

 ilkley literature festival

Be All Write
#ILFWritingChallenge

**Prompt: Write a funny poem about something that makes you
laugh during lockdown.**

#CatsOfTwitter make me laugh!
Especially so during lockdown
Supervising, interrupting meetings
Wondering why human is home

I love reading conversations
Between the cats and owners
Cats want play, treats, sometimes affection
We learn how to relax from cats

– Tahera Mayat

Zoom

“Let’s have a Zoom meeting” someone suggested,
“It will mean we can still play our songs” .
So on Thursday, we logged in just after eight,
All excited - what could possibly go wrong?
The ukes were all tuned up, the songs had been picked;
“I’ll start” said Rob, with a flourish.
Oh no, what a row, Zoom distorted the sound -
We’re not perfect - we’re rubbish!

So, when we’ve stopped laughing, we decide to withdraw
And Rob will Zoom troubleshoot.
Next week - it’s amazing, the sound is all fine!
It’s much better if we’re all put on mute!

– Vivien Drake

THE GOATS OF LLANDUDNO

Goats are eating the municipal flowers
in Llandudno

they trot from plate to plate
of tulips,
primulas, violets
set out like iced cakes.

Here comes the light orchestra
of hooves,
occasional bray from a throat,
small blasts
from vocal accompaniment,
bleat-music.

And people locked up by the virus,
those who fashioned
the gardens,
as stained-glass windows,
watch through panes,
as creatures devour a street-feats,

retreat
to the Great Orm at midnight
to sleep off
the crimson, scarlet and gold.

– Isobel Thrilling

The Behaviour of the Birds

A duck sits still as a statue
in a city centre street,

a goose lays an egg
in the railway station.

A pigeon bangs against my window,
startles me less than a magpie

perched on a rooftop.
I forget to look away.

Even though the window's shut
I still hear blackbirds chirp;

only the heron in the park
flies away when I try to take its photo.

– Peter Donnelly