

TT 13 Day 34 (a pot pourri)

It's funny (odd) what people get up to during this lockdown and this household is no exception. For example, they had a competition the other day to see who could provide the best silly joke. There were only three rules: it had to be silly, it had to be brief and it had to be funny. Here are a few that I can remember from my eerie in the corner of the kitchen:

- Sir Galahad and Sir Lancelot went into a hotel where the receptionist asked politely, "Can I help you?" Sir Galahad replied, "A room for two knights please."
- A boy came home with an armchair strapped to each arm and a sofa to his back. His mother said, "I've told you not to take suites from strangers."
- What was Captain Hook's name before he had the accident with the crocodile?
- In the beginning was the word; and the word was aardvark.
- I looked up the word 'paranoid' in the dictionary and it said, "What do you want to know for?"
- A cat hi-jacked an airliner and poked a gun in the pilot's ribs and said, "Take me to the Canaries."
- Two television aerials got married. The ceremony was boring but the reception brilliant.
- Scientists discovered the 'shy' gene just the other day. They said, when interviewed, that it would have been found a lot earlier, but it was hiding behind all the other genes.

None of this was very funny and when I was asked, tongue in cheek, to judge which was the best I simply muttered, 'none'.

The lockdown has produced some hilarious moments. For example, there has been much advice on the television and in the papers about how best to conduct Zoom meetings and gatherings. Included are not to have risqué books and magazines as the backdrop to a serious business meeting or church service; lighting is important – don't sit with your back to a brightly lit window as your face will be completely in darkness; brush your hair and check for spinach in your teeth; don't get up to turn the kettle on half way through the sermon; if you are going to wear earrings, wear both of them; This was all going so well but during the Zoom service to commemorate ANZAC Day at the end of April, one of the Guvnor's friends forgot that due care must be taken of the bottom half of one's attire. When the Zoom congregation was invited to stand for the British, Australian and New Zealand national anthems he found he could not do so as although he was neatly attired for the occasion wearing a clean shirt, jacket and tie, below the desktop he was in his boxer shorts.

Early in the process, when panic buying was rife and when it was still OK for 70 year-olds to go to the supermarket, the Guvnor asked an attendant why there wasn't any cream on the shelf when there seemed to be adequate supplies of milk. The 'more than middle-aged' assistant gave him a withering look and said sharply, "Don't you know there's a war on?"

Finally, Sir James Dyson has invested millions of pounds in developing his own brand of ventilator. Having done so, he arranged a study day to teach his staff how to use it. At the end of the day he was heard to say, perhaps out of habit, "I'm pleased; I think they've picked it up nicely".