

The Worshipful Company of Water Conservators.



Conservator perspectives, No.10 April 2020

COVID Lockdown Perspectives - various authors

Fri, 24 Apr 2020 onwards, approximately 1 month in



Good morning,

Well it is a good morning, I think that it might be Friday.

Evenings are beautiful too at the moment and David and I were enjoying a lager, see above, I think it was Wednesday!

I hope the photo will give you some encouragement to enjoy these crazy and troubling times in some way too. David had bought some special brew from a small brewery in Scotland. It tasted as good as it looked. I hope that you all are keeping well.

Best wishes from the two of us in a very summery vale of Clwyd.

____0____

They are huge !

R

____0____

Ivor Hi

Lovely to hear from you and glad to hear you are both well.
We are keeping busy plenty of jobs to do that have been on the list for a while!

The chain saw has been very busy and I will start the outdoor jobs with it tomorrow!!!!

For clarity Jan is safe and well!
Stay safe everyone
Regards
Barry

____0____

Dear Ivor, David and Members All,

Thank you for the pictures. I have been working from home for 21 years, so life in many ways carries on, albeit with a mild bias towards writing novels.

One of the glories of late April has to be asparagus. These are from a local grower, the first pick of the season. A glass (at the very least) of Chardonnay this evening springs to mind.

I hope you are all safe, well and in good spirits.

With my best wishes from the vale of the Teifi.

David

____0____

Dear Ivor

Many thanks and I am glad to see that both you and David are ok and enjoying the beer in the sunshine.
We are both fine. It has been a very different time but important to keep motivated and away from afternoon television!
I have plenty to do and keep in contact with my company.

Keep well and safe.
Kind regards Roger

____0____

Hello Ivor

Very good to hear you are both ok. We are in lock-down in Devon, restoring our very overgrown 2.5 acre victorian garden. When we came here 6 years ago it was impossible to fight our way through the brambles, the estate agent suggested we could sell part of it, he was afraid we would walk away, probably sized us up as typical 'townies'. It was left to nature while we were in Abu Dhabi for the first 4 years, but over the last two we have gradually reclaimed the garden back. An early task has been to catch all the feral cats with the help of the cat protection league to get them neutered and find new homes. We have relocated 10 thankfully and the increase in small hedgerow birds, small animals, shrews, slow worms etc has been fantastic. Anyway lockdown has given us even less excuse not to tackle the harder jobs in the wilder bits and we thought this clip might raise a smile .. all a bit heath-robinson with what materials we have to hand, we have to find our amusements these days where we can Hope you are all able to stay well.

Best wishes

Wendy & Bob

____0____

Hello

It was good that Ivor triggered contact – well done. Lis and I are fine. Glad to hear that you are all as well. After lots of garden activity I have a huge pile of rubbish now destined for the tip whenever it opens I attach a poem from Pam Ayres to make you smile. Any chances that someone could produce a version for a water conservator

Keep safe

Best wishes

Peter and Lis

Time for us Girls - Pam Ayres

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 a 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 flaming 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 awful 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!

Pam Ayres

_____0_____

Best wishes to you, Ivor, for starting this, and to all fellow Water Conservators.

Georgina and I are sitting in the summer house with a cocktail, having brought in asparagus and seakale. NHS has things under control. Cheers to all and stay well.

Colin

_____0_____

Dear Peter, dear All,

In response to Peter's challenge (it is a bit cheeky and so with profuse apologies to Pam Ayres) here goes:

Lines for a Water Conservator

I'm normally in Livery
I love to lunch in Halls
But now we live in lockdown
Holed up behind our walls.
You see, we are of all ages here
We need to keep apart
By maintaining our distance
We help to make a start.
We were made to be social
Shaking hands and pecking cheeks
Not in this strangely silent world
Its already been four weeks.
Water is always on our minds
How to manage, to make it clean
How to meet each new task
Not least Covid-19.
When we met, we shared knowledge
We teach, we learn and train
Sometimes it simply feels
This is going down the drain.
Fake news is on the rise
I hear it's the fault of 5G
While a sea of social media
Suggests fresh conspiracies.
Something's going on 'out there'
The bug was made in a lab
The name of the game's blame
But who picks up the tab?
We're told to drink some Dettol
Light our insides with UV
Snake oil trickles through the web
Selling bogus therapies.
Outside the panic buying rose

Loo rolls flew off the shelf
To bidet or not to bidet?
We know our public health.
We aim to foster research
And support our charity
With a flush of new ideas
It's why we are the WC-WC.
Water works in a cycle
Some turn it into wine
Let us turn it to water again
In its pre-ordained time.
So, raise a glass to engineers
Policy and science that's sound
And don't forget the lawyers
Our Company is in the round.
We toast our friends in water
In glasses never half empty
We might be apart yet we too are one
For fellowship gives us plenty.
Steadfast minds do mark us
Be patient, be strong, be healthy
Be well, drink well and think well
And may God bless our Livery.

David

____0____

Dear all,
Excellent poems from Peter and David.
Good to keep in touch as well. Thanks Ivor for starting this off.
Glad you all seem to be well. Christine and I are.
Our garden is looking good but aches and pains need to go away. We are
growing plants and vegetables from seed runner beans are going wild so
need to plant out today.
With the great weather a G&T on the patio is a welcomed evening tippie.
Keep well and safe!
Regards
Roger

____0____

David, that is just superb, a place must be found for it in our Livery
records. At a much much lower level I can make a sort of contribution,
reminding me of my rugby days a very long time ago.

An old man in his lockdown misery
Couldn't risk re-visiting his livery
He spent all of his days
In an alcoholic haze
And waited and prayed for delivery.

I submit that this is not bad for a Saturday morning, there must be some
of you who can do better.

Ivor

_____0_____

Ivor, I love it!
Thank you for putting a smile on our faces!
Best wishes, Christine D

_____0_____

Sunning myself in the garden,
With glass of wine in my hand,
Stay well away, damned virus,
The Conservators are making a stand!

Thus rousing poems were offered,
And luckily none with expletives,
So as a reminder of COVID-19,
They'll be stored with the website 'Perspectives'.

Best I can do - my apologies!
Seems a fitting location as Ivor started Perspectives
Take care all, best regards Sue

_____0_____

Well done Sue,
Avoiding expletives is quite a challenge, for some of us. In your case I
couldn't possibly comment.

Now, is this the time to put pen to paper to reflect a little and discuss the
way ahead for us in a few Perspectives? I find that the secret is just to
start writing and the words just come along – really they do you know.
Look in the mirror to start reflecting.

Incidentally Peter, I too have a huge pile of waste that I intend to burn
and save the wood ash. I have done this for years and years, I am lucky
in not having close neighbours. I also have 4 council bins for garden
waste and will fill them as well when collection restarts. We felled another
of our lime trees this year and when his stump has been removed by a
local firm after the lock down we have plans to replace him next

winter. It was 80 years old like all of the others and I considered then all to be 'old friends'. This was about number 6 that we have felled over the years, after much heart searching Marj allowed me to take a couple down that were overshadowing the veg garden. I complained that I was working hard and getting poor results so she relented.

Best wishes, Ivor

____0____

Dear Mark,

I fear some may not have appreciated that the plate was a relatively small one. A happy team with a bottle of Wine Society Exhibition NZ Chardonnay that evening. We are blessed with having local shops and local growers. So for example, flour has been available pretty well all the time. The poem was one of those things. I thought of a couple of lines and with that I simply had to get on and finish the job.

A busy week ahead. Two clients to keep happy. It has been intriguing hearing how banks and asset managers have been adapting to home-working. After some initial glitches, their resilience has been heartening.

Now that the Wine Society is operating again, the future looks more encouraging. May we all emerge from this in good heart.

With my best regards,

David

____0____

Bore da David,

Small plates do have their uses.

I was intrigued to hear that you get your flour locally. We have our milkman once again and he delivers all of our dairy needs, local cheeses, and local milk butter etc but the orange juice is not so local. Our baker also serves us well with all kinds of produce as well as bread. We are also making our own bread again, butter consumption has gone up significantly.

Will things go back to as they were? We have told both men that we will want them to continue delivering.

I am pleased to hear that clients are still wanting things done I am expecting fresh instructions this week to prepare for public inquiries (3 !!!) that will start again someday.

Some of our surveys are seasonal and existing reports are now out of date (as usual a few jobs, no, all of our highway projects are more than a year delayed, some by 2 years) so things have to be re-done in the next few months otherwise it will mean doing the work NEXT YEAR for an inquiry even later.

Our knotweed removal work at Bow Street station north of Aberystwyth starts again next week.

David buys most of our wine from the merchants, DBM Wines in Clifton. We were introduced to them during Peter's weekend. We are into some Argentinian reds at the moment. My days of buying claret are long over, I still have a few museum pieces from the 50s and 60s that are probably undrinkable, they were good at the time but were not the greatest of the great, not premier cru but probably troisieme cru. Chat Gloria 66 was one that Marj used to give to her boss at Christmas, several Christmases, which I thought was a bit much, I particularly liked that one, but he was a good boss!! I had kept some 1961 Marquis d'alemse for our silver wedding celebration in 1986 but all 6 bottles had to go down the drain when I opened them on the day, something had gone wrong, and we had to rub along with some Chat de Pez 1972. Hey, you win some, you lose some. It was a very good family lunch.

Pob hwyl Ivor

____0____

Noswaith dda Ivor,

Caws Cenarth, our most local maker has a crisis, as much of its business is with the hospitality sector. Some nifty marketing and I believe they are on top of their cash flow again. I suspect Penderwyn is enjoying jolly good business and the local Gins are very popular, even the seaweed based one. The idea of 'blas y tir' ('a taste of the land') is gaining real traction here. One shopkeeper had a complaint that her carrots were too flavoursome.

I specialise in the more basic clarets these days. Cru Classe is getting on the silly side. We have been blessed by some wonderful vintages, so we have the '08s and '10s for the weekend and the '00s and '01s for more special occasions. I have bought some '15s and am pondering the '16s. I will have to confess to migrating to NZ for Pinot Noir and Chardonnay as Burgundy is just a happy memory these days.

Wines that are truly too old are a great pity. I am a bit of a gerontophile when it comes to liking old wines, but there are limits!

Cofion gorau, David

____0____



Peter & Georgina's contribution

_____0_____

Now, is this the time to put pen to paper to reflect a little and discuss the way ahead for us in a few Perspectives? I find that the secret is just to start writing and the words just come along – really they do you know. Look in the mirror to start reflecting. Ivor

_____o0o_____