

In the Year 2020

January, New Year, a new decade, filled with hopes of plenty,

By May, 4 short months later, our cities, towns and streets are eerily empty.

So how did this happen in this day and age?

I'll tell you the story as it unfolds on this page.

It started in China, in a place called Wuhan.

This terrible disease so lethal to modern man.

It's carried in moist droplets by touch, cough and sneeze

That deadly small virus spread it's poison with ease.

Like mist rolling out over land, sea and air,

Through the world it went seeping and creeping like a hideous ghost

Like an old fashioned plague searching out a new host.

We heard slowly about horrible deaths in China, people were worried and starting to panic

Then Italy, Spain and France also told of deaths turning this into a Global Pandemic.

Rumours abounded about what should be done,

Stockpiling, working from home, schools closing down, business closing, no travel allowed.

The death toll was rising, no cure was on hand,

The world was in turmoil; harsh measures were planned.

Then over one weekend an announcement was made, our freedom of movement was severely curtailed, outside for exercise for one hour a day.

The hope was that contagion could be drastically reduced and shielding the old and the vulnerable was the chosen way.

Home schooling for most of the children began, only essential workers leaving the home to keep hospitals running

and the food supply chain working and a myriad service industries turning.

Limited access for shopping for food, all holidays cancelled and most flights stopped.

How quickly we adjusted to this new way of living, the young and the fit helping out the less able,

We missed our families but waved through the windows and spoke on the phone, used other technology so we're not so alone.

The mantra "Stay Home, Stay Safe and Protect NHS" took hold as realisation dawned that this was more than the flu or a cold.

That tiny virus with its corona crown gets into the lungs and buries in deep, It copies itself and causes havoc inside, so much inflammation the lungs couldn't keep.

The death toll kept rising, new hospitals built, with more ventilators to cope with demand,

The ill prepared hospitals were soon short of kit; the nation responded and masks, gowns and scrubs came from across the land.

6 weeks now in lockdown, other countries are slowly re starting their trade, For us a few more weeks to test and trace before decisions can be made.

Surprising things we've found that with no constant air travel and fewer cars on the road,

The skies are so much bluer, the stars at night shine bright, nature is looking beautiful without pollution overload.

The animals usually so well hidden are gently emerging into our quiet gardens and onto the street.

The birds are singing clearly and insects are buzzing as spring blooms and life around us sounds and smells sweet.

Only time will tell how this story will end but hopefully a vaccine will be found and we'll never forget the 30,000 deaths in the Year 2020

Written by Barbara Robinson on 5/5/2020.