

30th March 2022

Readjustment

“Air power is new to all our countries. It brings advantages to some and weakens others; it calls for readjustment everywhere.”

Charles Lindbergh, Aviation, Geography and Race (Reader's Digest, 1939)

So ... I've had to make readjustments. Having made arrangements to leave Islay yesterday – and flagged it up in my “Thought for the Day” too – my ferry was cancelled. Indeed, most of yesterday's ferries were cancelled because Covid had hit the crews. So readjustment was the order of the day: rebooking a ferry for the next day; unpacking some of what had been packed; altering arrangements with friends; sorting out meals; filling my time; contacting home; and, of course, re-writing my “Thought for the Day” to make sure it was appropriate for the circumstances.

Charles Lindbergh saw the development of air power bringing with it the need for “readjustment everywhere”. Advantages or weaknesses, things would change for everyone, he suggested. And that's proven to be the case. But there are no advantages when Covid does the dirty on us. It weakens us in body and mind, but also in practicalities – like ferries being cancelled and readjustments having to be made.

Readjustments are necessary in life all the time: after a bereavement; a change in home environment; the effects of an ageing body; coping with a new government; a rise in inflation; a loss of faith – and that's before we touch on the vagaries of the running of the Islay ferries. Readjustments are a given. We can rail against them, be weakened by them or find advantages in them. But they are – as I'm discovering today – a fact of life.

So what are we to do? Agatha Christie wrote in *Death in the Clouds*, “One has to occasionally pocket one's pride and readjust one's ideas.” There is no model for that. We have to manage readjustments as best we can. But our ability and willingness to do so begins with an attitude of mind. “It is what it is”, people say. So if the “it is” is a change of day to come home because Covid has affected my plans, so be it. I'll just have to cope. It's not easy, but it has to be done.

Now, what else do I have to do so I can readjust to leaving Islay a day later than I'd planned?

A prayer for today

Readjustments? “O thou who changest not, abide with me.” Thank you. Amen