

I may be over 13 years of age but here is my own entry into this year's BBC 500 words competition...

This year's bleak mid-winter is more "bleak" than "winter". Never ending wind and rain with the on trend naming of storms, we are now so used to. When will we see Storm Esmeralda, for I believe the next one will be named after a female's name beginning with "E"? I look out of my window as the wind cuts through my 100 year old pine tree and I anxiously await its demise, most likely falling directly onto my house. I shut the curtains, turn on the TV and lose my thoughts in an episode of Death in Paradise. Oh, the sunshine and turquoise sea! For a moment, I am transported across the world to paradise and then I remember, this make believe island has to be one of the most murderous tropical destinations in the world. My thoughts return to matters closer to home.

We're leaving the EU and have now entered the trade deal war zone. I've read that European cheeses may be impacted. Apparently the UK's biggest cheese import is Irish Cheddar. On top of that, wine is Britain's most valuable food import at £2bn a year. There goes my cheese and wine parties up in smoke...or perhaps not. We're an enterprising and artisan lot in Great Britain and already produce fine, quality products, including cheese and wine, so perhaps my version of Abigail's Party is safe for another year. Hoorah for British producers and their entrepreneurial spirit! As for me, the shed is filled with toilet rolls, so I'm not bothered. Bring it on!

There's a virus going round. That's on top of seasonal flu. It's a balancing act. Do I pop to the local shop or risk the supermarket? Can I hold my breath for the entire supermarket sweep? I've been practicing but it's not looking good. I reckon I'd get passed the fruit and veg section and up to the books and magazine shelves before expiring. Well, at least I'd have something to read and a carrot to gnaw on...but we're being told not to worry, yet, so I'll continue as normal and just practice my shallow breathing technique in the shower. It could be worse, I could have gone on a cruise...

Cyber security is on my mind. According to a recent survey (of 307 participants), many organisations don't verify their security is working correctly (35%) and less than half (49%) of organisations practice breach responses. Sadly, that doesn't surprise me. If you're interested in learning more about cyber security there's a bit of a do happening on 1st April. Check out the BCI's events page for more details.

So, in summary, much as I dream of warm sunshine on my pale wintery body and hope for uninterrupted supplies of cheese and wine, well stocked cupboards and good health, I can relax in the knowledge that my risk assessment is up to date, supply chain verified, the cheese and wine party is scheduled and I shan't run short of toilet rolls any time soon.