

The Riverporter

SPECIAL VIRAL EDITION - READ BUT DON'T PASS ON!

Issue 55: 20 March 2020

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

Is there anyone out there?

Free with this issue
8 sheets of
Emergency Toilet Paper
Follow the 'easy to read' instructions on page 2



We live in 'interesting times' to say the least. Of course like our readers the Editors are keen to understand how the current pandemic will affect them, so with that in mind we are keen to help spread the advice (rather than the virus) of what to do and how to survive the emergency.

The situation seems to be changing almost hourly at the moment, so the advice we might give may be out of date by the time you read it.

At the time of going to press it is clear that socialising is likely to be a NO NO over the next month or two.

Our town economy at risk

The number of COVID 19 cases in our county continues to grow and as national guidelines give way to national instructions so the effect on our town could become profound.

Unusual for 'fun lovin' St Ives

For a town with a reputation for lots of places to eat, drink and be merry the economic consequences of 'Isolation' could be catastrophic for

town businesses, especially pubs, cafes and restaurants and shops selling non-essential goods.

Shops selling food and vital supplies, (e.g. toilet rolls?) may do well in the short term, although panic buying will not help the situation as some run out of everyday items.

How can we help?

There are several ways we can all help to keep life bearable.

Initially we can use our local shops and venues at every opportunity. *The Riverporter* has learned that several businesses are considering operating a take away/delivery service during a period of forced closure. *The Riverporter* will inform readers of

those businesses when we know.

Be a good neighbour

St Ives has a large population of older people and if instructed to self isolate for months at a time it could be very distressing for them.

If you have an elderly neighbour drop a note through their door explaining who you are with your phone number, perhaps you could collect some shopping or at the very least give them the sense of not being alone. The form below can be cut out and copied for that purpose. You can also keep in touch, by phone or on-line with family, friends and neighbours.

Excuse me Madam. You know it's an offence to be outside at your age. Can I see the letter from your mum saying you are under 70?



A tale for our times?

'Where are we going Erik?' asked Milly. 'We need to get supplies,' said Erik. 'For the Coronavirus'

'Ahh,' said Milly, nodding. 'Things like bread, milk, cough mixture, tissues and cat litter even though we don't like cats?'

Erik did a little laugh, and a sort of leap and bit of a cough. 'No,' said Erik. 'No, those aren't the sort of supplies we need at all!

What we need are oodles of doggy treats, family sized bags of chocolate buttons, a massive toberone, jelly babies, crunchies and a freezer full of stuffed crust pizzas, and all of the Prosecco that we can possibly carry. So that when we get quarantined our masters won't mind - even slightly. **THOSE ARE SUPPLIES.'**

All of a sudden, Milly thought that the idea of coronavirus didn't seem quite so bad, and actually, getting quarantined with Erik and their supplies really didn't sound such a terrible thing after all.'

Oh Erik,' said Milly. 'I really do think you are very wise.'

As they walked along they spotted Ed standing by a stream watching sticks float by ...

'Hello Ed,' said Milly, 'we're off to buy supplies to sit out the quarantine, would you like to come?'

'No thank you,' said Ed. 'I'm just going to stand here, look at the stream and contemplate the economic impact of a media induced panic that the government and companies are projecting ... following straight after Brexit!

Also the NHS being brought to its knees by a huge panic, and the social impact of people distrusting others because they look Asian or are associated with China.'

'Well that's sad,' said Milly 'I much prefer drinking and eating Pizza.' 'The ironic thing,' smiled Erik, 'is that panic induces the stress response, and the first thing the stress response does is switch off the immune system.'

'Huh.' Said Milly. 'why would the media do that.' 'I don't know' said Ed 'I just watch sticks.'

Original story: source unknown. With apologies to Pooh, Piglet and Eeyore.



HELLO! If you are self-isolating, I can help.

My name is

I live locally at

My phone number is

If you are self-isolating due to COVID-19 I can help with:

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Picking up shopping | <input type="checkbox"/> Posting mail |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A friendly phone call | <input type="checkbox"/> Urgent supplies |

Just call or text me and I'll do my best to help you (for free!)

Coronavirus is contagious. Please take every precaution to ensure you are spreading only kindness. Avoid physical contact (2m distance). Wash your hands regularly. Items should be left on your doorstep. #ViralKindness

Remember you can read your Riverporter online at www.theriverporter.uk

It's not bad news for everyone . . .



Ray Bisby, Jason Abewhite's Deputy was appointed as Acting Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) following Mr Ablewhite's resignation last November. Had Mr Ablewhite resigned a few days earlier, a by-election for the post would have been held by now, but the rules stated that the election would have to take place in May instead.

Edward Leigh, Chairman of the Panel that appointed Mr Bisby, gave a less than ringing endorsement of Mr Bisby's abilities at the time, saying 'He doesn't necessarily have all of the qualities that the elected commissioner would be expected to have' and added: 'He probably wouldn't have been the choice of the panel to be the commissioner if it was our choice.'

Mr Bisby, who didn't appoint an interim deputy did, however, draw the full police and crime commissioner's salary of £85,000, due until the planned elections this May. Mr Leigh also said that Mr Bisby was 'continuing business as usual but he has no power to take any initiatives. He can't for instance vary the police and crime plan.'

The Coronavirus emergency has resulted in the Government delaying all local elections for a year, including elections for the post of Police & Crime Commissioner, which will result in Mr Bisby receiving a salary of £85,000 pa. until May 2021. Clearly a bonus for Mr Bisby. Although to be fair it's not all plain sailing as his job will end in May 2021 if and when a new PPC is elected, as Mr Bisby was a political appointment by Mr Ablewhite. Nevertheless Cambs Police will have been 'ruled' by a non-elected Commissioner for over 18 months. So much for accountability. Mr Leigh is also concerned that the Police Panel will not be meeting for the foreseeable future, so scrutiny of the PCC's work will be difficult to arrange.

Town Meeting concentrates on Environment



Above: Some of the audience eagerly waiting for the questioning to start.



Right: The Panel from top: Sheryl French from the County Council, Alison Benfield (Town Clerk), Martin Collier - compere, Cllr Daniel Rowe (Town Mayor), Cllr Nick Dibben (Planning) and Helen Dye.

Sgt Alice Draper (Cambs Police) joined later.

On 7th March the annual Town Meeting was held at The Burleigh Centre, Constable Road where the main topic of discussion was the environment. Around 50 people came to the Centre to question the panel about local matters and topics ranged from the Town Council's power audit to recycling, reducing the amount of CO2 and the increase of electric charging points as a result of the solar panel installation at the Park and Ride site. One suggestion to reduce the use of plastic and paper bags was to encourage the re-introduction of basket making, once an important industry in the town, which used locally sourced willow.

The second part of the meeting involved discussions on more usual topics and once again parking and traffic matters dominated. Sergeant Alice Draper was in attendance and she explained that although she had extra pcsos at the moment, staff illness had badly affected the numbers 'on-the-beat'. When asked if the Police would support the introduction of On-street Civil Parking Enforcement [traffic wardens] by HDC, as reported in the last issue of *The Riverporter*, Alice said that she would recommend that they do. Let's hope our District councillors agree.

The Riverporter was informed that the Town Hall is now closed to the public and all council meetings have been cancelled for the next 4 weeks. However you can still contact them by phone or by email. The same applies to the Norris Museum - check their Facebook page for details.

Know Your Symptoms

Covid-19
Fever
Dry Cough
Fatigue
Shortness of Breath

Flu
Fever
Dry Cough
Runny Nose
Headache
Sore Throat
Muscle Pain and Joint Pain

Cold
Cough
Sore Throat
Aches and Pains
Watery Eyes
Sneezing
Runny or Stuffy Nose

Allergies
Sneezing
Coughing
Itchy Eyes
Runny or Stuffy Nose



Use hole puncher here

Cut along dotted lines

How to create your Emergency Loo Paper

- Step 1** Fold your *Riverporter* inside out with page 2 (this page) upright.
- Step 2** Using a pair of scissors cut long the fold to create two sheets - keep them together.
- Step 3** Using a pair of scissors cut long the dotted lines shown - once up the page and once across the page.
- Step 4** You should now have 8 pieces of paper of approximately 160 x111mm in size. put them together.
- Step 5** Using a hole puncher make a hole in the top left corner, where the dotted circle is printed.
- Step 6** Take some string and tie the pieces together through the hole, leaving a loop of string that can be used to hang the paper up.

Now you have created *The Riverporter's* pack of **EMERGENCY TOILET PAPER**

Made from the softest, sustainable paper available - designed to avoid chaffing.
PLEASE USE BOTH SIDES



Milly has progressed to filing, although she did find the office system a little confusing.



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

Hi Erik, Subject: Benchgate...again!



Yet again benches seem to have the ability to move of their own accord on market days. Does the Market Breakdown Team need an instruction manual to undertake a simple task - exasperating! **Alan Burt**

Dear Erik, Ref: St Ives Rotary Pub Quiz Unfortunately the Covid 19 virus has done for us, and we have had to cancel the Pub Quiz scheduled for the 26th March. We will be running the next one on Thursday October 1st, and will again be in contact with details. Cheers **Alan, The Rotary Club of St Ives**

Traffic Warden named

In our last issue we printed this picture taken in 1978, when St Ives had Traffic Wardens. We knew that the man was Stan Reynolds and we now know that the lady's name is Violet Dendy. We are indebted for this info to ex local bobby, Richard Carter, who is 'Front of House' at the Norris Museum in the mornings.

Dear Erik,

More buses are, of course are welcome but the introduction of the new buses co-incides with the closure for two weeks of East Road in St Ives - As the service through St Ives has seriously deteriorated over the last few months I wonder whether Stagecoach can deliver. As our newly elected councillor Adam Roberts seems to be influential in his party, perhaps he can be persuaded to provide news from the working group that was set up to find ways of mitigating congestion around the town. The problem is, can he be believed? In the February by-election campaign he made much of his desire to prevent 4,000 houses being built north of Marley Rd.

I quote from para 15 of the recent planning appeal decision. 'With the expansion of St Ives heavily constrained by flooding and highways issues, the HLP only allocates sites for 430 dwellings.' (nowhere near 4,000 then).

Colin Saunderson



From our environmental correspondent Heidi N. de Tries

HEIDI TACKLES TUI

Oh darlings, isn't it awful? Social distancing, self-isolating - moi? You cannot be serious. Well Ed, my new squeeze, said I had to be serious for once (he won't last long) so I stormed out for some air.

Your questing reporter's curiosity was aroused (again). The local Tui branch recommended I email their Luton Press Office. I fired off some penetrating questions referring to the animal's stress under capture and exploitation for our gratification, and the fact that these practices are outlawed in the UK. What did they say? I received an automatic email brush-off on the grounds that they only respond to media queries. Well, now I was really roused. And when that happens I'm a gal that usually gets what I want - geddit? I informed them of my status on this majestic organ (ooh, I loved writing that) and lo and behold back came a statement from 'a Tui UK spokesperson'. In essence it said Tui was aware of the debate surrounding dolphin shows. They work only with excursion venues that uphold the Global Welfare Guidance for Animals in Tourism. The venues are subject to an animal welfare audit, and they are in discussion with venues to improve animal welfare and address the issues. I don't know about you but to me that says, yes we are party to promoting animal performances, the venues need checking and they are attracting criticism. I say surely there is no justification for using animals in this way? We've stopped using them in circuses, and so we should now stop using them in marine parks. I'll stop quivering in a minute. Bravo the gentle protestors. Bye bye darlings. Heidi x



Well. Just at the top of Bridge Street I came across a gentle demonstration. Three lovely ladies outside a branch of one of the world's leading travel brands, holding up placards and inflatable dolphins! One read, 'Worried about being isolated? Pity poor dolphins, in captivity for life and for our entertainment. Tui should stop selling tickets for dolphin shows.' Now I simply adore dolphins. Don't we all? Highly intelligent mammals (see, I do know a few things), always with a smile on their face and fantastic to see in the ocean. But taken from the wild, trapped in a tank and trained to do tricks - nah. So Tui encourage this?

A lot is being cancelled or delayed

The Riverporter has been contacted by several local organisations about the cancellation of events or closure of places due to Covid 19. We don't have enough space for all the details but here is a list of those we know.

Screen St Ives All film screenings for the foreseeable future. All ticket sales for next week's screening of Once Upon a Time... In Hollywood will be refunded. If you have any queries about your refund, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates by email, on our website and on our Facebook and Twitter channels.

Holt Island Nature Reserve This year's floods have caused considerable damage to the older boardwalk non-slip strips, and as a result they will need to be replaced before the Island can be safely opened to the public. This work will take longer due to the cancelling of working parties. **Family Fun Day, 28th May** - We'll make a decision nearer the time as to whether this event will go ahead.

St Ives Town Team has announced the delay of its Chapel Arts Season concerts and the Flea on The Quay and will review the situation at the end of April.

Surgeries closed for face to face appointments

St Ives surgeries, including The Spinney Surgery in Ramsey Road, are following the Government's guidelines and are currently closed for face to face appointments. Appointments are being held over the phone and prescriptions can be picked up at the surgery by pressing the intercom button.

Elections and council meetings

Robert Jenrick MP - Secretary for local government announced the following measures:

- local elections, including by-elections will be rescheduled to 2021
- council meetings will be able to be held remotely or not at all
- inspections such as CQC/Ofsted and tasks like FOI requests will be cut or deferred

Businesses offering a delivery service

We have also been contacted by a number of St Ives businesses offering deliveries to help get through the crisis.

Just Cards will be offering a FREE DELIVERY SERVICE of greeting cards, Mothers Day cards, chocolates and gifts, Easter eggs and cards etc. They will deliver to St Ives, Houghton, Wyton, Needingworth, Holywell, The Hemingfords and Fenstanton. Orders can be made on 01480 462083 and payment will be taken by debit or credit card. There is no minimum order. Delivery is free and will be made in the early evening after 17.30. To avoid contact they will ring the doorbell/knock, leave the goods on the doorstep, move a distance away and check the occupant has collected the goods safely.

Nuts are also offering a delivery service to everyone in St Ives and surrounding villages. Their full menu is available to order and with the food delivery they will also deliver any essential shopping that is needed. This includes any food, toiletries, prescriptions or any other essentials. Menus are being posted through letter boxes as we speak but if anyone would like a menu please contact them or go into the bistro to pick one up. They are on Facebook, Instagram., or can be contacted on 01480 463759 or 07780437572.

A silver lining? Sort of!

With pubs being told to open but customers being told to stay away there's a bit of confusion in the air and this doesn't help keep the beer fresh, so, Joey and Jemma down at the Ollie Cromwell are going to hold an **ALE SALE** . . . What a brilliant idea! They will be looking to sell off their prize ales at bargain prices to save the precious liquid going to waste so in these perhaps last few days before we get involved in the worlds biggest lock-in, why not drink to a brighter future in the Ollie Cromwell.



High and Dry

Well, as we lurch from crisis to crisis it's starting to look like the floods at least have left us. But for some there may still be a small problem they had not bargained for. Getting a boat back in the water once stranded can be a bit tricky and very expensive. We hope the boat owners whose pictures readers have sent in have not had to face too big a bill to relaunch their vessels. The pictures are of stranded boats downstream from St Ives.



Well the fever has set in . . . Well actually just the buying fever!

St Ives has so far missed the full onslaught of the Coronavirus but this has not stopped worried residents from hitting the shops and stocking up. At the time of going to print there have been 4 reported cases in Cambridgeshire, none of which are in St Ives. Shops are currently all open and most goods are available and store managers are saying that they can keep up with demand as long as people keep to their regular buying habits but the lure appears to be too strong for some folks and they have succumbed to panic buying and leaving shelves empty. *Poundland shelves.*



bests

COFFEE SHOP

THE 'BEST' Surprise in St Ives

Announcement ...

As a result of Covid-19

Bests Coffee Shop will remain open until our British Government instruct otherwise.

I ask that all our patrons take time to consider their needs and options going forward.

Takeaway only from Monday 23 March

Any Patron that has been issued National Vouchers for free school meals can redeem them at Bests Coffee Shop.

**Please support us, as we do you
We are in it together.
Thank you - Stuart**

**Bests' Coffee Shop,
7 King's Hedges, St Ives
01480 462422**

Open Monday-Friday 8am-4pm,
Saturday 8am-2pm



Snowman hands over cheque

Pictured is Mike Baker (right, sporting a fine jumper), Chairman of the Huntingdonshire Volunteer Centre, receiving a cheque for £100 from John Souter of the St Ives Snowman Festival.

The money for the St Ives branch will help their work locally.

If you would like to know how their services can help you ring 01480 301462.



**It's That Moment
when people take
the threat really
seriously**



Don't worry relief is at hand!

ADVERTORIAL

Coronavirus Contingency Planning



We wanted to update you on the steps we have taken at elliswinters&co to ensure that we can continue to offer a 'business as usual' service to our clients, should there be exposure to Coronavirus at any of our offices.

As part of our commitment to the health and well-being of our staff, we are carefully monitoring the evolving situation. Over recent days we have made investment in IT and communications equipment so that should there be a situation where our staff need to self-isolate, we have the facilities in place for home working, meaning that we should be ready for all eventualities.

We must stress that none of our staff have been affected to date, but we are closely monitoring the situation and have robust processes in place, should we need them.

In the meantime, we would appreciate your cooperation with regards to viewings. If you are feeling unwell please call us rather than coming into the office. In addition, we would request that vendors go out for viewings so that we can show buyers around - please rest assured that we are asking questions of viewers to minimise any risk.

We would like to thank you for your continued business and would like to assure you that we will do all we can to carry on as normal.

Best Wishes,

Mike Ellis, Director

ellis&co winters

Ellis Winters (St Ives) Ltd 14 Market Hill, St Ives, Cambridgeshire PE27 5AL Tel: 01480 388 888 | Email: info@elliswinters.co.uk | www.elliswinters.co.uk

The Riverporter

is published by Ron Westrip and John Souter. email: editor@theriverporter.uk www.theriverporter.uk

The publishers reserve the right to determine the content of the publication. © copyright reserved