

## Voice Hugs

When this is finally over  
we will emerge - uncertain at first.  
Unshaven, long-haired and tousled,  
we will meet those who've  
been screen-images or voices.  
We'll want to embrace them,  
but will have to restrain those urges.  
We shall weep for those whom  
this wave has washed away.  
We will promise ourselves  
that things will be different,  
even though - with time  
we might disremember  
that red-blotched screen,  
those masked queues of shoppers,  
and an island they dug up to  
bury those who could not  
afford to be buried.  
It's our voices and gestures  
that we will need to trust,  
as we to reach out to  
embrace each other.  
A vocabulary of sound,  
motion and intimation.

*Craig O'Flaherty 2020*