

Dear Members

Lockdown almost no more but be cautious.

***For some freedom is now here
We can go out and may be have a beer
We can see our friends once more
And the family we have missed and adore***

***But wait – don't rush – do be cool
We must observe the new distancing rule
Normal life cannot ignore our fears
We are still at risk until a vaccine appears***

***So do enjoy doing what you have missed
We still cannot hug loved ones with a kiss
And what about a treat we have been denied
We can get in the car and go for a scenic ride***

Looking back over the lockdown period have you discovered a new skill, found or revived an old interest or just got on with it. At the beginning of April we received some beans from a cousin in Northern Ireland. Having never grown them before this is what we did –

Beans, beans glorious beans

Nothing quite like them to add to the greens

***We had some beans a short while ago
Never having grown them before we consulted a guru
Little pots were used to get them going
Then they were put into the ground after hoeing***

***Before we could blink they were growing quite big
So a wigwam was constructed to act as a rig
To encourage them to climb right to the top
But 'hold it there' - they had to be pinched to stop***

***The plants are flowering just waiting for the bees
To pollinate the blooms as the way to tease
Out the runners that will start to appear
During July to September their season of the year***

A few weeks ago I covered the subject of how certain phrases or sayings had originated. This one particularly amused me as my mother was always saying to me 'Mind your Ps and Qs'. According to my trusty reference book –

Mind your Ps and Qs was a gentle warning to behave in a correct and polite manner. There are two suggestions for the origin of this phrase and both have a

reasonable claim. First is the civilised surroundings of the French court during the 17th century. The aristocracy were expected to dance delicately when they took the floor and dance instructors were in high demand. During their lessons pupils were encouraged to mind their 'pieds' (feet) and 'queues' the tails of their wigs.

But perhaps a more popular explanation could be found in the London taverns where the bartender would keep an account of how much beer their customers had been drinking by marking their pints under the letter 'P' and their quarts (two pints) under the letter 'Q'. Customers were well advised to watch their Ps and Qs to make sure they were not over charged at the end of the session.

This system would work for the new arrangements from 4th July!!!

The answers to last week's general knowledge quiz are as follows. I had no responses for a prize.

(1) Hertfordshire (2) Stephen Ward (3) Cherry (4) Tungsten (5) Shakin' Stevens (6) Toronto (7) Portcullis (8) Grace Brothers (9) LV1 (10) Lord Kitchener

And so to bridge and the Double Dummy challenge below to make 5 spades. It took me a very long while to work it out but I did eventually find the solution. There are still prizes to be won if you want to let me have your response to making the contract.



So – that's all for now folks – stay safe, be cautious and watch your speed!!!

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