

Turbo's Tales 13 - Day 40 of Lockdown

Forty days and forty nights is the well-known time Jesus spent in the wilderness but, in comparison, we have had it easy – provided we don't get sick. Social distancing means that people can't hug each other, isolating at home equals no trips out and no long lunches with friends on a Sunday; there are no cinemas, theatres, pubs, restaurants or churches open and many businesses are struggling to keep afloat. Town centres are deserted, parks and beaches are closed, and the news is mostly bad – as at now (early May).

But then, if you peer carefully through the rain and mist there is a rainbow and, as a sign of hope, it can't be beaten. The 'upside' of this crisis is that dog food is delivered by a shop that never used to do that! Add the fact that no-one believes dogs can either contract the virus nor pass it on and it means there are spare hugs for us. Third, a daily walk is considered 'essential' exercise but beware the problem depicted in a nice cartoon that has a dog perched on the top cupboard in a kitchen looking down and saying, "I've been walked by eight members of this family today and I'm NOT going again."

By the time you read this (unless you go to www.upperwyllyvalleyteam.com and find the Parish News), the PM will have outlined the plan for a general easing of the lockdown rules. I suspect social distancing will continue which means that some of the good things that have emerged will be forged into the future, becoming the 'new normal'.

Kind people have volunteered to shop and deliver it, as well as collect prescriptions

and run other errands for the elderly and other confined folk. The Guvnor's grandchildren are all being 'home-schooled' with benefits for them and their parents; the elderly have become more used to Facetime and Whatsapp videoing and have learned all about Zoom and Houseparty, so while loneliness may be physical, it is not complete. 'Facebook' is being used better and 'Nextdoor' really is local and helpful; some of our pubs and entrepreneurs are doing takeaways, as is the Indian Restaurant, not just to keep their business heads above water but to provide a really useful alternative to home cooks who are fed up by now. Church is alive and well and not just spiritually; Zoom has brought the weekly service into a hundred homes here. Village hubs and help centres have sprung up and will hopefully remain even when the need diminishes.

Importantly, we dogs have regained our place at the heart of the family and unless anyone can pin the virus on us, we will remain there. Hurrah! PS: Look out for the Guvnor in a face mask (could be an improvement, you know.)

He discovered a template for a mask to help the DIY process at home and printed it off from 'Which' magazine. It involves first, like the recipe for Zebra steaks that says, 'first, kill your Zebra', a t-shirt. This is an item like denim Jeans, any form of shorts (other than boxers) and Hawaiian shirts – a form of dress bewildering to the Guvnor and he doesn't possess any, so it came down to raiding various drawers to see if any of the children or grandchildren had left one behind. Success! The 'lost' item was immediately transformed into something useful so watch this space for evidence of an old t-shirt with panty-liner.