

Hello!

My name is Jess and I'm a nursery teacher. I'm 28 and I have lived in Walden since I was born. I'm submitting a poem ( I wrote yesterday) to the Saffron Walden CV archive.

My Grandpa (who I mention in the poem) is Chris Hingston . He has lived in Saffron Walden for many years, originally from Thaxted where he was a farmer!

Thank you!

Jess Dickinson

**Under the cracked screen of my phone**

**A father's playing saxophone**

**A dancing daughter swings on his arm**

**Italy, March 2020**

**Outside their window, no chaos, no calm**

**Only balconies, dancing**

**Big, hopeful dancing**

**I can't stop glancing**

**Over and over again**

**Scrolling**

**Over and over again**

**Heart in mouth, wondering when**

**Was their last day outside?**

**Words like**

**Lockdown**

**Isolation**

**Slip into our mouths**

**Open, gaping and vast**

**Everything's moving too fast**

**I can't keep up**

**What the fuck is going on?**

**The schools are closing**

**Wait, what?**

**The shelves are empty in the shops**

**Wait, wait, what?**

**Hang on, I can't keep up**

**I know you're scared but**

**Your panic bought hoard will be out of date**

**And out with the rubbish next week**

**Let's just chill out a bit, yeah?**

**Let's just share**

**Just share**

**Let's just care**

**For god's sake care**

**About others**

**Give them some of that toilet roll**

**Stacked up in your home**

**And just like that we're alone**

**The doctors and nurses hold up signs**

**WE STAYED AT WORK FOR YOU**

**PLEASE STAY AT HOME FOR US**

**And just like that we're alone**

**Holding each other in the deepest night**

**I can't tell you it's going to be alright**

**Why can't I tell you it's going to be alright?**

**We can't breath**

**Everything feels so tight**

**We just cry**

**Great messy sorrowful tears**

**We cry tomorrow away**

**Outside parents let children play**

**And I just want to shake them**

**I'm walking**

**I'm two metres away**

**And I'm still crying**

**People are dying**

**People are dying**

**All you have to do is stay at home**

**The death toll rises every day and**

**All you have to do is stay at home**

**Under the cracked screen of my phone**

**I watch a wrinkled face**

**Crack into a smile**

**It's only been a week but**

**It's been more than a while**

**And you've worked out how to video call**

**My dear Grandpa**

**Home alone in this all**

**And my face brings you**

**Joy.**