

The **P** of pandemic starts our journey of strife,
A year-long lesson on the value of life.
An overnight decision to send us all home,
For a few weeks of home working rest and some time off the phone!
A chance to be better as a person, partner, boss, mum or dad,
Or a chance to hang out in your pjs at home in your pad!

But here comes the **A** with alarm and unrest.
As we slowly realise that home working might not be best
With back-to-back zooms and weary eyed workers
We can't really tell the grafters from the shirkers!
So, to give support and direction we come up with a plan!
To add a quiz, a weekly meeting and online tea breaks for our internal fans
Another 5 meetings (!) so we don't feel alone,
And our loved ones on tap at the end of the phone.

As the **N** snakes its way into our every-day lives
New Normal is the phrase of our supposed office demise.
But we join and we enter, we connect, and we attend,
With no VPL, no make-up, blurred backgrounds, dry shampoo and no friends
A plethora of sessions from early till dark
When the glass of wine finds its favourite place to park.

D is for the delight in the trust and the will,
Of a team so determined to keep the business looking brill.
A feeling of pride as we race through tough times,
Not a furlough or fatality the Bamboo bell chimes!
But alas all around us it's hard and it's tough,
So, we make sure customers know we will see them resilient and we are here through the rough.

E is for eating because for me, and maybe you,
There's a couple of months there when I forgot what to do!
Not pregnant, not sick just far too damned busy,
so, a few times back there I got pretty dizzy.
Which results in a husband saying, 'you're getting old' or 'you need to stay fit',
I've had to seriously refrain from calling him a sh**!

And so, we path our way through to the **M**s of the year.
The mayhem of multiple-choice lockdown management is here,
Can we, can't we, we should just carry on,
In the British tradition with calmness stacked on
And yet we still have a feeling that we have been far too lucky,
So, sharing a good story feels premature and too plucky.

But I stand here today with unabashed pride that we did what we said and made sure we would thrive.

And yes, we provide a service that didn't need revival,
But our focus was on you and ensuring your survival.
We've been on hand for the whole of the ride,
And if you are a customer of ours, we will stay by your side.

I is for me and for inspiration, so it is time I gave out something for your consideration.

I am twenty years in, and my story is wide, with the ups and downs of a corkscrew ride.
But now is the time when I have come out of my shell,
And say here I am, if you don't like me, what the hell!
And so, 2020 is when my journey has really begun.
When I can be me, do what I love and have fun.
I am a proud mum of two, a wife and a cook,
I am a walker and a thinker, and I love a good book.
I live in the sunshine because that's what I needed,
I have had experiences abound and many lessons I've heeded.
I have talked and I've listened, and I've posted, and I've cared,
I have directed, I've communicated, I've asked, and I've shared.
Bamboo is my love, my family, my home,
And even if geographically distant I do still part own.
The team have moved office, adapted and stood strong,
We have pulled together as a unit and the future looks long.
But I'm no longer the doer as in mid pandemic mode,
I stepped up to CEO and gave a man my workload!!!!
An MD that I'm proud to have drafted,
he holds up all the values that I have lovingly crafted.

C is the letter that I hold most dear,
as it's the one that starts change, the least thing, I fear.
So, I will close out my slot with a year in review,
of the C's that took us from panic to clear view.

Crisis, Communicate, Care, and collectively consider,
The choices we make when we conceive, confuse, (Boris), congregate, circle-back, deliver.
With Clarity, conciseness and constructively laid out plans,
We achieve commitment, consensus and countless, cheering fans.

In a week of celebration to women over the years
I raise my glass to courage, credibility, capability and contribution and I say.

'Cheers!'

Lorin White

