

Subject: And a letter from England

From: "Meyer-Knapp, Helena" <Helena.Meyer_Knapp@evergreen.edu>

Date: 4/6/20, 10:05 AM

To: "Meyer-Knapp, Helena" <Helena.Meyer_Knapp@evergreen.edu>

CC: Helena Meyer-Knapp <knappmeyerknapp@gmail.com>

This comes to you via me from a friend whose father died on Saturday.

Oh yes, it's horrible, although I've been to see mum and dad every day since dad fell ill but it's been so difficult to comfort them from 10' away. Long conversations through barely opened windows, throwing boxes of Complian and paracetamol over the driveway, sitting outside their house day and night just to be close by, feeling helpless and very scared of becoming infected myself. Dad never went into hospital, he was only diagnosed 2 days before he died, the doctor who came to the house told him he was dying and he could either die in hospital or die at home so he opted to stay home. 'Hospice-at-home' nurses were superb, they deserve medals for risking their own lives to help others. Even with the morphine and sedatives it was a horrific death, he was gasping noisily for breath for about 24 hours before he died, then it was 20 hours before the ambulance could collect his body. I'm telling you all this because I hope it will make you stay home and safe if you weren't already. Every day that passes it is more dangerous to venture out as more people become infected.

And I cannot even give mum a hug or squeeze her hand but she's being very brave and is coping surprisingly well at the moment.

She says please send it to everyone – most people just don't know.

Helena