

COMMONPLACE

HELP US TO CREATE A COMMUNITY SCRAPBOOK

What is a Commonplace Book?

First used in the 17th century, Commonplace Books are journals where people recorded anything important or worth remembering. Often, they included recipes, quotes, sermons, theories and speeches. These notes would often be ordered and categorized, and looked back on to inspire future self-reflection and ideas. Writers such as John Milton and Lewis Carroll used Commonplace Books to catalogue their ideas.



THE STORIES WE LEAVE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

The Covid-19 pandemic of 2020 has profoundly altered the way we live our lives.

At The Reader at Calderstones we share great stories together to help us make sense of the world. In response to Covid-19, we are inviting you to create your own page for our Commonplace Book - a community scrapbook which will capture the ways people have lived through this crisis.

Anyone can contribute. We want to record the ups, downs, and everything in between. Comforting lockdown recipes, quotes from books & poems you read, drawings, letters & photographs. We will be displaying it at the Mansion House for all to see & to inspire people in the future. Who knows, perhaps your favourite lockdown recipe will become a dish we serve at The Reader Café?

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Choose one (or several!) of the tasks below, read the instructions and use the blank page provided to create your response. Alternatively you can create your own activity. It's up to you how you choose to represent your experience - just think about what you would want someone in 100 years to understand about life during Covid-19. Be as creative as you like, use materials, or simply write something or draw.

When you've completed your page, you can bring it to the Mansion and drop it into the box in the entrance. Alternatively, you can post it to us at the address below. If you aren't able to get the physical page to us, you're also free to scan it in and send it to us at: programmes@thereader.org.uk

Life has changed in many different ways for everyone during Covid-19.

We've come up with six themes to inspire you to think about your experience of Covid-19. Once you've thought about what's happened in your life, choose from one of the activities below to create your page.

Category One

VISUAL

Create a visual image that represents your experience of Covid-19. It can be a collage made up of cut outs of words and pictures, any materials you can find. Alternatively, draw something. You can even stick a photograph down and write a bit about why this photo represents lockdown to you.



Category Two

RECIPES

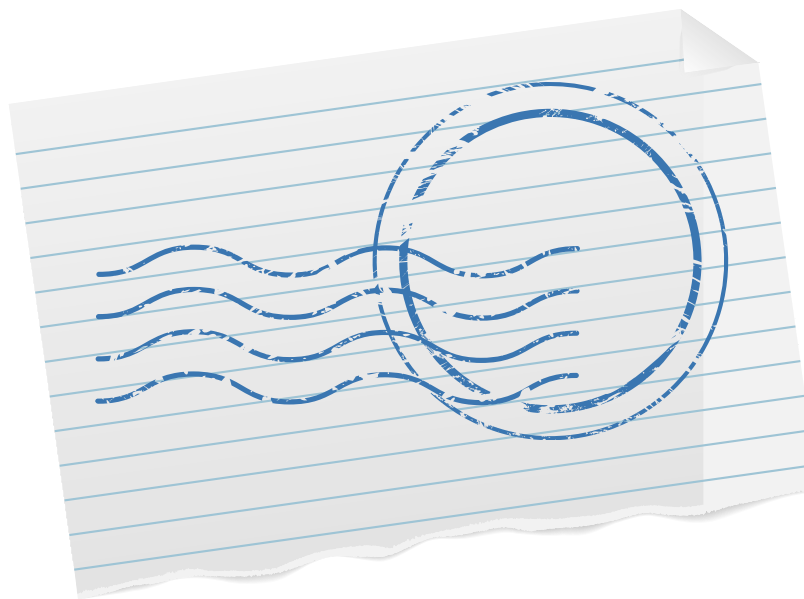
Create a page for your very own lockdown recipe book. Share a recipe that has been meaningful to you during Covid-19. Perhaps it was something you discovered you could cook using only store cupboard ingredients, or a dish or ingredient you relied on during this time. Tell us the ingredients, how you cooked it, and why it's meaningful to you. Alternatively, draw a picture of the dish or take a photo.



Category Three

LOCKDOWN LETTERS

Write a letter to your past self about what to expect during a pandemic. What do you know now that you wish you'd known in February 2020? You could list or draw the things you have learnt. Alternatively, write a letter to someone in 100 years-time and tell them what life during Covid-19 was like.



Category Four

I READ THROUGH IT

What did you read during Covid-19? Pick a line or quote from something you read during this time and use it to create your page. Perhaps it's a poem you discovered that helped you make sense of everything that was happening? Or perhaps Black Lives Matter inspired you to read a new-to-you black author. You could even share your lockdown reading list. Feel free to be creative and add drawings or colours to make your quote stand out.



Category Five

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Did you spend more time outdoors this year due to Covid-19? Draw a map of your favourite route, even if it is only around the garden. Note down the things you passed, who you walked with and what you enjoyed. Try using materials like leaves and twigs to bring it to life.



Category Six

SOMETHING NEW

Did you learn a new skill or craft during the pandemic, or take up a new hobby? Did life force you into a new routine or habit? Share something new that has emerged by writing about it, drawing it or photographing it. Why did you start, how did it feel, and will you carry on when the Pandemic is over? If possible, incorporate what you have learnt into your page - for example by adding some knitting, stitching or writing in a foreign language.



Category Seven

CHANGING LANDSCAPES

Share a photo or a drawing of something that changed during lockdown, or something that was striking. Perhaps you took a picture of a deserted street that's usually full of people, or you spotted something unusual like wildlife returning.



We hope that our Commonplace Book will become part of our history and story when people look back in years to come. Before submitting a contribution to us, please read the information below so you're aware of how we plan to share your submission.

- Do not include personal information like your phone number or address.
- Do not include photos or personal information, including names, of other people.
- Only include your name if you consent for it to be used in ways outlined in the Terms and Conditions.
- We are unable to return responses to their creator. If you would like to keep a copy please make this before submitting.
- Submissions from children aged 16 or under should be made with the approval of their parent or guardian. Any email submissions from children should be sent from the parent or guardian's email account.

Terms and Conditions

If you submit a page to us you agree to assign the copyright of your work to The Reader. You also understand that your contribution is a donation to The Reader and could be:

- Used as part of our Commonplace Book which could be displayed in the Mansion House and may appear on our social media channels.
- Kept as a record in our archive, where it may be used and reproduced for research purposes
- Published online (including social media), in exhibitions, in marketing materials or any other media.
- Used to inspire future projects

PLEASE CREATE YOUR RESPONSE IN THE SPACE BELOW: