

I felt it was important to find a “welcome back poem” that somehow captures the relentless rollercoaster known as 2020.

Cue poet Brian Bilston, who rises magnificently to the challenge with his series of haikus*, tracing his ever-changing experiences of January to August.

Welcome back, everyone!

**A haiku is a three-lined poem of Japanese origin, comprising 17 syllables. The syllables are organised as 5–7–5 across the three lines. It seems the poet had a bit of time on his hands...*

January

It's twenty twenty
what a time to be alive
a new decade breathes

February

how busy I am
making plans and chasing dreams—
days buzz with purpose

March

a curious month
not quite what I'd imagined—
I'm sure it will pass

April

how pleasant it is
to have this time to reflect—
a life rebalanced

May

daily exercise:
spent hiding among bushes
screaming at oak trees

June

noticed a chickpea
at the back of the cupboard—
we've since become friends

July

still sane, thanks to Greg
(that's the name of the chickpea)—
I will get through this

August

engulfed with feelings
of guilt, shame and loneliness—
have eaten poor Greg

Brian Bilston