

**Bolton
Council**

Information

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Bolton
Library and
Museum Services

Would you Like to Be a Part of Bolton's History?

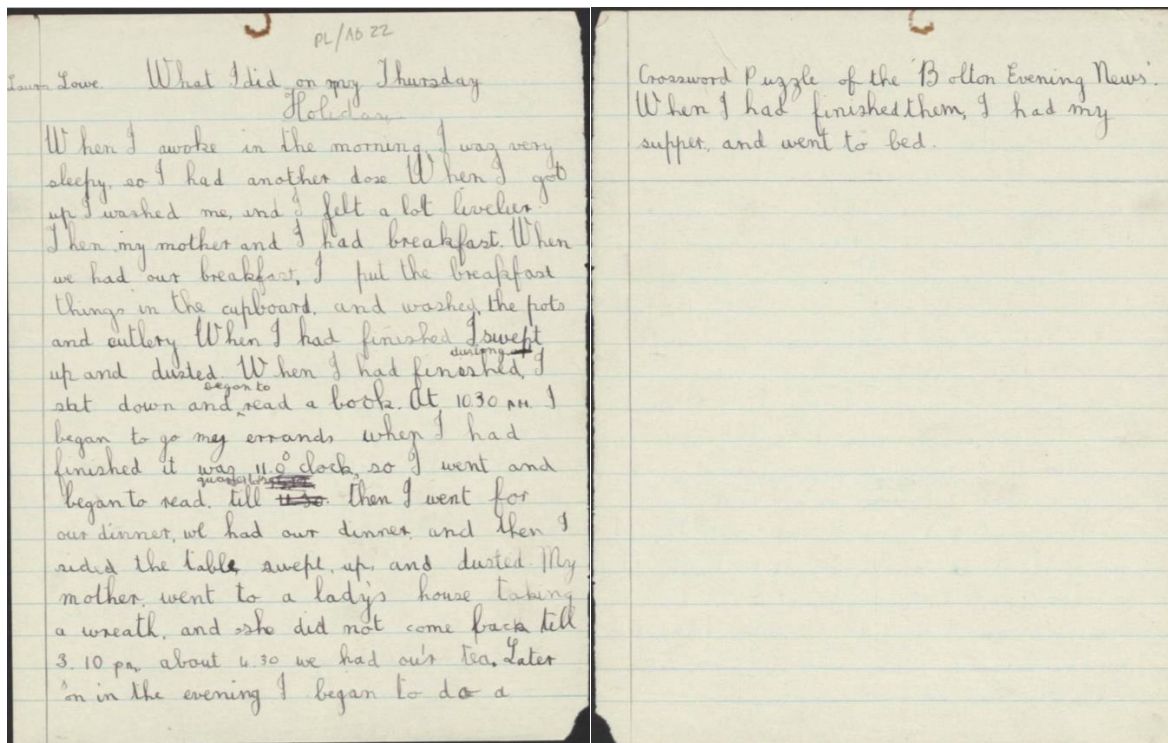


Image from Bolton Museum's Worktown Collection

The times we are living in are totally unique. One hundred years from now, children will learn about the COVID19 pandemic just as they do today about the Great Fire of London.

In the late 1930s, pioneering research organisation Mass Observation worked with primary schools in Bolton to capture children's experiences of living through another challenging period in British history. Inspired by MO, the library and museum service are asking local schools and children to record their experiences of coronavirus and the lockdown.

Below is an essay by one of the children participating in 1937; its title is "What I did on my Thursday Holiday."



Images courtesy of the Mass Observation Archive

We would like children to begin documenting their experiences by recording how they spend **VE Day** on **Friday 8 May**. Please send your diaries, drawings, photographs and other responses with the heading '**Children's lockdown journals**' to:

Email: archives@bolton.gov.uk

Post: Bolton Central Library, Le Mans Crescent, Bolton BL1 1SE

As well as highlighting it on our social media posts, the material you send us will be stored in our Archive for future generations to read. We are also intending to put some of the items into a Time Capsule and will find a way of celebrating this with you as soon as possible. It really is your chance to be a part of Bolton's History. Get writing, get creative – get yourself in the History Books!

Below is a wonderful essay written by Orla, aged 8, from Blackrod about her lockdown experience so far.

COVID-19 is very effective we must stay at home we are only allowed out once for exercise or to go to the shops. It is really bad but has helped us with climate change.

Every Thursday night at 8:00pm some people go out and clap for our NHS or key workers I call it clap for key workers 🙌👏.

We cannot see our grandparents we can only see our parents and sisters or brothers. If you do go to see someone you must stand 2 Metres apart. We cannot go on holiday. Also if your parents have your friend's parents phone number you can talk to them for example I have my friend *****'s mum on my mums phone so me and ***** talk and play games over the phone 📞. Or if you have a phone and your friend has a phone ask each other for your phone number and then you can talk.

You must wash your hands very often you must wash them for 20 seconds or I wash my hands for two happy birthdays 🎂.

More than 20,000 people have died of coronavirus 🦠. We cannot go to school or somewhere like a restaurant. My parents can't go to work now they are working from home.

The coronavirus is like a disease. I could be off school until year 4!

I am struggling with homeschooling it's quite important but hard. I have been baking I have made some cupcakes, banana bread 🍌 and my brother has made some gluten free brownies. The lockdown has been an option to try new food I have tried a lot this is good because I am VERY picky about my food 🍷. I have tried maple pork, chicken halloumi skewers 🍢, chorizo burger 🍔, lamb skewers (which I didn't like) and pulled pork.

Some of my friends are still at school because their parents are in the NHS or they are Keyworkers that cannot work from home 🏠 my teacher 🍎 sets us work for homeschool 📖. My friend ***** goes to school because her mum works for the NHS. I think 🤔 my friend ***** is also at school because her mum works at B&M bargains I can talk to ***** over the phone because I have her big sisters phone number. It's very fun to talk to her but I might be able to talk to ***** because my mum might have her mums phone number. I know it must be very hard at school because if you and a lot of people go it will be difficult to stay 2 m apart and if your best friends are there you would really want to hug them. I am off school but I am talking to my friend ***** on my phone because she has just got one and she has dropped me off some cupcakes (Which I have already ate) since she was so kind I dropped her off something I'm saving up for a present for her because she is my friend and it is nearly her birthday I'm also saving up because she is getting me a little 🎁 (I know what it is) for my Our generation dolls that I play with. I am not

getting very bored in lockdown because it's very fun because I have lots of stuff to play with in fact I have a full room I've lots of toys is very messy because I've got a lot so I'm going to donate some not just now I'm going to donate them then the Covid 19 is over. 🙌👏 I have just watched BBC Northwest news my mums friends daughter was on The dancing in the street 🕺 I am also keeping entertained by watching this TV series called Liv and Maddie because I have 71 episodes recorded and I also I'm keeping entertained watching you've been framed gold I am also being entertained by eating lots and lots of cheese savouries

But I am keeping very very healthy because every day from 9:00 till 9:30 I am doing Joe wicks live PE as my PE for school because we don't normally get PE lessons you can find Joe wicks live PE on YouTube on the channel body coach he is very good I do it every morning. Every Friday morning when Joe wicks does PE with Joe I dress up because it is very funny because it is fancy dress Friday so since it is fancy dress Friday this Friday so it will dress up and normally play Music on Friday Joe wicks Once played a bunny. I really think that Joe wicks is an inspiring role model to me he is very good at exercising he is very good at having an exercising family once his daughter even came in as a ballerina and did two sumo squats and I think she's only two she's really good at exercise for a two-year-old. His daughter's name is indie she is really cute she dressed up as a ballerina because Joe wicks her dad came in a superman and pretended to save her. My favourite exercise is the truffle shuffle then you go to the side like it's your fault and you have your arms one up down up down up down and then you go down into a squat and touch the floor again. My brothers favourites are sit ups

We are grateful to the Mass Observation Archive - <http://www.massobs.org.uk/> for allowing us to reproduce material from the archive.

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