



HEBDEN BRIDGE
Twinning Society

Hebden Bridge Twinning Society: An update on HBTS members during Covid-19: 30th March 2020

Sue & John Lemon (a report by John 30th March). Voltaire riet uns, unseren Garten zu pflügen, und genau das mache ich. Uns geht es gut und wir haben alles, was wir brauchen, aber wir können nicht ausgehen und es gibt sehr wenig Auswahl an Lebensmitteln im Supermarkt. Wir verlassen uns auf den Fernseher und das Internet und bleiben per Telefon oder Internet in Kontakt. Wir wissen, dass auch dies vergehen wird. Wir wünschen allen unseren Freunden in Warstein alles Gute. Bleib glücklich und bleib gesund.

Je suis le conseil de Voltaire et je cultive mon jardin. Chez nous, tout va bien ... nous avons du vin et du fromage. Le seul inconvénient c'est que nous ne sortons plus. Sortir au café, faire la lèche vitrine, impossible, avoir le choix au supermarché, impossible, contact face-à-face, impossible. Heureusement nous avons la télé et l'Internet et on peut entretenir avec la famille par téléphone ou en 'face time'. Enfin, cette crise aussi passera! Je prie de bien vouloir exprimer tous mes souhaits de courage et de bonne santé à tous nos amis à St Pol.

Wilma Downs (verbal report to JJ 29th March). Wilma is a nurse – a member of the Stroke Team at Leeds General Infirmary (LGI). At present she expects to stay with the team (rather than being re-deployed to Covid-19) as sadly people will still have strokes as well as heart attacks. However, she will keep us informed on her working life on a regular basis.

Philip & Maureen Dean (a few words from Philip 29th March) We had been shopping at the beginning of March and everything seemed normal in the supermarkets. On 11 March the advice from the government was for people over 70 years and/or people with serious medical conditions to 'self-isolate'. We went to a Camera Club meeting that evening but that was the last event we attended, as we started to avoid physical contact with other people the following day. We had been shopping a couple of days previously and consequently were not in urgent need of any provisions, but even then we found that some supermarket shelves were emptied of certain items. Why people needed to buy all the toilet rolls is a mystery to us. Fortunately the weather over the last 10 days has been largely sunny and warm, around 14C, and we have spent an hour or two most days sitting on the decking in our back garden and doing some gardening, usually before a late lunch. Later in the day, to catch the sun, we have been sitting at the side of the house where we have been able to chat with our neighbours sitting in their own garden. In the last couple of weeks our daughter has needed to attend work only occasionally as the school where she works has been partially closed due to the government's order. The school is required to remain open only for children of essential workers and there are only a few there. She lives about 10k from here, and has been shopping for us a couple of times. Before travel was restricted on one occasion, we called at her house, we didn't go in, and she put the bags in the car boot. Since that time she has left the bags at our door, then goes some metres away while we take the shopping inside. We are able to talk to her... from a distance. Sunday 22 March was Mother's Day and we'd planned to go for a meal with my son and his family but we cancelled to maintain our 'quarantine'. However, they came to visit us at home and we sat in the garden - not touching and maintaining the recommended 2m distance from them. We usually do crosswords and Sudoku together and we have spent more time doing this. Ten days ago we went a short walk near home for about an hour. I would like to do this more but unfortunately I have a sore foot which has prevented me walking. Maureen has started doing a jigsaw and I have spent more time doing NOTHING. I'm learning how to use Zoom software which will enable all the Camera Club members to take part in a 'virtual meeting' It is still largely in the trial stage but next week a 'visiting speaker' will be making a presentation to us all over the internet using this system. We had booked to go on holiday to Greece at the beginning of May and later to go away in our caravan but it seems likely that both will be cancelled. We might be able to take a holiday in the caravan later in the year – we will have wait to see how the pandemic progresses.

Jenny Scholefield & family (report from Jenny 29th March) Hannah has been extremely poorly but is getting better but it is a very slow process. Other girls are OK. Katherine has been able to sort out all her

GCSE revision stuff and start relaxing. Not having a routine or being able to meet friends is particularly difficult for Zoe and Emily. Oliver is able to look after the sheep in isolation and I am working at home.

Chris Dellen/John Stewart (report from Chris 28th March) Generally we are both fine here. We are 'social distancing' and just going out to do shopping as carefully as possible, and also going for a walk each day. There is plenty for us to do. I have put two lists on a white board: one is of non-routine jobs around the house or garden that could be done, the other is a list of activities we could do if we get bored. Because the weather has been so good most of the time John particularly has spent a lot of time in the garden and sowing seeds and potting on young plants in the greenhouse. Last week we had a few visitors that keep at a distance in the garden. This week, since the general public have been told to stay home no-one has visited, but I know that my son, or daughter would bring us some shopping if we feel unable to go out for ourselves. A sad event for us is that our friend David died last week. He was 88 and his death was unrelated to Covid-19 but if the current restrictions weren't in place we would be travelling to Kent to be with his widow, Kathy, who has been my friend for 49 years. And of course we won't be able to attend the funeral when it is arranged. Like everyone we have concerns about other family members. Both my sons work in key roles where it is hard to keep social distance (mental health and the police) and where if many staff become sick there could be serious issues. My daughter has been working from home this week, which I didn't think would be possible as she works with young offenders, but apparently keeping in touch can be done over the phone. Another concern was that our granddaughter, Dory 18, who is currently on a gap year, would be stranded indefinitely in Australia. Fortunately she and her boyfriend just managed to get the last flight out last weekend. They arrived back in the UK on Tuesday and are now in quarantine at a family friend's house in Wales. It was disappointing for them as they'd been working and saving since last summer for a 3 month trip to New Zealand, Australia and then Vietnam, and were only a few weeks into it when the coronavirus made the news. In the present context though with everybody's life turned upside down they and we are just happy that they're safe.

Rebecca Charlton/Eleanor Read (report from Rebecca 27th March) We are fine and getting on with everything. We are sad the visit from St Pol will not go ahead! N.B. There is a chance that there may be some Zoom contacts between HB & St Pol to improve language skills.

Councillor Val Stevens has sent us a wonderful report on her experiences in isolation which I am circulating and posting separately.

Butterworth-Collins family (from Kaye on the 27th March): Mum and dad are going for a walk every day and we went for a picnic in the car last week!! My asthma big due to early spring pollen but drugs are working so far!! Richard still working on his own keeping Butterworths Solicitors going!!

Jane Jackson
30th March 2020