

## Thoughts for the day

I find it impossible to think of those throughout the world, who have died as a result of Covid 19, without making the comparison of numbers lost in the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War beginning just 21 years after the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> World War. We've been living in Alderholt for 25 years and it's gone in a flash. Can you imagine if we had to experience another Corona pandemic just 21 years down the line from this one?

Over 4 million people throughout the world have been recorded as Corona virus cases. Over 280 thousand have sadly died. Despite the seriousness of this virus it is still a small fraction of the number of Jews who were killed (5.8 million) in the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. How many who died may have gone on to achieve great things for humanity? To find the cure for cancer? A mind behind a more equal sharing of resources and wealth? What of the children and grandchildren never born as a result? With this thought alone in mind it is imperative that we do everything we can to limit the spread of this virus.

Humanity can build up an irrational fear of other races/beliefs. I have heard people say 'Well of course they don't do themselves any favours, wearing those clothes and that funny hair style. God didn't make us all different for us to expect others to be the same as us. Then suddenly one becomes famous and we take to them and we say 'He or She is lovely', but somehow it hasn't really changed our daft fear of other members of their race/beliefs.

In this context I often think of the remark, the incredibly kind-hearted Perks made in the film the Railway Children, 'I knew he was Russian'. It takes the wife of a wrongfully imprisoned civil servant and their children to show the Russian the respect, love and help he so richly deserved and needed.

I had been going out with Jean for 6 years at the time of the Cuban missile crisis, Jean asked me if there was going to be a 3<sup>rd</sup> World War. With my vast experience of 20 years I said 'No, no there isn't going to be a war'. I remember the worry and fear of the time. I am currently reading an excellent book by the 6<sup>th</sup> Prime Minister of Jamaica P.J.Patterson, a Christian and highly regarded statesman. His meetings and discussions with Fidel Castro are fascinating. He lost an election because it was said his party was going communist. This was a ridiculous rumour spread by the opposition party deliberately to gain power. It set Jamaica back several years, the general public soon saw their mistake and returned Patterson at the next general election. He said it wasn't me that linked Jamaica with Cuba it was God. It is only 5 hours away on a slow boat. Of course people will seek work there if they can't find work in Jamaica.

I was an adult before I worked out why our mum didn't always eat with us at meal times. She would eat in the scullery if there was anything left. A hang over from times when the breadwinner needed his strength to work to bring home the wage? Long-sightedness not ill treatment?

As some of us have more time during lockdown, I hope and pray we will have less time for some of our often deep rooted fears of others who are different from us.

Les Sacre