

King/Jobsworth:

King: Greetings objects! Thank you for your kindness, dear citizens. (*To the audience*) To those who don't know me, I am King Crumble of Merryhale. (*Waving across the audience*) Hello! Hello! (*To the villagers*) Now, I want to pronounce a pronouncement! (*He unrolls a scroll*) Half a dozen eggs, a pint of milk, a box of Jaffa Cakes. (*Realising*) Ahah...I seem to have picked up my shopping list instead! (*He rolls it back up and decides to improvise*) Loyal citizens of Merryhale, I have some bad news I need to impart. I've had word from the Giant's henchman today that the Giant is putting up our rent again with immediate effect. I know it will be hard for some of you to find the extra 10% but it's the only way to keep us safe.

The chorus react.

Jack: 10%?! With respect, your Highness, how are we supposed to pay the extra money?

King: I know, your mother doesn't even pay the *current* rate so if she doesn't pay up she's going to get a good seeing to.

Dotty: (*to the audience*) Ooh, it's my lucky day!

King: I'll now hand over to Prime Minister Jobsworth to talk through the latest data.

Jobsworth: Thanks, your Majesty.

The Herald is next to the easel, ready to swap the cards. He lifts off the top blank card. There is a graph on the first card underneath.

As you can see on the first slide, the price of the rent has continued to climb in recent years, but this has meant that the number of cases of children being snatched has started to decline, so as long as we continue to pay, we shouldn't expect a second wave. Next slide, please.

The Herald removes the card, revealing a picture of a slide.

(*embarrassed*) Err...next slide please. (*it happens again*) Next slide please... (*and again*) Next slide please... (*and again, revealing a pic of Matt Hancock and Gina Colangelo*). Oh, good lord!

Dotty: I think Gina needs to get hold of a Covid test. One of the main symptoms is still loss of taste!

Jobsworth: Yes, well, I think that's enough of the slides today...

King: Thanks PM. Princess Jill, have you anything to add?

Jill: Just to say that I know that this won't be easy, but if we all work together, we can keep the Giant on our side. And all the money will be going towards keeping you safe.

King: I'm sure you will all agree that we cannot allow this to continue forever. Too long we have lived under the tyranny of Giant Blunderbore and it's slowly crushing us all. If anyone can kill the Giant, there is a grand reward of £10,000!