



Always Delivering

(An article to read & discuss with your child)

No matter what is going on in the world it appears that we can always rely on the postal service to deliver letters and parcels.

And with the current lockdown, we are more reliant than ever on postal and delivery workers bringing us not just letters, but a whole range of items that we buy online ... from books and electrical goods to gardening supplies and food.

Since the post office was first started over 500 years ago back in 1516 ... in all kinds of weather - from bone-chilling cold to stifling heat - postmen and women ensure letters and parcels arrive safely at our homes, wherever you live - even in some of the most remote locations such as the Faroe Islands.



Jancy is one of the postwomen in the Faroe Islands.

Situated between Norway and Iceland in the North Atlantic Ocean, the region is home to 50,000 people who are dotted about 18 tiny islands.

Half of that population reside in the capital; Torshavn which translates as 'Thor's Harbour'. But on some of the other rocky outcrops there are just a handful of people.

Tunnels and bridges connect a few of the islands but for the majority though there is no such transport link.

Therefore, any mail destined for those places arrives via boat in summer time when seas are calmer - or by helicopter during winter when the waves are too high.



Sometimes the weather makes the job of delivering the mail a bit more difficult.

In the past the task of collecting the mail and then dispersing it to homes was carried out by the fittest members of the communities who would travel mountain routes that had been used since the 19th century. Now, 4x4 vehicles are used.

Although, on some of the smallest of the islands the post is still dropped to doors on foot by people such as Jancy, who lives on Mykines - a place that is home to just nine people.

It's a job she's held for her entire adult life. Jancy says she never feels cold as she delivers letters to customers who always leave their doors unlocked as there is no crime. And while doing so she meets plenty of puffins.



Thousands of puffins come to Rathlin Island each year.

A bit closer to home, the postman on Northern Ireland's only inhabited island also sees plenty of the small black and white birds between the months of April and August.

Located nine miles off the north Antrim coast; Rathlin Island is home to 150 people. Amidst the ongoing lockdown due to the corona virus it's not just the post that is being delivered to these homes.



Post and shopping is delivered to Rathlin Island on the ferry.

Shopping orders are also being taken and then transported from Ballycastle via ferry in an attempt to ensure everyone there remains well fed and healthy.

Restrictions on tourist numbers means an even more tranquil environment than normal on Rathlin, according to resident and ferry worker Clyde Grobler.

"The puffins haven't arrived yet but I'm sure they'll probably enjoy a bit of peace and quiet," he said before praising the efforts of the island.

"Everybody in our wee community can be looked after, it doesn't take a lot for everyone to be cared for."

This article could also inspire you to write your own article about being a postman or postwoman. Or maybe you would like to be something different when you grow up?

Write your article on a Word document using a computer and email it to Mrs Arnold at sarnold379@c2kni.net.

You can write it on your own or do it with an adult, brother or sister!