange Featuring Robin Walker on Harpsichord. Tickets cost £10 and can be obtained at www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives.

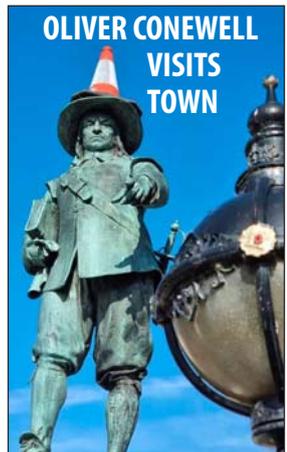
OCTOBER

Saturday 2nd - The Old Riverport Ukulele Festival St Ives Corn Exchange. Tickets which include the evening concert are just £12 at: ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives. Details at www.stivescambridgeshire.co.uk

16th - The Illuminated Boat Parade Another FREE to watch event. For details go to www.stivescambridgeshire.co.uk.

23rd - Huntingdonshire Philatelic Society Stamp and Postcard Fair St Ives Corn Exchange 10am-3pm. Free admission. Further information 01480 468037.

Friday 29th - Chapel Arts @ The Corn Exchange Featuring Daniela Rossi, classical guitarist. Tickets cost £10 and can be obtained at www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives.



OLIVER CONEWELL VISITS TOWN

A great way to start a bank holiday?

The Chapel Arts @ The Corn Exchange concerts have proved to be a really nice, relaxing way to start a weekend, according to members of the audience of the first two concerts.

So what could be a better way to start a Bank Holiday weekend than to attend the Friday 27th August concert featuring the relaxing sounds of Fran McGillivray and Mike Burke?

But you will have to hurry as there are only a few tickets still available. Places are limited and sold on a first come first served basis. Tickets cost £10 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives.

Blues Matters magazine described Fran and Mike's performance as a 'Beautifully delivered' and 'a thoroughly enjoyable set'.

For more details of this and other Town Team events visit: www.stivescambridgeshire.co.uk



Chapel Arts @ the Corn Exchange

Read on-line at www.theriverporter.uk or see our Facebook page. Email: editor@theriverporter.uk

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Volunteer Groups Message Forum

If you are a member of a community group that wishes to let others know what you do, or needs specific help, or or just want to promote your organisation, you can email us at theriverporter.uk and we will include it on the Message Forum.

St Ives Dementia Friendly Community ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS



Our face-to-face activities have finally restarted and we have been delighted with the great number of people who have been coming along to enjoy chatting, reminiscing, singing, exercising with us. **With great numbers come a greater need for volunteers!**

Currently we are looking for people who could help with running our fun Reminiscing and Love to Move sessions at the Burleigh Hill Community Centre on Monday mornings (10.00-12.00). Help with setting up, clearing away and rearranging the room half way through the morning for the exercise part would be much appreciated, and most importantly we are looking for volunteers who would be happy to sit and chat with our guests and support them when they do the seated exercises, giving the carers a little time to relax. If you would like to join our team of volunteers, please contact Susan: communities@norrismuseum.org.uk.

Please also note that Riverport Singers, the St Ives Dementia Friendly Community Choir is about to restart their rehearsals at the Corn Exchange on Thursday mornings (10.00-11.15) on 2 September. For further info contact Agi: agipeach@icloud.com

Surely, this cannot be from the developer of a local housing estate!

One of our readers contacted us to let us know that the developer of The Spires and Berman Park, Barratt, had until August 18 to complete the renovation work under current planning consent. It seems as if the frustration of not seeing the work completed compelled the reader to send us this 'spoof' letter. One he presumably hoped to receive?

Dear St Ives Resident

I know that when I wrote to you in February I said: 'As you correctly point out we have to carry out the approved landscaping works within 3 months of the expiry of the permission. If we can re-instate earlier we will do, but please bear in mind the condition is currently 3 months.'

And today, on 18/8/21, our three months are up.

Well, a lot has happened in those three months and the world is a very different place. We have had COVID-19 and a shortage of supplies. We have also had the pingdemic, which explains why, since the haul road was closed three months ago, usually only one or two men have been working on restoration, and why they have been able to work only a few hours each day, then had to take time off. And, of course, everyone is entitled to a fortnight's holiday, especially in August.

I know you have suffered from us being on site at The Spires off Houghton Road for the past five years, but think of all the a-Spiring young families who have benefitted from their new homes as a result. It's a shame we have not been able to provide them as yet with the parkland they deserve and I do, in all sincerity, feel sorry for the relatives of that lovely old couple whose wonderful contributions to local life are honoured in their memory by the park, and the tireless efforts of a local councillor to provide the amenity in time for his re-election

I would have to accept that the largely weed-strewn parkland may not be quite what some of us would a-Spire to, but we live in exceptional times, what with COVID-19, the shortage of supplies, and the shortage of labour resulting from our withdrawal from the EU, or struck down by the pingdemic, or both. I'm not sure whether as yet we've managed to transfer responsibility for the parkland's upkeep to the council. In any case, as I'm sure you're aware, HDC's Healthy Open Spaces Strategy states that the park is to be 'naturalised', resulting in space for Nature with enhanced biodiversity and a naturalised approach to greenspace management. Intervening as little as possible, and letting Nature take its course, has indeed been our approach.

And, before you mention it, I do of course realise that our suppliers' yellow signs on the estate, near the former haul road, say that the work there that commenced on 7/4/21 would be completed by 30/5/21. We'll be updating those signs any day now—probably changing the year. We like to keep our residents fully informed of progress.

Finally, may I add to my humblest of previous apologies and assure you that, once the planners have given us yet another extension to complete the job (yes, that'll be No. 4), we will adhere to all district council planning conditions without exception and on time. I promise.

Thank you for your patience.

Yours sincerely

Chris

P.s: I have included a snapshot or two so you can see how the renovation work is progressing.



Sailing into the sunset

This past 18 months have been a difficult time for all businesses but on the upside the restrictions on foreign travel have meant a huge uplift on holidays and staycations here in the UK. For many St Ives businesses this has meant a considerable upturn in sales as people have come to visit our great little town. Central to St Ives visitor areas are, of course, The Waits and The Quay, where people all head to spend time beside our lovely river and spectacular bridge. Families can be found feeding the ducks and sitting by the curbside with their picnic lunches.

For so many years central to this essential town scene has been the 'Electric River Boat Co.' offering trips out from The Quay along the most picturesque stretch of the river with description of the wildlife and history of the St Ives Riverport. So we were saddened to hear that the family team of Chris and Pat Morgan, that operate the business, are now looking to retire and hand over the reins. They have put the business up for sale and hope to find a buyer willing to take over the operation and continue with creating the smiles and happy memories to the many that flock to the boats each sunny day and sunset evening.



The quayside visitors are such a key part of our town's heart we hope they find a buyer soon to continue the enjoyment the river brings. If you fancy becoming a riverboat captain give them a call on ... 07906 257308

the taproom

Under new management

So after 2 years of being away, Amanda Buttriss (right in the picture) is back at The Taproom as The NEW Director taking the Taproom to another level with her team. She has only been back from the 1st July but the Taproom is the talk of the town.

Amanda has laid on new events such as a **Champagne & Oyster night**. This was such a success they are holding another one on **Friday 27th Aug** and **50 80's** will be playing bank holiday Sunday to finish the weekend off.

Live music is back every Thursday from 8:30pm also with other events like a fancy dress Halloween party.

The Taproom is now dog friendly. Small renovations will be taking place over the next 6 months. They have a lovely new fresh food menu and are running 'All you can eat' brunches on Sundays.

If you would like to know more about The Taproom please go to www.thetaproom.co.uk or follow The Taproom St Ives on facebook.

Below: Some of Erik's chums enjoy a visit to The Taproom.





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

August is a quiet month for Council

Most councils do not have many meetings in August because of holidays so news about council business is scarce. However the Planning committee of St Ives Town Council met earlier this month and agreed to approve the plans for the former Vindis Garage site subject to Anglian Water giving approval.

The committee also decided to look at the Envar proposals for the waste incinerator in September (see front page). We expect a lively meeting!

Mayor confirms commitment to Active Travel

Dr Nik Johnson, Mayor of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough has made this statement

Following the announcement by Government on Friday 30th July that stated further assurances were required from Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority in relation to Active Travel schemes supported by government funding, I wrote to the Minister for Transport Chris Heaton-Harris expressing my support and commitment to active travel measures across the entire Cambridgeshire & Peterborough region.

I also offered to meet the Minister and the Head of Behaviour Change within the Cycling and walking team at the Department for Transport. I am pleased with the positive response confirming that they will be in touch shortly to arrange that meeting - but equally encouraged to hear that contact will be made within the next two weeks to confirm that all assurances have been met by the Combined Authority and our indicative funding allocation can be confirmed via a s31 grant letter.

My 3Cs approach of Compassion, Cooperation and Community are the foundation of everything the Combined Authority will develop and deliver. This approach is driven by my passion as a practising children's doctor with public health improvements key to my vision and ambition for transport, housing, skills, education, retail, leisure, and economic growth.

The Active Travel funding is fundamental to enable stimulus toward real change and I very much support it. I have tasked officers to engage with community groups, cycling groups, District Councils, and our Highways Authorities to establish a Mayoral led Active Travel Forum, where collectively we can identify the areas of need and where schemes will generate the most value across the entire Cambridgeshire and Peterborough region. From this group I am seeking nominations for an independent Cycling Tsar for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to enable us to manage key issues locally.

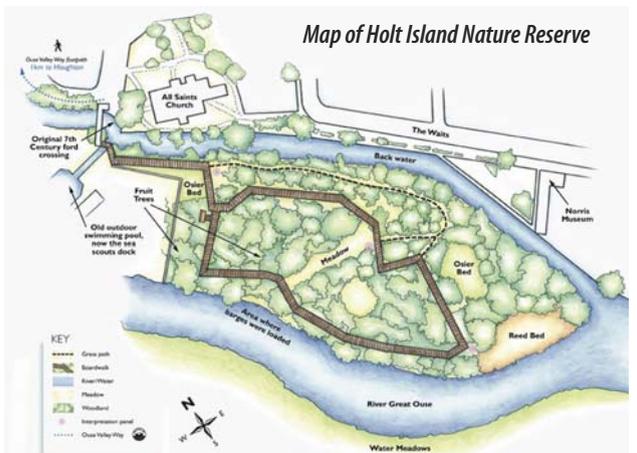
Should you be interested to be involved please contact initially via transport@cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk

HODs is back

Heritage Open Day or HODs is an annual, national event and the Civic Society are delighted it is back. This year it's just one day, Saturday 18th September, when you have the opportunity visit and ask questions in interesting buildings that you wouldn't normally go to. All the locations are free to enter, are open from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm and any Covid-19 regulations and guidance at the time will be observed.

At the west end of town Holt Island Nature Reserve is a peaceful start to the day, then to All Saints Parish Church which has a history going back to Saxon times. Along The Waits to the recently refurbished Methodist Church with its 200 year history and St Ives Eco Action who will be there with information and activities for all ages. The Norris Museum has a special event for children, Fellmonger House is opening their garden and the Prayer and Education Centre is also open. If we are lucky the Bridge Chapel will be open and possibly even the lower level. At the end of The Quay the Masonic Hall invites visitors in, as does the Free Church and Town Hall. Along Needingworth Road the Jamia Masjid Mosque is open. This year the Sacred Heart Catholic Church is not open, but pick up one of our flyers and learn about it's interesting history. On the flyer there are other little bits about St Ives that may interest you as you walk around town.

In the Farmers Market on 18th September the Civic Society has a stall with St Ives Eco Action, providing information about St Ives past, present and future. From Civic Society members in town, who can't be missed in a bright pink sash, you can get a flyer and a pen (both free) and hopefully, resident or visitor, we will be able to answer any questions you may have.



Dear Erik,

Could you please enter details of our societies Stamp and Post Card Fair in the calendar of events 2021.

Huntingdonshire Philatelic Society Stamp and Postcard Fair on the 23rd October at the Corn Exchange. 10am-3pm. Free admission. Further information 01480 468037.

Yours faithfully David Birkert Press Officer H.P.S
Tis done Erik.

Dear Erik,

Please could you mention our Harvest Flower Festival, themed "Thankyou!" which will be held in St. Mary's on Saturday, 4th September from 10am to 4pm and Sunday, 5th September from 11am to 4pm. On Saturday, 4th September, light refreshments will be available in nearby St.Mary's Chapel Centre. The theme being "Thankyou!", the floral arrangements will range from the NHS and Vaccines to Schools, Dustbin Collectors and, of course, Harvest! Entry to St.Mary's Church will be free, with donations gratefully received.

Thank you! Carol Jennings and Clare Summers

Again Glad to oblige Erik

Dear Erik,

I have just read your pamphlet, about the police checking bad parking and I hoped to read about the state of the bus station and the homeless. Last Monday (big market day) lots of people about I saw men sleeping on two benches so nobody could sit down, and on the way to get the bus home men where urinating up the wall OUTSIDE THE TOILET BLOCK!!

This stank and they looked at me and carried on, when I got to where the buses come in there were three men, drinking taking up the seats and they smelt awful.

When I moved here six years ago, this didn't happen For such a popular town this is disgusting, why don't the police move them somewhere, so we can at least sit and wait for a bus and in the winter when the weather is bad what are we supposed to do.

This year is the worst I have seen the bus station, its filthy and stinks. I hope other people have complained because this lowers the tone of the place and people won't come to the market.

Eds response

The lady, who didn't want her name published said that her rates have gone up £6 a month this year and was disappointed that this didn't result in better policing.

We contacted the local police who said they were aware of the situation and that it is important to report these incidents.

They clearly don't have the resources to be on the scene on every occasion but the more reports that the authorities receive, the more emphasis is placed on dealing with the issue.

The District Council are responsible for the bus station and also monitoring anti-social behaviour so as well as contacting the Police on 101 you should call HDC on 01480 388388 or email crm_cpe@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

Let's be polite along the Thicket!

The following text was taken from a letter posted on social media by Houghton parish council. *Picture courtesy of Cambridge walks.*



The Houghton Parish Council would like to remind all users that the Thicket footpath, from the end of Thicket Road to St Ives is a footpath only. As with all footpaths, this means that you have a 'legal right ... to "pass and reposs along the way" ... You can also take with you a "natural accompaniment" which includes a pram, or pushchair.

You can also legally take a manual or powered wheelchair (mobility scooter) provided you follow the regulations for taking these vehicles on ordinary roads. However, there is no guarantee that the surface of the path will be suitable for pushchairs and wheelchairs.

You can take a dog with you, but you must ensure it is under close control.' - theramblers.org.uk

Strictly, cyclists and horse riders should not be using this footpath. However, we appreciate that they always have, and it is indeed a safe route for many users, especially children getting to and from school. Therefore, the Parish Council put up signs to say we welcome considerate cyclists. So, if you do cycle or ride along here, please give way to pedestrian users at all times and either use a bell or your voice to warn politely of your slow approach and thank them as you pass. Do not expect pedestrians, or slower cyclists/riders, to realise you are approaching and automatically move out of your way - they may be hard of hearing or have limited vision. Equally pedestrians should show respect to considerate cyclists and riders and not abuse them.

Please note that there are dwellings and fields in this area whose only vehicle access is from The Thicket footpath. The occupants of these sites, and their visitors, have a right to access their land by vehicle using the footpath. They should not hinder or endanger other users or block the path unnecessarily.

So, let's all be nice to each other and show mutual respect and toleration!

HYPERION

Entries Invited for our next Fine Art & Antiques Sale Saturday 11th September at 11.00am



Results from our last Fine Art Sale:

Fine Somalian 22ct Gold Suite of Jewellery. Presented to the Vendors mother by the Prime Minister of Somalia in 1968 Mohamed Haji Ibrahim Egal who became later President

Sold £5000



Omega Seamaster Professional Planet Ocean Gents Automatic wristwatch with Box and papers calibre 2500

Sold £2300



Set of 10 William IV Mahogany dining chairs with carved open back over upholstered cross hatched seat and panelled tapering legs.

Sold £900



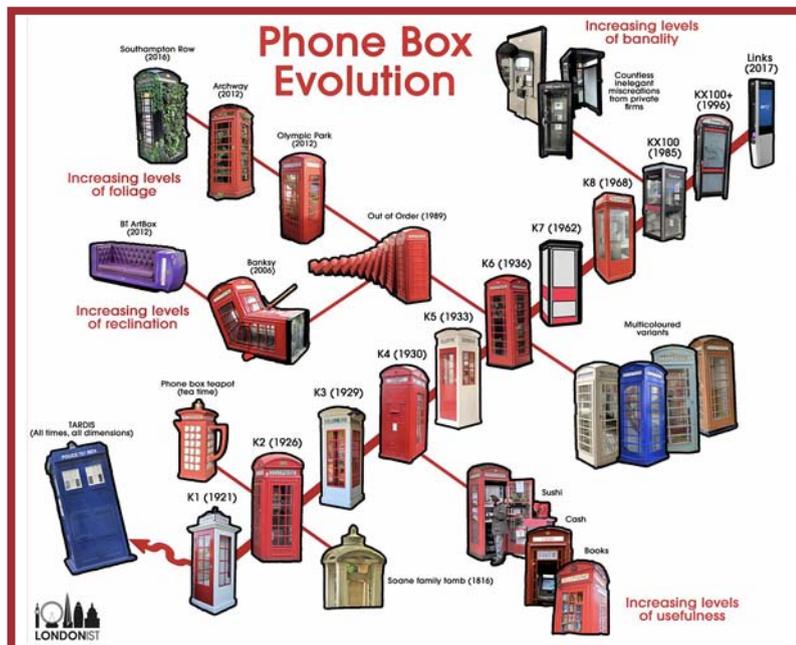
Hyperion Auctions, The Salerooms, Station Road, St Ives PE27 5BH
www.hyperionauctions.co.uk 01480 464140

An enduring symbol of Britain

One of the most enduring and ubiquitous symbols of Britain is the red telephone kiosk. At one time there were over 70,000 throughout the British Isles, now with the rapid take up of the mobile phone and smart phones, their numbers have dropped to some 8,000. In those left you are more likely to see a defibrillator, village library, mini coffee shop or swap shop than a telephone.

own kiosk design, but by 1913 the GPO had taken over all these companies and decided to standardise the kiosk design. A competition for the design was won by Giles Gilbert Scott, who based his design on a tomb in St Pancras churchyard and the iconic red box was 'born' in 1936. In 2015 it was voted the greatest British design of all time.

Although vanishing from the streets of Britain,



To enable the public to use telephones at the end of the Victorian era, telephone kiosks were built in many shapes and sizes. There were also many telephone companies each with their

abroad they are considered the epitome of Britishness. [The Editor has even seen them in a French boatyard.]
Based on an article in Cope News.

ADVERTORIAL

VALUE FOR MONEY?



Are Letting Agents worth the Investment?

The moves to stamp out poor landlord practice and ensure that tenants are protected can only benefit the reputation of the rental industry. However, the implementation of so many new regulations in a relatively short space of time does have implications for landlords and how they manage their property. With ever stricter guidelines and fines in place, whether you are renting out one property as a retirement investment, or a whole portfolio, landlords need to ensure that they are fully compliant. Recent changes implemented in the rental industry range from amending rules around charging for references, credit checks and contracts to fines of up to £5000 if a property falls short of new energy rating requirements.

While this is all good for the industry's reputation, it can be difficult for landlords to stay up to date with the raft of changes and what they mean in practice. That's why many landlords choose to use a letting agent.

Reputable agents have to keep up to date with changes in legislation and undergo training and examinations to ensure they have the right knowledge to advise landlords on a whole range of issues from health and safety to investing in the right BTL property.

Good letting agents will offer a varying level of service from charging a one off fee to find suitable tenants, collect references, carry out checks and set up tenancy agreements, to full management which includes of all aspects of managing a property, maintenance, rent collection and troubleshooting. This enables landlords to choose the level of service that best suits their needs - and their budget. Of course, some landlords prefer to save their money and manage a property themselves, but this can often be a false economy.

Good letting agents will have a good knowledge of the local market as well as a network of tenants and potential tenants. This enables them to offer sound advice and helps to ensure higher occupancy rates than the DIY approach. For those who want to ensure their assets are well managed and protected, a good agency is well worth the investment.

ellis&co winters

Sponsors of The Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival 2021