

HOW CAN WE GET RID OF...

by Kathie Richards-Jones

When the Creative Writing interest group was getting ready to tackle this topic I was surprised to find that there are so many things in this world that I would like to get rid of – and I could probably fulfil the task by not having to write about them, but just by making a list.

So here goes:

Well, naturally top of the list is Climate Change – then...

Ants, arthritis, athlete's foot, asthma, abuse, arrogance, anger, algebra, aggravation, agony, alarm clocks, anxiety, appendicitis, arguments, armaments, avalanches, aphids, amnesia

Bindweed, being fat, bad news, body odour, budgets, baldness, bankruptcy, bats, bereavement, bigotry, blasphemy, blindness, blunders, bombs, boredom, battles

Cobwebs, cooking oil, cleft palates, cheating, cholesterol, chores, carnage, catastrophes, chauvinism, class distinction, conceit, cowardice, criminality, cladding problems and expense for all those living in tower blocks (after Grenfell), compression stockings

Disease, deafness, deforestation, drug dealers, dust, dictators, do-it-yourself, danger, despair, dirt, dishonesty, drunkards, dying

Earthquakes, emergencies, epidemics, exhaustion, "East Enders",

Flies, figs, floods, failures, famines, fevers, flaws, fuse boxes, February

Gaps in front teeth, gas bottles, grey squirrels, greed, guilt, gnats, garden gnomes

HS2 rail development, hunger, honey, hernias, housework, homelessness, handicaps, hay fever, hostility, hurricanes, hypnosis

Insanity, insomnia, instruction manuals, insurgents, ignorance, influenza, itchiness

Japanese knotweed, jumble, jumpers which make me feel too hot, jargon,

Klu Klux Klan, kidnapping, knife crime, knuckle sandwiches, knee pain

Liver spots, lack of education, libel, lockdowns, landslides, left-overs, lethargy, loneliness, life sentences which are then shortened, landfill, "Love Island",

Moles, mouth ulcers, missing socks, midges, murder, malaria, mercenaries, monotony, mortgages, menopause, marzipan

Nuclear radiation, nightmares, nagging, nastiness, nettles, New Year resolutions

Old newspapers, obesity, old age, olives, opinion polls,

Pens with no ink, poverty, parole boards, plastic, pain, phobias, plagues, pomposity, presumptions, puddles, parking tickets

Queues, quagmires, quarantines, quarrels,

Rubbish, rats, racism, radicalisation, road rage, riots, rapes, rebellions, redundancy, retirement, rheumatism, robbery, rudeness, rubic cubes

Spiders, short sightedness, slugs, smugness, scams, slander, stamp duty, senile dementia, seagulls, slums, snobs, squabbles, stupid fashion items that people force their pet dogs to wear, swedes (the vegetables – not the nationality!)

Trolls, traffic jams, tree roots, tsunamis, tofu, tornados, thirst, ticks, tantrums, treachery, tyrants, toothache,

Unwanted babies, unexploded land mines, ugliness, untrue rape allegations, unfair divorce settlements

Veruccas, volcanoes, veganism, vice, vomiting, vanity

Wasps, weeds, wild animal poaching, wickedness, worry, “woke”

X placed in elections, xenophobia

Yawning, yoghurts, yo-yos, yashmaks, yes-men, yobs

Zips that jam, zombies,

Oh! And obviously Covid!