

THE GUARDIAN JONATHAN WATTS

TWO WEEKS ON THE ROADS OF POST-LOCKDOWN BRITAIN

Travelling around Britain surveying local communities following the first wave of the coronavirus

For two weeks, a journalist from *The Guardian* newspaper travelled around the United Kingdom to observe the effects of the coronavirus pandemic on the ground, conducting interviews from small pro-Brexit villages to very modern Bristol. He examined the harsh consequences of the recession, but also social entrepreneurship, new shared ecological plans and other initiatives.

Britain is crying out for a better normal. Communities across the country are emerging from lockdown with a new sense of what is possible and what is necessary – and the answers to both go a lot further than Westminster's efforts to drive the country back to business as usual. That was the overriding impression from a two-week reporting trip around Britain, asking people in different regions how they view recovery and whether there is an appetite for more fundamental change.

2. Travelling by campervan, which doubled as a mobile office, hotel, restaurant and toilet, I interviewed more than 50 people. The Guardian [also conducted] a survey of more than 1,600 people. The poll, carried out at the height of lockdown in May, found that the British public believed the pandemic had been bad for mental health (41% [said it was] negative) and bad for individual finances (31% [are] worse off), but good for family relations. They also said it had been

1. to cry out for to feel a desperate need for / normal normality / across all over, everywhere in / sense perception / both the two of them / a lot further way more / Westminster Houses of Parliament (seat of the U.K. government) / to drive, drove, driven back to here, to return to / business commercial, economic (activity) / overriding predominant, overwhelming / around across, throughout, all over / to view to perceive, envisage / recovery return to a healthy, normal state / whether if (yes or no).

2. campervan large motor vehicle with living accommodation / to double as to be... as well / to conduct to carry out / survey study of public opinion / poll survey, study / to carry out to organise, conduct, perform / height peak / to find, found, found to conclude, reveal / health well-being / to be worse off to be poorer /

excellent for air quality and the overall health of the planet (75% [agreed]).

"TO BE KIND AGAIN"

3. The journey revealed how quickly local communities had adapted to ease the worst impacts of lockdown and build on the benefits. Social centres, community-owned pubs, food banks, green groups and art cooperatives repurposed themselves within days to distribute food and medicine, set up online counselling and cooking classes, and provide emergency financial support – sometimes in the form of £50 in an envelope – for the many zero-hours contract workers who were suddenly unemployed but not immediately able to claim benefits.

4. "The virus gave us permission to be kind again," said Sacha Bedding, manager of the Annexe community centre in Hartlepool. "We should celebrate the way communities have responded. Millions did a good thing."

overall general, global.

3. journey voyage, trip / how quickly the speed at which / to ease to alleviate, reduce, limit / to build, built, built on sth to take advantage of the opportunity to develop, improve / benefit beneficial aspect, positive aspect / to own here, to be owned by, belong to / food bank charity offering food to the poor / to repurpose oneself to find a new way to operate / within days in the space of, in just a few / to set, set, set up to create, establish / counselling advice, emotional aid service, assistance / to provide to furnish, here, offer / emergency urgent / support financial assistance / to be able to here, to be authorised to / to claim to ask for, to request.

4. kind pleasant, generous, nice / way manner / to respond to react, intervene.

5. While communities have shown speed and strength, the national government has proved slow and inept. The UK has so badly botched its response that the country is now recording more weekly deaths than the 27 EU nations combined. Britain's economy has suffered more than that of any country in the G7. Harder to calculate is the emotional wellbeing of the nation, but the survey found higher levels of stress and many interviewees expressed concern about a looming wave of mental health problems.

6. The reporting trip revealed how low-income Hartlepool has been less affected economically than affluent, globalised Aberdeen. In Hartlepool, a third of families were workless even before the pandemic struck. This meant the town had less to lose and its community support networks were already hardened by previous crises.

7. After the financial crisis of 2008, the government put the onus for recovery on individuals by slashing public spending and encouraging UK consumers to splurge. That is less of an op-

5. to show, showed, showed or shown here, to demonstrate a capacity for / strength force, power, resistance / to prove to turn out to be / to botch to ruin, fail, mismanage / interviewee person being interviewed / concern preoccupation, worry / looming imminent / wave sudden increase in sth.

6. low-income on a low salary, earning little money / affluent rich, prosperous / globalised exposed to international economic influences / to strike, struck, struck to hit, occur suddenly / to harden to become tough.

7. onus responsibility / to slash to reduce drastically, reduce by a large amount / spending expenditure / consumer buyer, customer / to splurge to spend a lot /

tion now. Many people are still wary of entering shops and other public spaces. Despite the easing of the lockdown, most shopping centres were eerily empty. Angela Arnold, a coffee shop owner, said mindsets had shifted during lockdown. "I think it has changed people's perceptions of shopping. We don't just buy what we want. We feel like we have to justify it is what we need."

8. The survey found that many people plan to improve themselves. Compared with life before the pandemic, the survey found people expect to keep in better touch with family and friends, visit parks, do physical exercise, socialise with neighbours and eat healthily. Respondents also said they aspired to drink less alcohol, produce less household rubbish and recycle more.

9. There is also hope that lockdown will be good for the environment. But these good intentions could fade quickly without a strong sign from the government that the UK will not drift back to environmentally destructive economic habits. For

still continue to / wary cautious, hesitant / easing reducing of restrictions / eerily strangely / empty deserted / mindset way of thinking, attitude / to shift to change / to feel, felt, felt like to have the impression (that).

8. to plan to intend to / to improve to make better / compared with in comparison with / to expect to to have the intention of, plan to, count on / to keep, kept, kept in touch to remain in contact / to visit here, to spend time in / to socialise with to spend time with, do activities with / neighbour person living nearby / healthily here, a better more nutritious diet / respondent person questioned / household rubbish waste produced in the home.

9. to fade to decline, disappear / to drift back to [bad] habits to return progressively to (negative, unhealthy etc) ways of living /

all the prime minister's talk of a "fairer, greener recovery", he seems more interested in pouring concrete, laying tarmac and encouraging consumption.

10. During the trip, mayors and academics said more could be gained if the state opened its wallet with investments to modernise the economy, create jobs and cut emissions. Car manufacturers need a jumpstart to switch production to electric vehicles. Across the country, the biggest employment boost could come from converting home heating systems. Although this may be less politically attractive to the prime minister than building "Boris hospitals", it will do more to end fuel poverty and create jobs. The nation needs to convert 2,000 home gas boilers every day until 2050 to reach its legally binding net-zero carbon goal.

11. At a community level, this is already happening. In Wales, the "land army" of volun-

for all... in spite of / fair just, equitable / to seem to appear (to be) / to pour (lit) to cause a substance to flow from a container / concrete (made of) cement / to lay, laid, laid tarmac to create roads.

10. mayor head of a local government / academic university professor, expert / to open one's wallet to pay for sth (reluctantly) / to cut, cut, cut to reduce / manufacturer maker, producer / jumpstart financial incentive, assistance, aid / to switch to to change to / to convert here, to replace, modernise / heating home warming system / (al) though however / fuel poverty energy poverty / boiler heating system / to reach to attain / legally binding legally obligated, bound by the agreement / net-zero carbon state of being carbon neutral.

11. to happen to take place / Wales country in the United Kingdom, capital Cardiff /

teer workers are sharing their first harvest among the needy, promoting a "buy local" movement. In Bristol, the working-class community of Lawrence Weston plans to build its own wind turbine.

12. This could be a building block for the future. Lucy Stone, a Dorset-based social entrepreneur, believes collective local initiatives are creating a culture of "commoning" – sharing ownership, risks, benefits and decision-making. "You literally give people a stake. You don't just consult them," she observed. "This approach could accelerate action on climate."

13. That is a far cry from Boris Johnson's "build, build, build" attempt to return to business as usual. But it could bring people together, focus more on wellbeing than profit, and make the country more resilient to future shocks. It would also represent change on the scale the public desires. ●

volunteer (worker) person working for free / to share to use or enjoy together, use in common / harvest cutting and gathering of plants / among here, with / (the) needy impoverished / working-class proletarian / own here, which belongs to them / wind turbine turbine that is powered by the wind to generate electricity.

12. building block basic element, here, source of inspiration / ownership possession / decision-making taking decisions, creating initiatives (locally) / literally actually, really / stake part, involvement, interest.

13. that is a far cry from... this is very different from / attempt effort, trying to do sth / to bring, brought, brought together to unite / to focus on to concentrate on, be centred on / profit financial gain / resilient resistant (faced with a crisis), strong, able to bounce back / scale level, magnitude.



SUR LE BOUT DE LA LANGUE

Before and after COVID-19

Notez les expressions utilisées dans cet article pour faire des comparaisons :

- 31% are worse off
- higher levels of stress
- Hartlepool has been less affected
- the town had less to lose
- to keep in better touch with family and friends
- to drink less alcohol
- to produce less household rubbish
- to recycle more
- a fairer, greener recovery
- less politically attractive
- to focus more on wellbeing
- to make the country more resilient