

# The Riverporter

READ AND FORWARD ON!

On-line Issue I: 3 April 2020

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

## What can we say?

It's just 12 days since the lockdown and to say there is not much news around is not quite right, it's just that the only real story is rather well covered and anything else pales into insignificance.

The Riverporter did ask Boris Johnson for an interview but sadly he withdrew with a sore throat - maybe another time.

The Riverporter is sorry to be unable to print hard copy at this time but we're sure readers will understand

the problems with distribution.

Please let us have your letters and let us know how you are getting on so that we can print your story and record the issues and the stories of the people of St Ives at this unusual moment in time.

## Our lovely town falls silent

St Ives is normally full of life. In the daytime we have our busy market days and many active businesses and as evening comes our night-time economy jumps into life with our restaurants, bars and clubs.

As Summer arrives so the river springs into life and our many town organisations start their planned events ...

But not this year - at least not yet! Now each morning we only see a short line of folks lining up outside the chemists where hard-working staff rush to fulfill prescriptions over a shorter working day.

People passing in the street take care to give each other a wide pass and the usual smile and warm good morning has been replaced by a cursory nod of acknowledgement.

Each morning Erik takes his permitted walk around town and sits bemused by the lack of people that usually make a fuss of him. Only the solitary local postie greets him with a distant biscuit. But what has been wonderful has been the staggering pulling together of residents helping, shopping, collecting prescriptions, keeping in contact and checking on folks at high risk.

We must not forget too the shop workers in our food stores and other essential suppliers who are working so hard to support us while the rest of us are busy watching TV repeats. If you are the organiser of a support group here in town or if you, or someone you know, needs help let us know and we'll try to put you in touch with someone to assist.

## Dark days made darker by evil scammers

The Riverporter learned today of yet another telephone scam. Someone will call pretending to be from Public Health England asking residents if they have received their letter from the Prime Minister and checking if they have support from friends and family. The caller will then try and get contact details including bank and security details. The Riverporter has warned of such spiteful scammers previously and NEVER GIVE BANK SECURITY DETAILS over the phone no matter what the caller says. A legitimate caller will never ask for these kinds of details from you. ... Stay safe and stay well. .... Erik x



Read online at [www.theriverporter.uk](http://www.theriverporter.uk)

So Prime Minister ... Can you please specify a minimum duration for dog walkies? ... and what dog groomer do you recommend?



## having your say ...

Erik (left) is working from home, while Milly (right) is self isolating in her basket.

Get it off your chest, email Erik at: [editor@theriverporter.uk](mailto:editor@theriverporter.uk)



Erik received these two letters. One offering a free greeting card service and one seeking support for a worthy local charity. He thought you might like to know about them.

### Dear Erik,

I am hoping that you can publish my offer of free cards in the next issue of *The Riverporter*.

### Free Greeting Cards for Local Residents

I am Liz Hardy and I run my own independent stationery business, ([www.lizscards.com](http://www.lizscards.com)). I have a number of beautiful greeting cards that I am happy to donate to be used by people in our community.

### Please talk to me if:

You know of someone alone or vulnerable who might appreciate a card to cheer them up.

Or if you are housebound (or you know of someone who is) and would like a card to send to a loved one.

I will deliver a card to you and if you'd like, I will return to collect it and put it in the post for you.

If you need more than one or two, please give me a call and I'll see what I can arrange.

Thank you. **Liz Hardy**  
(07922160609)

### Good Afternoon Erik,

I wondered if you would be able to help me please?

We desperately need to raise funds to keep **The Raptor Foundation** centre running.

Like many other organisations, we have been forced to close to visitors due to Covid-19. Our staff are doing a valiant job of continuing to care for our animals during this time, but as I am sure you can appreciate, we still have considerable running costs that cannot be scaled down such as food and veterinary bills.

We have approximately 180 resident birds of prey on site, along with a variety of reptiles and other small animals. In addition, we operate a raptor hospital on site, into which we continue to accept injured birds of prey, which means that at any one time, we can have numerous non-resident birds awaiting treatment, rehabilitation and release.

We have set up a crowdfunding appeal, which can be accessed at: <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/the-raptor-foundation>

## WHAT'S NOT ON

At this time of year we are usually listing all the events to look forward to over the months ahead. Of course all that is now in abeyance until the virus all-clear is sounded.

We thought we ought to confirm just what has been cancelled, so this is a list of **what is not on** until further notice.

APRIL Flea On The Quay markets  
Chapel Arts Concerts  
MAY Mayor Making  
JUNE Civic Sunday  
Picnic In The Park  
Armed Forces Day

Some events we are unsure of at the moment, such as the Regatta, the Carnival and Music Festival, Music on The Waits and the Day of Morris Dancing. Time will tell if these will be affected.

*The Riverporter* will begin a printed edition once it is safe to do so and then we will be delighted to give you details of all the events happening. Of course we will continue to bring you the news and the stories behind the news in our own style, hopefully with a touch of humour, on-line for the time being and, (we hope), Erik hopes to hear from you soon.