



David Morgan-Hewitt's Modern Manners - Dealing with the neighbours

Dealing with the neighbours

Wouldn't it be lovely to have wonderful friendships with all our neighbours? To live in that ideal world where everybody takes their neighbours into consideration and no one was ever upset. Sadly it is not like that but you should always do YOUR best to be a good neighbour.

First of all, get to know your neighbours (including their children and their pets – even if you like neither). If they have just moved in, leave a welcome gift and card to introduce yourself but leave the timing of any get together to them. They will be busy and may also be shy. Take things at their speed to begin with. Then when you do meet them try and read them carefully. They may be less or more sociable than you. Take care!

Do not always chat over the hedge to them. People regard their gardens as havens from the maddening crowd of our modern world. Your head continually popping up over their hedge may not always be that welcome. You should always respect your neighbours' privacy.

Do not disturb them if it looks like they have gone to bed or have not yet got up. If the next door house looks peaceful and locked up it probably is, so leave it that way.

Tell your kids not to go over unannounced as it can be hard for them to turn your child away. Even if they want to.

Finally – if you are having a big party, invite them.