

JACK waves bye to COOPER. COOPER waves bye to JACK. JACK leaves the screen.

JOHN

She's doing a double shift at the hospital tonight. Five at night right through to bloody seven in the morning. Long shifts these nurses work. Good solid job though Coop. Nurse Practitioner now! Clever girl. Good pension.

COOPER

I get benefits through Rose.

JOHN

Not a pension though. Odd jobs makes it tough to get a pension.

COOPER

No, no pension. (Pause) Had tons of work coming in before COVID though Dad. Loads of jobs needing CERTIFIED carpenters. It'll only be slow for a while. Be happy for the break to be honest. Get all those jobs done round the house.

JOHN

Good son.

~~JACK~~

~~(Off screen) Bye Dad.~~

JOHN

~~Bye Jack. (Pause) Alright son?~~

COOPER

I'm fine. I just wanted to check on you.

JOHN

What's the weather like there? Piddling down of rain here.

COOPER

I got your email last night. You sounded a bit off. You okay?

JOHN

Course. Why you asking?

COOPER

With mum gone and you going through this pandemic without her. That, and the last sentence in your email was "Sod all this, had enough. Bye son."

JOHN

Well, I have had enough. *(Pause)* Fed up of being on my own.

COOPER

I miss mum too. *(Pause)*

JOHN

Seems that, with COVID everyone has forgotten that people are still dying of cancer and other things. Your uncle's bunions surgery's been cancelled three times now. Not urgent they said! They should walk around with one of those miserable things and see how they like it. And this social distancing and masks malarkey is driving me up the wall!

COOPER

I know. Me too. But with your asthma and your age you have to follow the rules. Try not to drink too much.

JOHN

I know, I know. Don't go on Coop! You're not here.

COOPER

(Pause) Have you got your vaccine yet?

JOHN

No, still thinking about it. Bit dodgy if you ask me. Rushed! Don't know what's in it. All the talk about blood clots, allergic reactions, and that bells condition, you know, when your face droops. Puts me off. Gonna wait son.

COOPER

What are you talking about? Those things are rare. *(Pause)* Remember when you stepped on that nail last month and you got a tetanus shot?

JOHN

Bloody hurt that did!

COOPER

Did you know what is in that shot?

JOHN

No.

COOPER

Well then. Just get the vaccine Dad, please.

JOHN

Alright. Jack keeps going on about it too. Says she's draggin me there, so I don't have much of a choice.

COOPER

You need to do your bit for herd immunity.

JOHN

Yes son, I heard you.

COOPER

Jack getting your shopping?

JOHN

Yep, she's doing Mick's shopping as well. Poor sod. I was at his place last night having a pint. He has that C-POD thing so he can't go anywhere. Too much smoking. He has a cigarette in one hand, whisky in the other and a puffer in his pocket.
(Laughs) Covering all his bases.

COOPER

I think it is COPD, Dad. Wait, where were you?

JOHN

At Mick's. It's C-POD son, that breathing issue.

COOPER

In his house?

JOHN

Whose house?

COOPER

Mick's house Dad. Were you in Mick's house last night?

JOHN

Yeah, for a beer.

COOPER

You aren't supposed to be going into people's houses. The whole country is in lockdown.

JOHN

Naw, it's alright. I'm in his bubble.

COOPER

I think you'll find it isn't alright Dad. Does Jack know?

JOHN

No, she was at work. I walk the dog over there around eight at night. Go through the back gate so that nosy Sharon next door doesn't see. She's calling the coppers on everybody!

COOPER

Mick is not in your bubble.

JOHN

Sure he is. Known him for years.

COOPER

Length of friendship doesn't put him in your bubble.

JOHN

Mick says we can have a social bubble cause we're both on our own. *(He coughs)*

COOPER

He's married. And you have Jack.

JOHN

Well we're on our own when we're drinking so it counts.

COOPER

No Dad! Just stay indoors until they tell you it is safe to go out and they relax the restrictions.

JOHN

I got it Coop. *(he coughs)*

COOPER

How long have you had that cough?

JOHN

What cough?

COOPER

You just coughed. Twice. How long have you had the cough?

JOHN

Just clearing me throat son! God, you're as bad as your sister. Can't pass wind without her wanting to know what direction it went in.

COOPER

Keep'n eye on it though yeah? Keep taking the puffers and meds.

JOHN

Look son, shooting off now. Walking the dog.

COOPER

Not to Mick's though right?

JOHN

Too early for that. Still have to have dinner yet. Bye son.

COOPER

Dad? Wait.

End.

JOHN hangs up. COOPER closes his iPad leaving it on the coffee table. Grabs his phone to FaceTime JACK (not on the screen just heard by the Audience) and gets ready to head out.

JACK

Hello?

COOPER

Did you know Dad's been going to Mick's to drink?

JACK

What?!!