

The poem and letter are from Malcolm and Christine Bailey from Suffolk. It is so nice that they are able to get the newsletter and lovely of them to contribute. Thank you

A few days ago Christine and I had something in the post from Germany. It was from friends of ours, a husband and wife, German and English, Giesbert and Pauline.

We are used to meeting up regularly, in our country or theirs, when we have a good 'catch up'. In 2019 though they had to cancel their trip here and now in 2020 the rescheduled visit ..... well, you know what has happened to that. So it was especially nice to get their letter.

They used to be professional language teachers, and two of their students were Christine's parents. They are long retired now and are in their 80's, but they have never stopped being, in a good way, teachers to all of their family and friends. Not surprisingly they like to use words very expressively so it was no surprise that their correspondence included some 'words of wisdom'.

We would like to share these with you and hope that you also find the following full of positive meaning, especially under the current circumstances.

Malcolm & Christine Bailey

PS We would like to thank everyone involved in the Short Mat Times which is an excellent production, bringing much happiness into our household. We feel especially fortunate to have access to this publication because we are 'imposters', living as we do in Suffolk. It is short mat bowls that has brought us together with you, in the same way that Giesbert and Pauline have brought us, and now you, together with Germany. Long may we find and foster such relationships.

### The 'Smile' Poem

Smiling is infectious You can catch it like the flu

When someone smiled at me today I started smiling too

I passed around the corner Where someone saw me grin

And when he smiled I realised I had passed it on to him

I thought about that smile Then knew what it was worth

A single smile, just like mine Could spread around the earth

So, if you feel a smile again Don't leave it undetected

Let's start a positive pandemic Yes, get the world infected



Start each day with a smile and get it over with.

Graham Asks: Can you list 5 foods you have never ( never will ) buy/bought.

My list is Coriander, snails and frogs legs, I did buy meat in the past but not for the last 35 years and I don't like papaya. Margaret.

Let me know what yours are.

Audrey wrote this great poem about Barry. I think he should return the favour and write one about her!!

Our Captain Barry Thorogood really is the best  
But coronavirus lockdown has put him to the test.  
His daily walks with Alfie takes him near and far  
But even when he gets there he can never park the car.

The park is always full of kids who could be in their schools  
Where Barry says they should be, learning social distance rules.

Val sent him off to Tesco to do the weekly shop  
Where Barry learnt the meaning of "shop until you drop".

He bought a pair of slippers that proved to be too large  
That's what can happen Barry when Val is not in charge.

Please don't get him started on D.I.Y. and paint,  
The queues at B & Q need the patience of a saint.  
One day you will be back amongst your Greenwood bowling friends,  
And once again we'll all be counting up the ends.