

Tea, biscuits & FaceTime - how our priorities have changed throughout lockdown.

So, we're finally starting to come out of lockdown, the country getting back up on its feet, dusting itself off and climbing out of the rubble. Some of us have been hugely affected - losing loved ones, businesses, stability. Some of us have had to deal with tragic circumstances that just so happen to occur within the strict, rigid, but ultimately necessary confines of a national lockdown. Some of us have been completely alone.

At 20, this isn't quite how I imagined I'd welcome in my twenties. But the things I thought I would be doing - bars, clubs, beach holidays with friends, hobbies, unshakable memories - they aren't what I'm missing. In fact, what I'm missing is right around the corner - and I think that's the choker for me. There's not much more infuriating than having something just within reaching distance, and still not being able to grab it.

My dear nan lives right around the corner. Really - a ten minute walk. She's the only one I've got - I haven't ever known any other grandparents. I didn't see her as much as I'd have liked before lockdown - life just seemed so *busy*. Now, when everything's been stripped away, it's made me take a candid look at my priorities head on. Was life really that busy? Did I *really* not have a spare hour to go and see her? I don't think so. And now, I can't. I can talk to her from her porch, wearing a mask, keeping my distance - but I can't hug her, or share some shortbread, or have a cuppa and gossip. The normal things I completely took for granted before.

I'm not grateful for the pandemic - but I can be grateful for the lessons it has provided me, should I be willing to learn them. I hope others are learning them too - old and young. Material things are not what's important. People are.

Rosie Kear