

LOST LETTERS

creative challenge #1

MUNDANE MEMOIRS

IT'S NOT
YOUR
BIRTHDAY
BUT...



As part of our Lost Letters project with Surrey History Centre, It's Not Your Birthday But... are inviting you to reflect on a task or activity that has helped you get through lockdown and create your own Mundane Memoir.

Lots of history becomes interesting when a personal lens is applied - including the mundane tasks that we do every day. These activities take on a new significance if recorded and captured side by side.

Looking at the archives, we can take comfort from how our ancestors made it through difficult times. The example here is written from a mother to a son at war in Europe in 1941. She shares her experience of trying to get food for herself and her friend Phyllis:



to take back as I can spare & get & some food is very short. like Oranges & lemons & eggs & cheese 2oz per head at Sainsbury's but do we mind NO not if we can possibly win through. Phoebe &

"Some food is very short, like lemons & oranges & eggs & cheese, 2oz per head at Sainsbury's but do we mind, NO, not if we can possibly win through."



TASK...

Capture your lockdown experience in your own

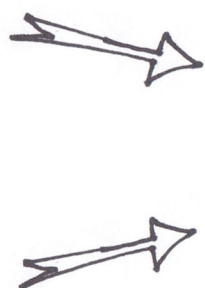
Mundane Memoir



Find or cut a piece of paper or card that is 10 x 10 cm and draw or write something that you've done during lockdown.

It might be tidying your room, shopping, writing letters, chatting to friends, listening to music, watching tv, or baking. You might want to draw, sew, colour, collage, paint or write.

Here are some examples:



Eating



Doing puzzles



Reading



You could use old newspapers, magazines, bits of paper or envelopes that are around the house.

What is the first thing you'll do once lockdown is lifted? Could you repeat the exercise to capture the things you are looking forward to doing?



SHARE...

Share your Mundane Memoir with us so we can piece them together to create a mass artwork. There will be a Lost Letters exhibition in 2021, and your contributions will be shared online.

The more original artwork we receive, the richer the final artwork will be. We would be grateful if you could take a picture of your Mundane Memoir and post it online:



itsnotyourbirthdaybut



@INYBB_



It's Not Your Birthday But

or email it to:

itsnotyourbirthdaybut@gmail.com



and then post your original to us at:



INYBB, The Old Bank House, 26 Station Approach,
Hinchley Wood, Surrey, KT10 0SR

We recognise that not everyone can make it to a postbox or a post office at the current time, so if you are unable to post it, it is fine to just post it online or email it to us. If you need help with postage costs, please get in touch.



**HERITAGE
FUND**

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 Mundane Memoir artworks that come together to create a 'lockdown landscape' mass artwork, will be stored in Surrey History Centre so that people in the future will understand what people were doing in 2020.

