



What's the Story?

JUNE 2020

Are you sitting comfortably?

It was refreshing to hear Prince William say that before he was prescribed contact lens he couldn't see the audience clearly – they were a blur. In hindsight he realised this had helped him overcome speaking nerves!

Life under lockdown has helped many to overcome their speaking nerves.

On Zoom or Teams you can read your notes, hide behind your presentation and even cuddle your lucky mascot.

Now we are not condoning bad habits but with the increase of these meetings it is certainly a chance for everyone to get more practice of presenting an argument.

No-one can see what you're crossing!

Are you optimistic about the future? You should be.

We are only scared of the future if we believe things won't change or will change for the worse. So we need to imagine things differently.

We used to organise our lives around work - now we organise work around our lives.

3 months ago, could you have foreseen not going to work every day in a 'modern' office surrounded by your colleagues?

No one knew the word Google 25 years ago - so how could we have foreseen its impact?

We tend to look to the future by making assumptions of what we know. As the experts tell us - the future can only be imaginary – if you knew "the future" it would be "the today".

Are you trying to imagine the future because you think you are in a race - to win, to be right or are you trying to imagine what can be different?

In the past we invested in numeracy and literacy as the way to future prosperity.

Now society worldwide needs to invest in "future literacy" – in the skill of looking into the future with optimism and without making assumptions.

How good is your imagination?

Hunt for greetings cards

One of the items in short supply during this pandemic has been original greetings cards.

It was our wedding anniversary last week. Barry bought flowers. Sally sent a card with this message in:

"Marriage is like a pack of cards. To begin with you need 2 Hearts and 1 Diamond.

After a while you're looking for a Club and a Spade."

FYI we play Bridge so Barry chuckled and clearly intends to use it in the future.

Game on!

Tesco were ready!

In our April newsletter we commended Tesco on the speed with which they produced a new TV commercial reflecting what was happening in the country. They showed how their stores would help customers navigate and stay safe. They also gave staff a 10% bonus. They were way ahead of other retailers in dealing with the new way of shopping.

Recently, Channel 4 made a programme on Tesco's forward planning. One possible scenario the company had looked at was a pandemic. In doing this they showed unbelievable foresight.

Are you ready?

What we can learn from the past

There was an inspiring story in the Evening Standard about a John Dower who had been appointed by the British Government in 1942 – at the height of the war - to prepare for a post-war Britain.

He was tasked with planning for a network of national parks so the people could enjoy going out and relaxing. Something they hadn't been able to do for nearly 6 years

As he travelled the country he was often challenged by locals over what he was doing in their countryside.

In 1946 the National Parks were opened.

What will our legacy be when the pandemic is over?

A sign outside a newsagent:



Good luck, stay safe, stay well.

Barry Graham & Sally Clare



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