

POISON JAB

I couldn't help overhearing this conversation between two middle aged women in Costa Coffee yesterday. I was sitting nearby when they began talking about Covid. The older one started off by asking her younger friend, who turned out to be called Betty, whether she'd been on the anti-vax protest.

- *No, George didn't want me to go.*
- You shouldn't let him make decisions for you. He's not your keeper, Betty.
- *I know that Barbara, but he feels strongly about it.*
- It's your choice whether or not you get vaccinated, not his.
- *By the way, Barbara, said Betty, clearly trying to change the subject, did you see the latest post on Facebook?*
- - The one about it containing cells from aborted fetuses? I wonder what the Catholic Church has to say about that! My cleaner's from Romania and she said the same. That's why she's not been vaccinated. Good for you girl, I told her!
- *But Barbara, you don't believe that rubbish about microchips and Bill Gates? That's just nonsense!*
- Well, I don't know. I just feel it's not been tested long enough. Look what happened with the thalidomide vaccine Betty.
- *Barbara – that wasn't a vaccine, it was a pill.*
- Well, I don't know, do I? I'm only saying what I saw on Facebook. All I know is – no one is going to tell me what to do. I want to be in control of my own body. I phoned up LBC yesterday.
- *You never!*
- I did. And they called me back. They wanted to hear from anti-vaxxers.
- *Barbara – you're not one of those. You're just informed.*
- That's what I said to the researcher chap. He's the one who rings you back and then you have to repeat it all over again on air. It was the one who uses all the long words.
- *Maajid someone?*
- No Betty, not Maajid. James. He was very nice. Didn't cut me off. I'm a first time caller, I said.
- *But you're not.*
- I know Betty, but he doesn't know that and if you say you've never called before, it gets you through!
- *What did you say?*
- I don't remember now.
- *You must. Come on Barbara, you can tell me.*
- I said something clever like it's a poisonous jab that's not been properly researched and who knows what will happen to people in the future?
- *Quite right too! Well done Barbara!*
- Hey Betty – is that the time? I need to get off to the school double quick. All those kiddies are waiting for me to help them cross the road. It's my job to keep them safe!
- *Yes and I'd better be getting along too, Barbara. The practice is very short staffed right now. I don't know what everyone's going to do if we don't get vaccinated by that April deadline. See you tomorrow. Bye for now!*