

Lockdown News 15th May

Dear Friends,

I start with the sad news that the first of our members that I am aware of has passed away from Covid-19. We heard from Margaret Wales' daughter that her mother went into hospital with heart problems but contracted Covid while she was there and passed away after 3 weeks in hospital. There will be a memorial service for her in due course and we will let everyone know via our Noticeboards. Our best wishes go to her family.

Below is a memorable picture of Margaret, leaning on the new kissing gate installed last year, in memory of her late husband, Alan.



But on a positive note, there is now some light at the end of the tunnel and the good news is that we can walk for as long as we want, we can drive somewhere to walk, and we can walk with one other person outside of our household .

As lockdown (in terms of not being able to walk as a group) is remaining in place for the foreseeable future, I continue to look for ideas for our Lockdown News. I have received a couple more poems that we could send out – please submit more and we can have a poetry week. A quiz week could be fun – so send in some quizzes. And I think it could be nice to have a recipe exchange week, so please send in your favourite recipes. YES, YOU!!!!!!

In the meantime, over to someone who has been a member for only just over a year but who has embraced our group, being one of our valuable footpath secretaries, coming on holidays with us and leading walks. Here is our contribution from Steve Hanks.

Judy Brua – Chair

May I begin by wishing everyone well. In particular anyone experiencing specific difficulties and/or anxiety.

Was I cajoled or gently and pleasantly persuaded into writing a few words? The latter – I think? I should have learned from previous experience on other ESW matters and been thus alerted. The subtleties of certain committee members and cohorts (undoubtedly former committee members) convinced me to undertake tasks I hadn't realised I wanted to do. That is until they helpfully assisted me. So here I am pleased to be writing.

I've noticed over the last few weeks that some minor issues have suddenly assumed a higher level of importance resulting in delight or joy.

I have been gardening, a relatively new venture. However based on previous correspondent's gardening achievements I see I'm in a different league. So far, my efforts have resulted in the grass, hedges and weeds growing at an amazing pace. Good fortune has resulted in a flower or two creeping in, thus joy.

The fine weather has enabled me to hang the washing outside to dry - a delight.

I achieved my first on line home delivery - unable to sign onto any of the supermarket sites I reverted to Majestic Wine - absolute joy on receiving my delivery!

I've managed to significantly reduce my enduring problem of leaving the house remembering to take with me everything I intended. I have achieved this by following Government guidelines and barely leave the house.

On the downside, due to spending so much time at home another enduring problem of going up or down stairs and forgetting why I had done so has dramatically increased. The upside is the mileage I'm achieving is probably similar to that which I should have been doing now on the Spanish "Camino" had the lockdown not occurred – My fitness level may also improve so general delight.

In a manner of speaking I've tested 'the infinite monkey theory' - a monkey hitting keys at random on a typewriter keyboard for an infinite amount of time will almost surely type any given text, such as the complete works of William Shakespeare. Although nothing much rational appears here, no chimps were harmed in the making of it!

The ESW Stay at Home Club

As our group wandered, spinning many a tale
We used to traverse over hill, field and vale
Events have conspired to dismantle our friendly hub
We are now all members of the stay at home club

Neither exclusive nor elite
Being a member is ne'er a treat
Smile or worse yet blub
There's no escape from The Stay at home club

Wanderings may continue from your home
But do ensure you remain alone
Walk as you will betwixt trees and shrub
But never forget you're a member of the stay at home club

The club houses vary indeed they number many
Visitors are few in fact there aren't any
Aye there's the rub
It can be lonesome in the stay at home club

So can anything be done?
Could there be a restoration of fun
Smiles we should never snub
Let's make it a happy stay at home club

The options are many to raise a smile
Run or walk for several a mile
You could Plant flowers or a shrub
That'll bring joy at the stay at home club

A call to a friend will bring many a pleasure
The value of which is way beyond measure
Don't procrastinate don't snub
You'll discover the best in the stay at home club

Perhaps enjoy a drink and a leisurely meal
The time for a nap you can now steal
Home you may now dub
The safest place - the stay at home club

Tend the garden cut the grass
Wash the paintwork, clean the glass
You can't visit the pub
May as well make the most of the stay at home club

Since pen first touched paper this verse to make
The PM stepped forth to elaborate
Would this august body cease and be but a stub
Nay reader it's implicit for some to remain in the stay at home club.

You may eschew this attempt at verse
I will assure it can get even worse
The author you may now wish to drub
Please go lightly he's your friend in the stay at home club.

Steve Hanks