



Wendy Evans, as well as contributing to the 'Make Our Garden Grow' vocals wrote to say that at the start of lockdown she wrote a poem that she was happy to share with us but that she had condensed it for our purposes to under 250 words. Wendy is the Domestic Bursar at Newnham College.

My Newnham COVID Dreams...

Empty corridors stretching out beyond my view. Lights turning on automatically as I walk towards my office. Awkward movements, shuffling sideways, or backing up, to keep us all 'minding the 2m gap'.

Work responsibilities carry me through the day, busy my mind and take the fear away. My fear is the supermarket and the person crossing too close. Who knew for the person who loved shopping and crowds, would find this their battlefield, where PPE is required!

I dream of hugs. Lonnnnnnnng, tight, consuming, too close for comfort for some, but not for me. I want to be overwhelmed by a physical embrace. I know they are there, waiting in the wings, ready and primed when the 2m rule, which appears in our risk assessments, is deleted with the click of a few keystrokes. If only the virus could be deleted so easily.

A smile in the distance and a wave of the hand across the College perennial borders, that are full of potential, stretching out, timeless, beautiful unaffected. Academic work completed via a video screen. Meetings on Zoom and group chat on Teams, all in a day's work, all our new work normal.

And through it all, the daily call of two roosters in a nearby garden, reminding us all, that the sun will rise, and fall, and we will get through this and come out stronger, kinder, patient, appreciative of who we have in our lives, and our life story will carry on for another 150 years.

#Newnhamforever!