

First Brexit - Now Coronavirus!

We all thought our worries were over when the waiting for Brexit to end was achieved. How wrong we were. The Brexit problems of negotiation have only been delayed. Coronavirus has seen to that!

I am sure we will survive but it is a worrying time. Some people have not taken it seriously and think that warnings or rules do not apply to them. They are carrying on as usual with their lives. Others are panicking. They are filling their freezers, cupboards and goodness knows what, to make sure THEY are OK. We are all in a state of shock. We are hypnotised into watching each newsreel to hear the latest statistics and secretly hoping there might be an unexpected ray of hope on the horizon.

The over seventies have been advised to isolate themselves for several weeks. I am into the fifth day and already fed up! Although I am supposedly in self isolation, Peter has come down from Lepton for mutual isolation, if there is such a thing! We share the computer. I make the meals and Peter washes up the dishes. Peter has cut the lawn and the lovely weather has encouraged me to do some gardening. Well, I mean a bit of weeding. Earlier I had bought some varied packets of flower seeds to try and create a cottage garden full of colour. I now feel like Mary, Mary, how does your garden grow, as I eagerly await the results! I have dusted, polished and cleared cupboards (now wondering what to do with the things I do not want to put back again, until I can take them to the charity shop!).

The food cupboards are still adequately full and it is a challenge to try and vary the combination of food to put together. Do we have a large jacket potato with tuna or beans, or do I make chips, egg and beans? I have mince and chicken in the freezer and dried pasta in the cupboard. Also, there is some fresh vegetables still in the cool box.

We are so much luckier than those people who do not know from where their next meal is coming, even when the Coronavirus is not with us. They struggle daily just to survive. What we are experiencing now is a lesson in appreciation of what we take for granted. There are lots of Good Samaritans coming forward now in this time of crisis. I hope we can carry this forward when things are better for the majority of us. Let's not forget those who face this crisis every day.

Shirley Stow