

# OUR PLACE

Poems by Pauline

OLD STOCK

**NEW  
STOCK**

# OUR PLACE

Empty damp shiny pavements

An old man walking with a newspaper in  
his hands

Clouds darken the skies above

Raindrops pitter-patter

Sliding down the dusty window panes.

It's much cooler without the sun shining

The heating is back on now

Beans on toast for tea

Comfort food and cardies are back

With a shiver in the air.

Hailstones on May 1

Like plump grains of rice

Will the sun come again?

Ahh yes...a rainbow shines

A symbol of hope.

Weeks of lockdown now  
For many in Our Place  
A shrunken world  
Made smaller and more intense  
By an airborne foe we cannot see.

Hope is there and also fear  
If you are old like me  
You know the real heroes in Our Place  
Ordinary folk like us  
Who keep us safe and fed.

One day...maybe soon, this will pass  
We don't know when or how  
It's tough being inside and alone  
Like so many of us are  
Hark...the birds sing, bees buzz.

And the sun comes out  
Postie hands you a parcel  
You can go out...at last!  
Face masks now to be worn  
And life is still good...  
In Our Place.

Lucky to be here

A bit fatter, no wiser

Happy to be in Our Place

Lucky indeed are We,

All of us in the ten boroughs

In Our Place.

# THREE STEPS TO HEAVEN – IN OUR PLACE

There are only three steps to heaven  
sang Eddie Cochran long ago  
when we were young

We are now only  
a few steps away  
to having contact and touch

What are your 3 steps  
to living again  
in our post Covid world

A year since lockdown began  
I have my own three  
wishes and hopes

None of these on Zoom  
or the phone  
all face to face

Seeing my family  
smiling with joy  
and hugging them

Meeting my friends  
for a coffee or a brew  
dinner with a glass of wine

Chattering and smiling  
no masks  
seeing the smiles

Family and friends  
are the threads running  
seamlessly through our lives

Won't it be wonderful  
to have back  
those threads

Be with those we love  
and our dearest friends  
Again

As the crocuses sprout  
and new life begins  
hope springs  
In Our Place

# FREEDOM DAY - IN OUR PLACE

Monday 19th July  
will you feel free  
will you be frightened  
to use the bus or tram  
or visit the supermarket  
on Freedom Day in Our Place?

Are you vulnerable  
many of us are many of us have struggled  
to stay safe during  
the last 18 months with  
3 waves of Covid in Our Place

Will you still wear a mask on  
Freedom Day or Freedumb Day  
what if you are pinged?  
unlike those in Downing Street  
who ignore the rule of 3 and do U turns  
unlike ordinary folk in Our Place

Is freedom an illusion  
Covid doesn't care does it  
Me - I will be cautious  
on July 19th and after  
staying safe  
In our Place