

This poem was created using extracts from twenty works of personal and creative writing, which were donated to COVID-19 collections at either the Borthwick Institute for Archives, or the East Riding Archives.



Lockdown Voices

Well where do we begin.

For me, it had come as both a shock and a strange relief
At last I knew where I had to be.
We take life day by day
I'm fine, I say.

Determined to make the most of it
I have got my new Fitbit!
Time to go for a run
Doing Tik Toks in the sun
Garden picnics with my mum
So much fun!
Cleaning the skirting boards
Deep-cleaning the large quarry-tiled conservatory floor
Baking gluten-free cake and bread
Repainted the garden shed
Colouring, puzzles, jigsaws and cutting out
I also did a lot of joe wicks workouts
Homemade pizza in the oven outside
Yesterday was good. We had a nice long bike ride
Speeding down hills with our feet on the crossbars.

Painting another condolence card.

Another friend had died.
My grandma died.
Eric died.
The death toll continues to rise
I miss my sister, I miss my dad, my friends
Might this be the beginning of the end
A sense of being locked in place
Make the virus go, send it into space
'Stay alert' WTF does that mean?
Hands sore using steroid creams
School at home was such a bore
I don't have my usual life anymore
I don't know what's wrong with me lately - I can't stop crying
It's not so bad, except I'm dying.

We have a heightened sense of appreciation for blue sky, flowers, birds
In lockdown I was happy because my mum was there
We see the beauty in nature
Lockdown was like an adventure
In the clean air planes have stopped ripping open the sky
The sun is warm on my face and I am grateful to be alive.

Better days will return: we will be with our friends again; we will be with our families
again; we will meet again.

The air smells so sweet
Thankfully, we are finally free.

Created by Mary Rehman

Contributors:

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T., *Contributions by Theo, age 12* (2020) [Screenshot]. East Riding Blockdown Project, ERBP/3/2, East Riding Archives, Beverley.