

Lockdown Journal

<http://www.massobs.org.uk/write-for-us/covid-19>

Throughout history, people have kept diaries or journals to record their lives. We can read these diaries and understand what life was like in the past. They reveal fascinating, and sometimes harrowing insights into ordinary peoples' lives during extraordinary events such as war, or plague.

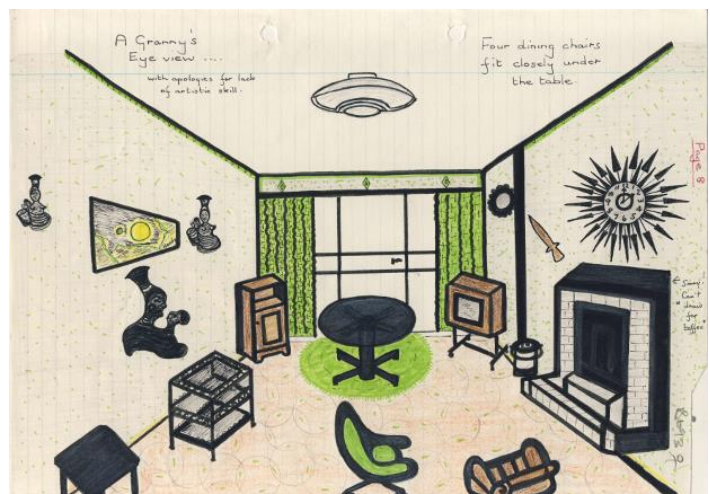
Personal diaries offer a unique first-hand perspective of significant moments in history in a way that official historical records rarely can.

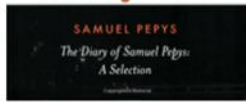
The University of Sussex began a 'Mass Observation Project' in 1937. Their aim was to preserve diaries of the everyday lives of ordinary people in Britain. On 12th May every year the university asks people to submit a diary entry which they add to their archives to preserve them for future generations to study. This year the entries will all be about Covid-19 and lockdown!

We are currently living through a major historical event. People will read about this pandemic and what happened years and years from now. **Your task this week is to write a diary or journal entry which will help your grandchildren understand what you went through. Explain what day to day life is like. What are you doing? How are you feeling?**

Include a photo or a drawing (perhaps of the people you are in lockdown with, or the space you are in the most.)

I've included some information on a few famous diaries on the next page. Two of them wrote about living through a terrible infection! Look them up and have a read! Perhaps your diary will be just as famous in 400 years time?





The Diary of Samuel Pepys

'With one's face in the wind you were almost burned with a shower of Firedrops'

A collection of scintillating first-hand accounts of Restoration England, from the most tumultuous events to the simplest domestic pleasures.

The 1660s represent a turning point in English history, and for the main events - the Restoration, the Dutch War, the Great Plague, the Fire of London - Pepys provides a definitive eyewitness account. As well as recording public and historical events, Pepys paints a vivid picture of his personal life.

Unequalled for its frankness, high spirits and sharp observations, the diary offers a marvellous portrait of seventeenth-century life.



Daniel Defoe
A Journal of the Plague Year



A Journal of the Plague Year

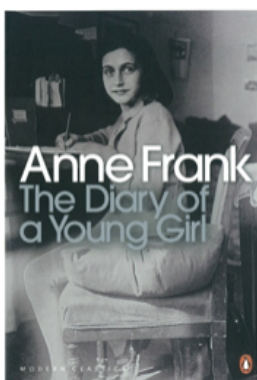
Daniel Defoe

'a Casement violently opened just over my Head, and a Woman gave three frightful Skreetches, and then cry'd, Oh! Death, Death, Death!'

An extraordinary account of the devastation and human suffering inflicted on the city of London by the Great Plague of 1665 from the author of *Robinson Crusoe*.

Defoe's fictional narrator, known only as 'H. F.', recounts in vivid detail the progress of the disease and the desperate attempts to contain it. He catalogues the rising death toll and the transformation of the city as its citizens flee and those who remain live in fear and despair.

Daniel Defoe was just five at the time of the plague, but he later called on his own memories, as well as his writing experience, to create this vivid chronicle of the epidemic and its victims. *A Journal of the Plague Year* is a fascinating example of a writer blurring the lines between fact and fiction.



The Diary of a Young Girl

'Will I ever be able to write something great, will I ever become a journalist or a writer? I hope so, oh, I hope so very much, because writing allows me to record everything, all my thoughts, ideals and fantasies.'

This is what Anne Frank confided in her diary on 5 April 1944. Her wish did come true, but she herself was never to know that. Anne died in March 1945 in Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. She was fifteen years old.

Possibly the most famous diary ever written, Anne's inspiring and tragic account of her family's flight during the occupation and two years hiding in an Amsterdam warehouse has enthralled readers for generations.