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## Wealthy socialites flee London for rural estates a

BY BRINKWIRE ON MARCH 20, 2020

Londoners are facing strong backlash as they flee from the city to self-isolate in the countryside, with many criticising them of behaving 'selfishly' amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Aristocrats, heiresses and society models are avoiding busy cities like London by staying at their gorgeous countryside homes – including the likes of Hum Fleming, of Princess Eugenie's friend and relative of James Bond creator Ian Fleming, and Chelsea socialite India Warrender.

It comes as London faces plunging deeper into lockdown within days – and potentially with just 12 hours notice – amid fears the 'superspreader city' is driving the UK's Covid-19 crisis.

Yet the idea of Londoners fleeing the capital for the countryside has not been popular with those living in the idyllic areas, with many begging them not to spread the disease on social media.

Many have taken to social media to question the idea of people moving between cities during the period, with one agitated person commenting: 'Hearing about the people fleeing London has p\*\*\*\*\* me off more than the bloody panic buying.

'What a selfish society this has become.'

Another commented: 'For those of you thinking of 'fleeing' London because it may go into #lockdown. DON'T.

'Remember what happened in Italy when everyone from the north went south. People got sick. The same with France. If you stay you'll still be able to get food, supplies, you'll just be stuck.'

One added: 'I know of people who are saving themselves – going to their houses in the country/renting holiday cottages – fleeing the cesspit of disease in London.

'This isn't about you, but the whole country. Don't be a city c\*\*\*. Stay at home, do your bit. Don't be a super spreader.'

Meanwhile mothers begged Londoners to stay put in the city as to avoid overwhelming resources in rural areas across the country.

Posting on Mumsnet yesterday, one parent wrote: 'With talk of London going into lockdown tomorrow can I remind second home owners that Cornwall has one hospital. Devon has four hospitals.'

'Where I live in Devon there is no food in any of the supermarkets. Please, please stay away, our communities cannot deal with an influx.'

Another person wrote: 'Agreed, I am in Cornwall and this scares me.'

But while criticism rages online, it seems more people some have taken advantage of their countryside retreats and the chance to leave London ahead of a potential lockdown.

Friend of Princess Eugenie and scion of the banking dynasty Hum Fleming is among those to share snaps from her countryside retreat,

The great-niece of the James Bond creator posted a video of her horse galloping through a woodland on Instagram yesterday.

She went on to share a selfie as she walked through a wood, hashtagging the post #Quarantine.

And socialite Valeska Schilemann also shared snaps as she drew by an open window in her rural bolthole.

The trendy teenager shared the snap from her younger sister Delilah's Instagram account as the duo relaxed at their countryside retreat.

Meanwhile fellow Chelsea dweller India Warrender posted a meme of Katy Perry, along with the words: 'In quarantine in the countryside.'

India, whose father Hugh is a Hedge Fund manager and founder of Knightsbridge School, went on to say her location was so remote she didn't have phone service.

She explained: 'Don't have phone service, only WiFi so calls and texts don't work. Call me on FaceTime and iMessage to contact me.'

The presenter, who regularly hosts horse race coverage including Ascot and Goodwood, Rosie Tapner also revealed she had escaped London and headed to Cornwall.

The model, who has worked with brands including Balenciaga, Topshop, Burberry and Selfridges, revealed she had left London for the south coast yesterday.

The 24-year-old, who has been tipped as the next Cara Delevingne in the past, is close friends with the supermodel, as well as brushing shoulders with Jourdan Dunn.

Sharing a snap as she stood on a coastline, she told her 16,000 followers: 'There are worse places to be isolated!! Rather misty view today!'

Budding fashion designer Talita von Furstenberg, granddaughter of designer Diane, is holed up in a cosy cottage doing puzzles. It is unclear where in the world she is.

Meanwhile, Emma, Viscountess Weymouth, who is often spotted around the capital, has been staying in her Longleat estate, near Warminster in Wiltshire.

Elsewhere, model and DJ Lady Mary Charteris, daughter of James Charteris, 13th Earl of Wemyss and 9th Earl of March and Catherine Ingrid Guinness, tried her hand at baking in the countryside.

While Lady Mary and her husband Robbie Furze own a property in LA, it is thought they are in self-isolation in the UK. Her family estate is Stanway House, in Gloucestershire, although she also spends a significant amount of time in London.

'I can sympathise though but yes our hospital won't cope as it is.'

Reports earlier this week suggested that owners of countryside properties around Britain have reportedly been offered up to £50,000 a month to help worried billionaires escape the capital – with some claiming they'll pay a year's rent up front.

Jamie Jamieson, who owns a property search company, told The Times: 'I have had calls from six families looking for homes in Suffolk and two for Norfolk in the last two days.'

Penny Musgrove, chief executive of top people's property services specialist, Quintessentially Estates, told the Evening Standard that she has had calls from affluent families searching for Cotswolds manor houses with moats, uninhabited Caribbean islands to buy and superyachts for a long charter.

'We are receiving requests from parents taking their children out of school for home tuition,' added Ms Musgrove. 'And we have seen a big demand for places in UK boarding schools. Expat parents are locking up their daughters.'

Eloise Duckworth, 55, who lives in a seven-bedroom house in the Cotswolds, revealed she had multiple offers from families willing to pay up to £30,000 a month to rent her home, on Tuesday afternoon.

Yet Ms Duckworth, who has three children, refused the offers as she was worried about becoming ill, according to The Times.

'These families were desperate to get out of London as quickly as possible', she explained to the publication.