**We have lift off!**

**Do you remember your first bicycle? Probably a three wheeler to keep it stable and you steady.  It’s the same for any project you start in life which I covered in my Newsletter two weeks ago, entitled**[***The Power of Three***](https://system5.newzapp.co.uk/servershare/20644/nz-docs/THEPOWEROFTHREE.docx)**Currently, the country and the UK economy is in a bit of a mess.  Airlines grounded, hotels and pubs closed, shops boarded up, and everyone locked down at home.  But we do have our three solid and stable platforms in place for a recovery of the UK economy.  Brexit, Biden and Vaccines, and we are already on our way.  We have lift off.  
  
So how we doing?  Well, not too bad actually. There is certainly a lot going on at present which all looks very positive and laying good foundations for the future.  
  
BREXIT  The lorry congestion over Christmas caused by the French requiring lorry drivers to have Covid tests soon got cleared and everything now seems to be running smoothly.  Once the hauliers and the French customs learn how to get 20 new pages of customs paperwork onto a computer, lorries will be whistling through the borders.  
  
The UK economy performed far better than projected during November 2020.  Most economists predicted that the GDP would be minus 5.7%, when in fact it only fell by 2.6%.  Typical.  You ask 5 economists the same question, and you get 5 different answers.  
  
Since leaving the EU the FT100 Index is up by 4% and Sterling is up against both the Dollar and the Euro.  Not exactly the disaster that all those remainers were predicting.  
  
BIDEN   Now that the Game Show Host has returned to his pad in the sun, (what did the world expect?) the people of the USA can now settle down and start to recover the economy, stabilise its society and look forward to a quieter and more successful future.  Let’s face it that would be good for us all.  Knowing the US, they will get moving quickly, with 15 executive orders signed off by President Biden on the first day.  
  
President Biden plans a new fiscal stimulus of $1.9 trillion to support families and to inject new capital into the US economy to stimulate recovery and growth.  This will have a very real impact on the recovery of US businesses and lead to positive growth for the future.  As a result US banks are predicting an increased growth rate in the US economy with the turn-around starting in the second quarter of 2021.  Still being the largest economy, a solid turn around in the US will have a positive effect on the rest of world, particularly the UK as the US is our largest trading partner other than the EU.  
  
VACCINES  The UK vaccination programme is underway and proceeding apace.  One of the most encouraging statistics given out by those involved is that we are now vaccinating more people per day than the number of people catching the virus per day.  The latest figures show we are vaccinating more than 200 per minute with a prediction that all the vulnerable groups will be given their first vaccination by the middle of February.  It is then that the Government are planning to start reducing the lockdown restrictions.  
  
So there you have it, we have our three solid platforms as the foundations on which to build the recovery of our economy and our country.  It will not be long before we can go shopping, go to the pub or to a show or a match.  In the meantime, with all the money saved you could top up your ISA or pension.  It’s good to save.  As our mothers used to tell us,  "You never know when you may need it."  
   
Take care, keep safe.  It’s still out there.  
   
Ray Jenkins**