

From: Leanne Peacock
Sent: 22 April 2020 16:41
To: CMS (Coleraine)
Subject: Dear Diary

Bored in the house and I'm in the house bored- the most apt TikTok of our time. A bit of cabin fever setting in with everyone today.

Today is a quiet one. Phone is quiet, daddy is painting the patio furniture and the rest are just chilling browsing online shopping sites and enjoying the sun. This must be one of the best April's I can remember- we have not had rain in a long time, maybe a couple of weeks! Cathan had me out playing in his sand but a spider crawled up my leg and has made me itch and worry about it since!

I had a constituent on the phone about the closure of cemeteries. That is the most difficult of all closures but we had a good chat and he thanked me for my time- told me he is ringing all councillors. He is not the only one impacted, we all have loved ones graves that it is important to us to visit but it is more important to stay at home at this time to avoid adding more graves to those graveyards but it is difficult to speak to people about such a sensitive subject and you do feel like you are defending the indefensible when people are so affected by these things and it has such an impact on their grief and mental health but I think we must also keep perspective that this is a pandemic and we simply must save lives and most people are aware of that even if they are hurting and grieving and even just appreciate a chat about it and to know that we understand and will continually review. But, these must be the first places opened when the quarantine is lifting and must be continually reviewed based on the figures and scientific evidence provided. I have unending sympathy for the pain that this causes to people and it hurts my heart to think of those people suffering as a result but keep thinking my heart would hurt much more if our figures continued to rise unchecked and many more people died as a result. These are difficult decisions to make and to explain.

Some of the scaremongering on social media is scary and conspiracy theories are booming like one that says 5G causes coronavirus but there are many others, even people I know have been sharing them which is alarming. There are some people in America protesting the lockdown some of which may be related to these conspiracy theories. I hope that this does not cause people to violate the restrictions and spread this further. I am also worried that, given that we are into week 4 of lockdown that people start to become complacent to and start to go about their lives again- i see some evidence of it and even see some complacency in myself such as not sanitising the door handles as much as I did at the start but hearing the news soon makes reality hit hard again and i hope it does so for everyone else too. Although I must say the vast majority of people seem to be sticking to it and looking after each other.

Days are flying into each other and I cannot believe that it is Wednesday again- time is flying and April is almost over. Our post is a wee bit slower than normal so I have not received the 30th present for my friend yet so it is unlikely that she will get it on her birthday but she won't mind and will get it at some time when it arrives. George the postman has also not received his thank you poster from Cathan as yet as he

has been distracted watching TV and playing in his sand but he wants to give it to him and I'm sure that George will appreciate it when he gets it finished. We have done a wee bit of school work with Cathan at home but as he is at nursery only so there's not much to do, he loves numbers and watches the educational videos such as the number blocks, there's not much for him as he goes to an Irish medium school and resources in the Irish language are few and far between although his munteoir Vera has sent in some videos for the wee ones of her reading stories and playing games, Cathan is not that interested in them and prefers running about like a mad man and bouncing on the sofa. I have not drove my car in a lifetime and it is very weird, i may have forgotten how to drive by the time this is all over and have not had to put in any diesel this month even though the price has plummeted (probably because no one needs it). A drive to Coleraine may seem like a drive to Cork! I seen that the price of oil is in the negative in America for the first time is history because no one is going anywhere, such very strange times! We will have no problem filling up the oil tank when it gets low enough to fill oil is only pennies. We have not had much cause to have the oil on as the weather has been so good. I actually don't think i have left the house in over a week even though I can go for a walk if I want, I just haven't although we have been in the back yard a lot running around.

I forgot to add the picture of the view from my house yesterday the best view in the world and there have been some meteor showers as last week although I forgot to look out for them.



