

The Rivoli

Dorothy Oliver talks about the Rivoli

The Rivoli was originally a carpenter's shop owned by the Taylor family of Port Isaac.

Mr Charlie Lobb, Dorothy's father, purchased it from them in the 1940s and turned the building into a cinema, dance hall and concert venue. Mrs Brimacombe's choir also practiced and performed there.

The floor was earth and sawdust at first but a cement base was put on at a later date.

Ted Robinson did some artwork on the walls - paintings of dancers and murals brightened up the whole room.

In the beginning the seats were forms but Mr Lobb heard that a cinema at Roche was closing down and so he purchased the seats from there.

Paraffin stoves kept everyone warm.

Dorothy's uncle, Mr Oliver, was the projectionist and her grandfather, Mr Rosevear, helped out on cinema nights.

The Rivoli was a very important place for Port Isaac folk. There was something there for every age group.

The Rivoli was closed and sold for development in the early 1970s. It is now cottages set behind the Peapod and just in front of the Old Coastguard station.