**Barbara’s Blog for February 2021**

Hi Everyone, humble apologies for being late this month with my Blog. During the past week I’ve had a number of irritating domestic problems that have severely disrupted my timetable. However, better late than never.

As I’m typing this I’m looking out onto a wonderland of snowy landscape. Normally I dislike the snow intensely as it gives me so many decisions to make – shall I cancel the next session of bridge and if so, what about the one after that? Will it be safe to take the car out? Do my ski-suits still fit me if it gets really bad?

Today I am just admiring the prettiness of it all and enjoying my enforced stay at home in the warm.

Last month I was anticipating perhaps a return to F2F bridge by end of March/beginning of April. Well, all these pesky variants have put paid to that. I will now be surprised if we are able to get back to any sense of normality by June/July. Even then I would not be surprised if our hall hirer (The Tennis Club) would not attach the caveat of only allowing vaccinated people in the building.

So folks, when you’ve had your 1st and 2nd vaccinations please hang on to your proof as we will probably be asking for it.

I had my 1st vaccination two days ago and I was extremely impressed with the wonderful organisation at the Hastings Centre. About 18 – 20 victims were being jabbed at any one time, the “production line” moved so swiftly it wasn’t worth sitting down on the rows of chairs prior to getting to the main Injection Room. All the NHS staff there knew exactly what they were doing and doing it efficiently and cheerfully. **IT DID NOT HURT.**

Did many of you have a go at the new platform of Realbridge? Whilst I did ask for feedback from you, I’ve only had two of you respond. It’s good to know my Blogs are so well received by so many. Still what else would I do with my time?

January passed (for me at any rate) in a blur of inactivity. It was still far too cold for me to spend more than fleeting moments in the garden, although I did get the last of my bargain amaryllis potted up and two of the six have strong flower spikes which should bloom in the next 4 weeks. The under gardener who is made of sterner stuff has nearly completed drastically pruning the fig tree and whilst we will probably not have many figs this coming year, I can now see across the valley from my kitchen patio. I was also lucky in that Storm Christophe (I think, there have been so many I’ve lost track of the names) did not wreck any panes of glass left in the greenhouse. As they get broken we’ve replaced them with polycarbonate panes which have the advantage of not shattering, and therefore not having to be picked up before little paws get hurt, and acting as a sunshade on the days when we get nearly 40oC and torrid sunshine.

Ever optimistic I predict the temperature will rise to the middle 50s (F) by mid February and we will all be able to enjoy getting out and about a bit more.

Here’s hoping……………………………………………..