

Helping each other out.

Alex Wallace

Over the Christmas holidays my beautiful wife and I went down to North Devon to visit all of my family! There's quite a few of us, I have 3 brothers and a sister and their various partners and my little niece were all about. It was great to see each other and exchange the socks we had all bought each other over the festive period. My mother worked incredibly hard providing us with wonderful meals, plenty of sparkling mineral water and basically mothered us!

On one of the days after Christmas, my brother and I decided to go out for a run. We actually drove the car to a nearby pub and left it there. The idea being to run home and then walk back to the pub with the rest of the family so they could get a lift home. Anyhow, we set out as usual at Olympic pace. I was like Mo Farah romping through the countryside, churning up the mud! About 2 miles into the run, we passed a little lane which had a camper van struggling to reverse in the mud so myself and my brother decided to offer our raw natural strength.

As we approached there was a man covered in mud trying to resolve the situation. The door to the van opened and out popped an attractive young lady who said, "Am I delighted to see you!" At this her boyfriend looked a little less welcoming. Anyhow my brother and I, and the considerably less attractive boyfriend heaved the car out the mud! The couple were very grateful indeed we continued on our way with a little spring in our step.

We then went to the pub and played golf in the afternoon. We returned home and Mrs Wallace senior produced another amazing meal. Her meals are amazing and a few of the staff here have tasted the delights of her cooking. Anyhow, I ate, drank, played Pictionary, celebrated my victory with a rhythmical yet aggressive dance in my brother's faces. I then went to bed.

Why do I tell you this? The highlight of the day for me was helping the people out in the car. So if helping people made me feel good then why don't I do it more often. I had loads more opportunities to help people over Christmas. I should have helped my mother a great deal more around the house, I could have picked my brother up from the station, I could have cleared all my rubbish from my old room and yet I did not do any of this. Why not?

One of the strange things about life is we often help out, care for or are very polite to complete strangers and yet we can be a real nightmare for the ones we love. Why do we insist on using up our nice vouchers on people we do not know and then use our angry vouchers on the people we most care about?

Now, don't get me wrong, I think it is imperative we are kind and polite to all people we come across whether we have met them before or not. It is certainly important to make a good first impression. However, let's not take those people who you love the most for granted. Show them that you care, tell them that you care. Your best behaviour should be shown to those who matter most to you. You'll have a chance today in school to help someone out, take that opportunity and most importantly make sure you save plenty of niceness for when you get home this evening with your loved ones. It's nice to make someone feel special. Thank you for listening.