



London, 12 August 2020

Dear Poppy,

One hundred years seems like a long time but perhaps it is no time at all. I wonder what you'd make of me, your great-granddaughter, living in the 21st century, with our televisions, and mobile telephones which connect us to a barrage of instant news and information (and disinformation too).

You'll be pleased to know that women now have the vote, thanks to your generation of Suffragettes and the work women did during the war. And for 50 years, equal pay has been written into law – though that's not quite working as it should. We celebrate Equal Pay Day on 14 November in the UK, the date where women effectively begin to work for free and will continue to work for free for the rest of the year, if you compare our average hourly earnings to men's.

This year, we're in the midst of a pandemic – a flu-like illness is sweeping the world, killing thousands of people. We're being encouraged to stay home (in "lockdown"), ride bicycles, connect with our local communities, all things that you'd know a lot more about.

Lockdown has induced much anxiety in people. We're worried about our jobs, our homes, our physical and mental health. Our young people have been without school for months, and unable to see their friends or family outside the home. Imagine, no hugs for months!

And whilst I don't always see my family who live in Sussex, I speak to them most days or weeks. This must seem strange to you, having to rely on letters. We can contact our loved ones instantly, hear their voices, at any time, from almost anywhere. We also tend to expect an instant response - if we send someone a message, we can often see if they've received and read it. That would have been so useful to you during the war, with you having to wait days for letters to arrive. Would you have preferred that? To get instant updates from the front? Perhaps it would have been a distraction to those fighting. Or a comfort to you.

I hope you don't find the type-written letter unfriendly. I find it easier to think on a computer – not that you'd know what that is. I'm out of practice writing with a pen. Perhaps I should put pen to paper more often. It might slow things down, help me think things through without the interruption of messages and emails (not that you know what they are either!).

Do write back soon,
With love,
Tayler