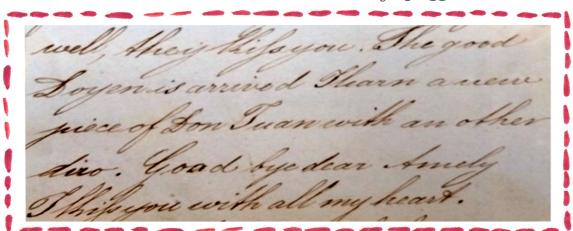


As part of our Lost Letters project with Surrey History Centre, It's Not Your Birthday But... are inviting you to connect with somebody, by writing a letter to someone you are missing.

At the moment, we are all experiencing 'lockdown' and many of us are unable to see our friends or family. In the past, people were separated from their loved ones for different reasons, for example due to war, illness or exile.

The exert below is taken from a letter found in the archives. It was written in 1855 by Francoise d'Orleans, an 11 year old princess living in exile in Surrey at Claremont House. She writes to her friend Amely Spriggin who is in Brussels:





"All my birds are very well, they miss you. The good Doyen is arrived, I have a new piece of Don Juan with another duo. Goodbye dear Amely, I miss you with all my heart."



TASK

Let somebody know you are thinking of them

Missing You



Think about who you are missing at the moment. Write a letter to this person and share your thoughts with them. You might want to write with a pen, or you may want to type your letter.

What do you miss about the person you are writing to and what would you like to say to them? Perhaps there is something you can think of that might make them smile or laugh? What do you look forward to doing with them once lockdown is over? Here is an example:







hope you and your ha are keeping weel. I've been thinking of you a lot one the past few life in landon. I am lody to a spending this time here in Happings with my mother but it does feel strange being away for so long. miss our chance encounters near the station you shouting 'SQUIRREL' across the road! How would we even begin to explain to everyone walking past where that nicuname came from... And I miss your hugs and your mischierron sense of humanr-you never fail to make me lough. It must be tough at them moment with the uncertainty around your work but, from what you have said things should be may- keeping fingers corred. let's home things begin to impose soon and then we can start thinking about making a plan to I've been trying some of the recipes from the book you gave me - deligions. Maybe you'd like to come round for a vispice wry... In the meantine,

4th May 2020

Dear Carys,

I hope you and your Ma are keeping well. I've been thinking of you a lot over the past few weeks - you are so much part of my everyday life in London. I am lucky to be spending this time here in Hastings with my mother but it does feel strange being away for so long. I miss our chance encounters near the station you shouting 'SQUIRREL' across the road! How would we even begin to explain to everyone walking past where that nickname came from... And I miss your hugs and your mischievious sense of humour - you never fail to make me laugh. It must be tough at the moment with the uncertainty around your work but, from what you have said, things should be okay. Keeping fingers crossed. Let's hope things begin to improve soon and then we can start thinking about making a plan to meet. I've been trying some of the recipes from the book you gave me - delicious. Maybe you'd like to come round for a v.spicy curry... In the meantime, sending you and your Ma lots of love from

Why not add some decorations around your message?

Perhaps you could send a photo or a picture you're drawn alongside it?





Challenge created by: Alexandra Buhler
Design by:
Nicole Cowan



IT'S NOT YOUR BIRTHDAY BUT...

Share your Missing You piece with us. By sending your work to us it may be shared online, in a touring exhibition, and/or donated to the Surrey History Centre to be stored in the archives.

The more original artwork we receive, the richer our collection will be. We would be grateful if you could take a picture of your Missing You piece and post it online using #missingyou:



itsnotyourbirthdaybut



@INYBB_



It's Not Your Birthday But



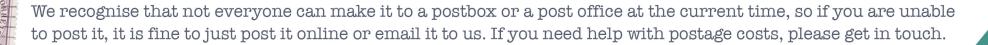
itsnotyourbirthdaybut@gmail.com



and then post your original to us at:



INYBB, The Old Bank House, 26 Station Approach, Hinchley Wood, Surrey, KT10 OSR







Thanks to the support of The National Lottery Heritage Fund, Lost Letters is a project working with people across Surrey, thinking about local history and letters. The Missing You letters will be stored in Surrey History Centre so that people in the future will understand what people were doing in 2020.