

A Word from Witney

Hello Folks

We've had some fantastic SBC bulletins so I think you may find mine a little mundane but never mind here goes. I just want to tell you about my coping strategies for lockdown life at home in Witney.

I cannot believe that I have not played bridge, or even considered playing online since my last game in March – that's almost eleven weeks card free!! What is frightening is I'm not really missing playing cards but realize how much I enjoy the social contact and light hearted banter at the table.

My life is not totally bridge free as I have dusted off my very old laptop – it really is old as it operates on Windows 98 and uses floppy disks (do you remember those squares of plastic that weren't floppy at all and you saved your work to them?). I charged it and to my utter amazement everything worked and even showed the correct day, date and time! I can do little on it but I do have some Mr Bridge interactive CD's that work with Windows 98, so I have been keeping my hand in with those.

I'm sure you are all enjoying the most fantastic weather, almost continuous since lockdown began. I took advantage and was out straight away gardening. Everything is ship-shape and there is not a weed to be seen – I now stand around with hoe to the ready waiting for any weed that dares to show itself. As B & Q in Witney is open I have braved the queues to purchase potting compost and plants for the tubs so there is some sort of colourful display to brighten the garden. The selection was very limited – you had to like pink geraniums and petunias!!!

As you may or may not be aware, walking is a great passion of mine and so my daily exercise is always a good walk. I have not missed a day since the 23rd March and by the end of this week I will have covered 300 miles. I know every footpath, track and byway local to Witney and have found some lovely and interesting walks. Its great we are now allowed to walk with a friend and also use a car to go further afield so I'm now back in the beautiful Cotswolds. The picture (taken a couple of years ago) shows me in full, regulation, hot weather, walking gear – I'm at the source of the Windrush toasting the river spirits.



**I've walked the Windrush, just for fun. In winter's fog and summer's sun.
Rising near Cutsdean, a gentle spring, then a babbling brook where waters sing.
Rushing by on its merry way, water voles romp and otters play.
Under bridges, large and small, past rolling meadows and churches tall.
Naunton, Burford it hurries through, Minster, Witney and Ducklington too
Then quietly slips, without a trace into Father Thames' manly race.**

(Written by DC)

I can manage to fill a lot of time drawing and painting. An art class I belong to has kept going via social media, especially Whatsapp and Youtube which is working very well. Our teacher gives us a weekly project which usually takes several days to complete. The most challenging topic so far has been to draw parts of a bunch of keys and then transform that into an abstract painting. The most interesting has been to draw the contents of the under sink kitchen cupboard without tidying it or moving things – quite revealing when we looked at each others cupboards. I am no artist but enjoy the challenge and below is a painting I completed during the first week of lockdown – not for sale!!!???



Time permitting and I try not to have too much available, I might do a spot of housework or cooking – the highlight of the week is the Sainsbury's shop, usually in the late evening when it is empty.

That's it, can't think of anything else to tell you that might be of interest so I'll sign off and wish you well.

Stay busy, stay safe and I look forward to the first game at our wonderful club, SUMMERTOWN.

Best Wishes

Diane