



Part 1: ONE DAY DIARY - WITH A DIFFERENCE

(Please start a new sheet of paper for your reply, and don't forget your M-O number & your mini-biog)

Several people have asked when we were going to do another "one day diary", so here goes. Please record your activities (and thoughts) throughout the day on

Thursday 2 March

We have made this request for a one day diary at intervals in the past, and the original Mass-Observers often did it in the thirties and forties. If, for some reason, it is completely impossible for you to record on that day, then choose another weekday nearby and record what you do - but please make it clear that it is a different day and give reasons for your choice.

Special attention to meals and food:

When you write, please pay special attention to what you eat that day. This might include the times and places of your meals, any snacks you might have, what exactly you eat, who prepares it and how, what you feel about it and other other thoughts on the subject. Don't neglect the other things in your day, though, just because you are thinking about food!

Finally, please end the account of your day with a note about

- When you wrote up your report, and whether you made notes first
- Whether it was a typical day for you (if you have "typical" days) and if it wasn't, why it wasn't. Also any other comments you might like to add about the day.

Part 2: THE COUNTRYSIDE

(Please start a new sheet of paper for your reply, and don't forget your M-O number & your mini-biog)

We would like you to think, and write, about the countryside, especially the British countryside.

Do you live in the countryside, a small town or even a suburb that is rural? If so what do you think is good about it - and bad. Have you moved there from choice - if so why did you make that choice?

If you live in an urban area would you like to live in the country - or not ? Do you take holidays in the country or go on day trips? If you do, what attracts you to a certain place or places?

There are lots of books about the countryside - memories, novels, pictures. Do you read them and enjoy them? Is there one which you think is really very good or gives a true picture of country life at any time? What about films? Television or radio programmes? Please describe. (If anyone is an Archers fan, what do think about the Archers as a portrait of country life?)

All this winter there has been a lot of news about shipping animals to other parts of Europe? What do you think about that? Do you think it has changed you views about farming and the countryside at all?

What do you think about road building and the countryside and those who protest about it?

Since Christmas there has been a lot in the news about the Hundredth Anniversary of the National Trust. What do you think about the Trust ? Are you a member? Do you often go to National Trust properties? What other organisations do you belong to which link to an interest in the countryside?

How would you select the best parts of rural Britain and then protect them?

Finally and perhaps a bit difficult no matter how old you are - urban or rural - do you think the countryside has changed in your lifetime (or since the war? or in this century?)

Part 3: TELEVISION SOAP OPERAS

(Please start a new sheet of paper for your reply, and don't forget your M-O number and mini-biog))

This section is about watching Soap Operas. As usual the questions are meant to get you writing. If you want to write more, of course you should feel free.

Do you watch any soap operas?

If you don't, can you say why?

If you do, please list the ones you watch, and say whether you are a regular viewer. Do you try to watch every episode?

Do you watch alone or with family or friends?

Do you watch in a concentrated manner, or do you do other things while you are watching?

Do you talk about the plots with other people? At home? At work? With friends?

How do you feel you feel if you miss an episode?

What do you personally feel you get out of soap operas?

What do you think their appeal is generally?

Do you identify with any of the characters? If you do, which ones? Why do you think this happens?

For each of the soap operas that you watch, can you give a brief description of the main characteristics. Please give a list of adjectives eg realistic, romantic, nostalgic, exciting, thought-provokingetc etc?

Which soap operas do you prefer? British? American? Australian? Can you say why? What do you think are the differences? Which ones do you think are more realistic? Do you prefer soap operas which are more like everyday life? If you do, can you say why?

Do you think television is important in people's lives? Why?

Could you do without television? If you could only watch **ONE** programme a week, which one would you choose?

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