

Gaitherin

Here's us gaitherin, amidst aa this.

Naebody thocht it'd ging on for as lang as it has.

Three weeks max we said.

Noo there's smiles an wry laughs luikin back.

Some hid tae modify, as oor warlds contracted tae four waas an a daily walk.

We'd tae rapidly learn new skills, sketch ideas fae scratch,

aroon limits we'd nivver imagined.

Some hid tae carry on as afore, huddin the rest o us up.

Virtual spaces mushroomed fae naewy

as we frenzied tae cater for aabody,

including those excluded

fae the digital warld through age an poverty.

We aa went on iss journey,

whether we liked it or nae,

same destination, different roads,

an some folk wae better modes o transport than ithers.

Oor hauns an herts didnae bide locked doon

wae oor physical selves –

we turned tae oor local areas

an creative pursuits tae see us through,

waves o volunteers fae the heilans tae the lallans,

rallied roon tae try an mak sure

naebody went without.

Communities assemble! nae person left alane,

let's look efter oor ain for a change,

keep an eye on yer neighbours, ask if they're needin onythin.

Isolation rarely incited inspiration, yet

we transformed hooses tae hame offices, dinner tables tae desks,

bedrooms tae makshift boardrooms.
Silent mooths move in wee boxes on zoom
until a surge o shouts
erupt fae yer spickers
“yer still on mute!”
an feelin like a daftie fan it’s you.

Bit seriously, a smile is a win
fan yer feelin like greetin,
an we aa needed a lift.
Summer brocht her licht in,
an we hertily welcomed a bittie mare freedom,
life seemed tae open up wae summer blooms,
some cheals brave enough tae ging awa,
some a bittie cautious,
thinkin mare lockdoons loomed,
hidin ahin a bonnie blue sky.

An fan winter bit in, we aa felt her cauld,
startit unravelling like twine unner strain, twistin, twirlin,
snappin back intae restrictions thinkin
nae again,
bit we aa kept gan, kept gaitherin
even fan ‘gan’ wis a simple act – gettin oot o yer jammies –
nae jist yer top half,
or pushin yersel tae ging for a walk,
ony achievement is nae smaa avva.

An in this gaitherin, we’re aa headin
in the same direction,

towards changin,
an the strides we've made are staggerin,
yet there's ayeways mare tae dae,
sae mony priorities tae pye attention tae,
people, place, partnerships, planet
climate crisis, emergency stats in every area
o varyin degrees, we aa see it
an we'll nae hae a future if we dinnae address it.

Ower these three days,
we've heard fae
the policy makkers,
the money giers,
an the grafters on the grun
makkin athin happen,
we've heard how swervin aroon challenges
an parameters in place tae protect,
kin sometimes be barriers tae getting ahead.

Fa's accountable kin be a murky path,
local, regional an national often battle
the buck gets passed
fae pillar tae post,
but a one-size-fits-aabody approach
disnae exist,
but partnerships an listenin are keys
tae solutions o problems
existin on tae dae lists for
way too lang.
We vyce caas tae the gatekeepers for trust,

that local folk ken fit they need,
instead o bein telt
or us assumin we dae.

It's easy tae get frustated,
tired o burlin roon in circles,
fan some answers seem sae obvious,
less spikkin, mare dein,
we've a plan,
so let's gang an tak action
a difference is nivver made by bidin the same,
or nae being willin tae be a pairt o the change.

Yet some situations are nae sae simple,
still stuck in spaghetti junctions,
complex communities wae complicated needs,
multiplied by sae mony factors
it maks my heid spin jist thinkin about it,
nivver mind livin it or wirkin in the full swing o it
but we keep gan, keep edgin forward
or in gear beltin up braes,
constructin bridges, building in-roads we kin be proud o
chippin awa at the mountain o wirk still tae be done,
nae daunted by the sheer volume.

An fan we ask, fit dae ye need?
answers are rooted in oor communities
an we see the impact at kin hae,
it spurs us tae kick mare dents in adversity,
level up the playin field for sae mony.

So keep gaitherin fan ye need tae,
share oor learnin and oor mistakes,
forge a route that gies aabody
a chunce tae say fit they think,
an the same opportunities tae *live*,
nae metter fa we are, far we're fae,
far we bide, or how we spikk.