

So, this is where I find myself starting a piece of writing with that ubiquitous word 'So' - Jenny asks Finance to contribute to the new ADS newsletter – something 'funny', she suggests, a 'Teams photo', she suggests. Assuming, our initial swearing and cursing is not politically correct (small p) I decided I would give it a go; not because the deadline was looming, not because the CE is my boss, no – I'm just that sharing, caring kind of person 😊

The last 3 months have been a strange old time.

**Daily commute, then** = daily traffic jam on the A63; morning rant in the kitchen at Spring Bank 45 mins;

**now** = bed to dining room office 2 mins

**Meetings, then** = drive from East Riding to Doncaster, knocking over a pheasant or two, back to Hull;

**now** = dial into Teams, realise I forgot to brush my hair today

**Lunch time, then** = quick 30 minute power walk to St Stephen's to get some fresh Spring Bank air; **now** = quick look in the cupboard, nothing to eat, quick look in the fridge, nothing to eat (repeat x 4) (how can this be when my shopping bill is through the roof? Refer to point 1, daily commute costs fortunately offset this unauthorised spend – always keeping the budget in mind, of course!)

Reflecting at the speed with which ADS mobilised itself to move to the Business Continuity Plans, I remember my dismay at the long list of tasks that the finance team faced especially given that there was one week until pay day, it was the financial year end and we had the annual interrogation, I mean, audit due.

I discovered Microsoft Outlook doesn't like 80+ draft emails waiting to be sent out; that my old home laptop didn't like being remote connected to the office pc and that at least one of our auditors doesn't like looking at my unbrushed hair in a Teams meeting. Is she a salesperson for Teams, I hear you shout – no, but it does go to show how we've adapted to our new way of working – a mere 4 months ago I sat in an IT training session, begging the trainer to use non-IT language because I couldn't get my head around the jargon which had my Team and Groups in a proverbial twist and they didn't have that sort of thing in my day!

Now we're so au fait with using the IT which gathered dust on it's secure email platform (lol – no, apparently that doesn't mean lots of love) that it's becoming easier to see how we might continue these practices in the future, saving both time and money, music to the ears of all FDs in the land.

Last but not least, no photo, but ever mindful of the charity's finances:



“I love what you've done with the budget friendly meeting room.”

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