

Dear all

I have come across the following poem by Jan Beaumont of the **Starts at 60** Community. The community website says viral! *Enjoy and share it with your friends to lighten their weekend!* (By the way, it is credited in many places as being by Pam Ayres. It's not, just in a similar style).

I'm normally a social girl
I love to meet my mates
But lately with the virus here
We can't go out the gates.

You see, we are the 'oldies' now
We need to stay inside
If they haven't seen us for a while
They'll think we've upped and died.

They'll never know the things we did
Before we got this old
There wasn't any Facebook
So not everything was told.

We may seem sweet old ladies
Who would never be uncouth
But we grew up in the 60s –
If you only knew the truth!

There was sex and drugs and rock 'n roll
The pill and miniskirts
We smoked, we drank, we partied
And were quite outrageous flirts.

Then we settled down, got married
And turned into someone's mum,
Somebody's wife, then nana,
Who on earth did we become?

We didn't mind the change of pace
Because our lives were full
But to bury us before we're dead
Is like red rag to a bull!

So here you find me stuck inside
For 4 weeks, maybe more
I finally found myself again
Then I had to close the door!

It didn't really bother me
I'd while away the hour
I'd bake for all the family
But I've got no bloody flour!

Now Netflix is just wonderful
I like a gutsy thriller
I'm swooning over Idris
Or some random sexy killer.

At least I've got a stash of booze
For when I'm being idle
There's wine and whiskey, even gin
If I'm feeling suicidal!

So let's all drink to lockdown
To recovery and health
And hope this bloody virus
Doesn't decimate our wealth.

We'll all get through the crisis
And be back to join our mates
Just hoping I'm not far too wide
To fit through the flaming gates!

The following competition has just come to my notice – sorry it's rather late in the day, but if you know any children who can produce a short story in 4 days, they might be interested in this:

THE DEEPINGS LIONS CLUB
REG CHARITY NO 1026593



Short story competition

Do you live in The Deepings area and would like to write The Lions a short story of 500 words maximum?

Two age groups

5-9 years of age. Topic—A lion
10—15 years of age. Topic -The environment

Prize

£40, £20 and £10 cash for each age group
Judged by The Lions and local authors

Competition opens 1st May 2020
Closes 31st May 2020

Competition rules are available on
www.deepingslions.co.uk

Entrants must abide by competition rules and have
parents/guardians permission



Today in my phoning round, I spoke to Jessie Turner. She asked me to pass her good wishes on to all.

The mainstream media and social media are going mad now over the actions of Dominic Cummings and statements made by government. While I'm not going to make any comment here (I'm sure you've all come to your own conclusions) it is noteworthy that about a dozen of our bishops have spoken out very strongly against.

Nick Fawcett's prayer from yesterday is very pertinent here:

Lord, when I am downhearted,
teach me to open my heart to your joy;
when I am anxious,
to let go and know your peace;
when I feel vulnerable,
to trust in your protection while taking every sensible step to stay safe;
when I am frustrated,
to be patient,
focusing not on my time but on yours;
when I am angry –
railing against what I perceive to be an inadequate response to this crisis
and against apparently irresponsible behaviour on the part of a minority –
to make allowances,
recognising that things are not as black and white as I like to imagine,
and that there is not always a clear right or wrong way to proceed;
when I feel isolated –
longing to see family and friends,
and simply to enjoy the company of others –
to put my hand in yours
and know that you are by my side;
when I don't know where to turn next –
what to do or how to cope –
to turn to you,
and so to find guidance.
Whatever I'm up against, Lord,
however I feel,
teach me find in you the strength I need to get through.
Amen.



Stay safe

Blessings and love

Mark