



STRAWBERRY HILL  
House & Garden

# Write to Horace

## Digital Library of Letters



LOTTERY FUNDED



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ENGLAND**



## STRAWBERRY HILL

House & Garden

Strawberry Hill House launched the *Write to Horace* campaign in the Summer of 2020, designed to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the restoration of the house and to engage with the local community during lockdown.

Horace Walpole, man of letters, was a prolific writer, nurturing this art from the age of seven and continuing to write well into his 70s. He wrote over 7,000 letters during his lifetime, as well as the first Gothic novel, *The Castle of Otranto* and an account of his collection, *A Description of the Villa*. He also had a private printing press built in the grounds of Strawberry Hill House, the first private press in England.

Walpole's letters, which describe the people he met, his local community and his thoughts about the world, captured the spirit, issues and wit of the age. During a time of lockdown, in 2020, letter-writing feels more relevant than ever and the humble letter has had a resurgence as people have sought to keep in touch in a more authentic way.

This project inspired people of all ages to *Write to Horace* to share their own stories of how local communities have supported each other during lockdown. These stories, contained in 250 letters, have served as a snapshot of the local area during 2020's decidedly strange times. This exciting project culminates in the *Lockdown Letters to Horace: An Art Installation* on display at Strawberry Hill House from 5 November 2020 - 5 January 2021.

[www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk/letters](http://www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk/letters)



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STRAWBERRY HILL  
House & Garden

Organised by first name of writer

A-Z

Click letter to select

A	B	C	D	E
F	G	H	I	J
K	L	M	N	O
P	Q	R	S	T
U	V	W	X	Y
		Z		



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Dear M<sup>r</sup>: Walpole

I cannot express to  
Mr. & M<sup>r</sup>: Conway; hearing from you  
in your last filled me with many  
making; it appears very strange to  
on the 20:<sup>th</sup> or even on the 23. We sh  
grefs, or Retreat, as I shou'd ima  
liberation, without they had chang  
What I dread is, that the Pinestr

A

Tuesday 16/06/20

Horace Walford  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June

Dear Horace,

The community has come together by seeing each other in gardens, playing on goa time and talking also waving at your neighbours. I have come together with my community by talking 2 meters apart. I have also went to the forest and park. once I got lost in crane park. It took 1 2 or 3 hours to get home. What an adventure it was.

Best wishes

Aapya



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry hill house  
Twickenham

Tuesday 23rd June 2020

Dear Horace,

I was confused going into lockdown because I still wanted to see friends but I wanted My family to be safe.

During Lockdown, I have noticed my community has helped people like when we go for a walk we keep a safe 2 meters from other people. Another thing I have noticed is every thing is very quiet with not many planes and no littering ! This I like ☺.

My sisters and I drew rainbows and wrote messengers like Keep smiling on our pavement to cheer people up when they walked past. Every Thursday night at 8.00 we stand outside and clap for the NHS and after we would talk to neighbours.

It is so weird with people having masks on because doctors have masks on normally only.

Thank you NHS!!! And Key Workers!!!

Best wishes -

Ahu (Age: 8)

Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

Tuesday 16th June

Dear Horace,

The last 4 months have been an Presidents  
I had never seen anything like it before  
~~except~~ I have seen my family alot more than  
often and spent so much more time together  
than before lockdown.

During lockdown I have seen my community  
come together and help each other  
than before. I have seen more people  
donating to the food bank trolley at the  
supermarket, Neighbours offering to help  
the vulnerable collect medicine from  
the pharmacy and others offering  
to be a listening ear on the other side  
of the phone.



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

01/07/2020

Dear Horace Walpole,  
Lockdown is not as bad as people say, the streets are silent - a fortress of solitude, the skies are a transparent bleu de France ocean. White clouds infect the peaceful sky, acting as a hopeless layer of protection. The endless light bursts through the feeble wall, as though it never existed. Sweat trickles down your back as you exit your house, <sup>making you</sup> ~~relaxing~~ at your permanently tanned neck. Sunblock is smothered to people's faces, expelling a pungent stench, which makes nostrils shut. The arrival of the night sky is the break from the searing sun, the colours fading, the heat dissolves as though you had been locked in a fridge. The wind scratches your face - a beautiful breeze. The deafening silence is disrupted every fifteen minutes by airplane that pierce eardrums, dismantling the reigning peace. The smells from fumes have been dissolved over the last three months, but nature's aroma will always linger, strong yet wonderful. Cycling around itself is a blissful sensation to ride across the flat smooth pavement or under the canopies <sup>arching over</sup> ~~covering~~ the road, and while the sun bounces on your face while the ~~blows~~ blows at your face, preventing you from roasting like a chicken. Although some may be having a poor time, the atmosphere is never this ethereal.

Yours faithfully,

Ajayan



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

Tuesday 23rd June

Dear Horace

In this time of lockdown I felt strange because a lot of things have changed. Also I felt joyful because me and my family done new and exciting stuff together.

During lockdown I have noticed that people have stopped meeting each other like they used to do. At the shops I have seen signs on the glass saying keep 2.m. distance, also people wearing masks.

After that what I really liked was peaceful nature that I saw outside my window. Was wonderful breathing fresh air, but the most beautiful thing was that people became more kind and caring to each other. Hopefully this kindness will last forever.

Best wishes

A'kenna

(8 Years old)



Horace Woll Pole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June

Dear Horace

I want to tell you that last weeks were boring. I am worried about my friends. I don't have contact with them so I don't know if they ok.

I want to thank the nhs that they still working and how amazing they are to sacrifice themselves for others. I'm amazed how many people have saved and cured from covid-19.

I've noticed that outside in the public is clean and no litter on the roads anymore. There been less people out ~~the~~ in public lines for every single job. There is less murders and kid napping.

The community should be more careful about going outside and staying 2 meters apart.

Alan



Dear Horace Walpole,  
Here is my lock down poem...



Lots of chilling, lots of sport lots of news to report.

Only wish to socialise but I have to sanitise.

Could be better, could be worse, clapping lots for every nurse

Knowing that its dangerous out there wear a mask: you should care!

Depressing news, empty streets, special moments to keep things sweet.

Out of business, out of work, but food stores are open were virus slerk!

What do I do in this time? Thankfully I have friends online.

Now I look forward to corona virus ending but the country is still pending.

from Alec

(age 9)



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill house  
Twickenham

18<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Horace,

Life as we know it has been jiggled about like crazy!

One moment I'm going back to school (hooray) - the next moment I'm not because of COVID-19. I really want to go back

to delightful school, because I miss my teachers Mrs

Clattersal and Miss Down.



But one of the best things is the extraordinary view of the

Sunset at nine thirty every night here's a  
picture.



Did you know? That In Venice There's now fish in the  
water now.

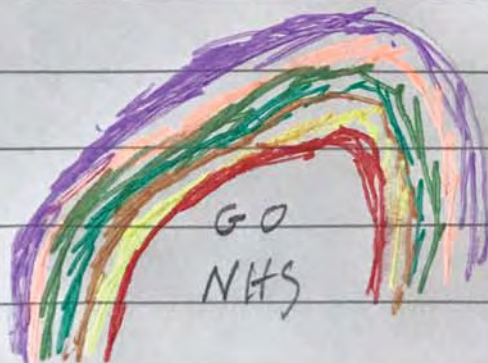
Regards Alexa  
age 8

Twickenham  
Friday 19 June 2020

Dear Horace,

Over the last few months we have been in lock down because of the Coronavirus. We haven't been able to go to school but we've been keeping busy. We have been doing lots of fun things like a Virtual sleepover for beavers which broke the world record. We have also been playing bingo on zoom to spend time with my family and friends. Every Thursday we chaps for the NHS to say thank you. We've been shopping for people who cannot go out. Best of all we have been going on nature walks and cycle rides and Twickenham is beautiful.

From Alex Age 7



Thank you



Worcester Waldpole  
Stroudley Hill House  
Twickenham

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June

Dear Nanna,

What a BORING time I am having because day  
after day I need to stay inside which everybody  
knows is BORING! What I've noticed is that  
time is slower and quieter and the birds are chirping louder.

During the lockdown I saw lots of things that  
made it not less boring like people helping with  
shopping people helping with the dishes, cooking  
and a lot more which surprised me because  
I thought they wouldn't stay a safe distance  
while doing all the work but they did.

By Alex  
age 9



tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> june

Dear Horace,  
It's been 3 months since lockdown and now as everything starts to re-open it feels like everything is back to normal. During the lockdown, I played Uno with my family, played with my brother Satrius and my friend me, my brother and my friend once played all together.

During the lockdown we spoke to our family members on our phone to make sure they're OK and safe. When my mom went to buy groceries, she always bought extras for people in need. The roads were quiet and there were hardly any planes, which was wonderful because air cleared. In India, people could see the the Himalayas for the first time in 30 yrs. As the lockdown eases, air pollution. people draw rainbows on papers and stick them on windows. The best part was Thursday clapping for the NHS workers. my neighbours used paper and wooden spoons and it was so loud! Some people got fire works.

When lockdown ends, I'll finally get to go school. :)

best wishes,  
Alex.







Today we had an outdoor learning day at school. We followed a trail of art. They started at the shed then went over the earth past the weeds and rocks. Under the bush was a small pond where I had released some frogs and tadpoles. After the pond they went through the long grass and up a tree. They ended at one branch of the tree where there were some small apples. On the tree they passed some greenery!

I enjoyed following the art's trail.

I hope you are well and safe at home in lockdown.

Alexander age 8



Horace Walpole  
Straberry hill house  
Twicken

Tuesday 23rd  
June

Dear Horace,

What a strange life this  
has been I hope  
we can go back to  
shchool. I've seen  
a lot of people riding  
there bikes. I have  
noticed safe distancing.  
My neighbours are clapping  
for key workers. When  
I was walking in the  
park the clouds looked  
like cotton candy.  
To help community I  
donated some food.  
I have helped my  
granmy with the  
shopping.

Akira Age: 8



Horace Walpole  
Stambrerty Hill House  
Twickenham

School

18<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Horace,

I hope you are well. Life as we know it has been turned upside down. I wanted to share some of the things I have observed and experienced over the last few months.

Nurses have been getting people better and I think that's really helpful of them. I love how they're doing all they can to help us. They're trying to stop this terrible virus.

Because there are no loud noises there is more wild life. It makes me feel wonderful because I like seeing all the animals and birds.

I enjoy spending time with my family. There are lots of things I love doing with my family, but the thing most of all is playing with my sister.

Yours faithfully,

Allegra (8)



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham  
Tuesday 16th June

Dear Horace

What a weird and exciting time I've had! I've never had a lockdown before so it is very strange for me.

Is it just me or life has become faster and faster? Probably because I've not been going to school.

It has also gotten cooler in the local parks. Well I still see some people going to school and playing on the grass but it's really quiet.

During lockdown, I've noticed so many things that my local community have done which makes me smile.

My family and my neighbors always help each other. Especially the neighbors on the left and right side of my house. Recently, my neighbor on the left gave me some of a whole bag of mint leaves which smell so good and minty. I'm not a fan of the taste but I love the smell.

We also call them sometimes to see how they are doing. I really do appreciate our local community. Another thing I have been doing is exercise in my garden. Every day I hate it when I hear bees or wasps or when they are near me but my dad says to keep still so they won't hurt me. It was a very handy piece of advice as I avoided a wasp because I stood still! I have thought that!

I've been missing school as I can't see my teachers or friends. I did see my class teacher in the hall when I came to collect a folder of worksheets. I like the office lady because she is really kind and talks in a nice way and is friendly in general. The other one is nice but not so nice. After lockdown, I really must look around more and see more appreciated things around me because my amazing fantastic local community have done lots and are full of supportive, kind neighbors, friends and nature that I have never noticed or noticed.

Best luck and wishes.  
Aivi from



Honore Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

22nd June 2020

Dear Mr Walpole,

I am writing this letter to inform you about some of the positive things in lockdown. Me and my sister normally always argued but since lockdown we had a lot of fun and spent time together. My dad told me more things about their childhood and themselves. Every day at six pm all my neighbours ~~was it to~~ clap for the NHS.

We have seen a lot of cats wondering about in the roads got silent a less busy. I also saw two foxes and one of them looked badly injured. We hear much more birds now and see them. My dad also said he saw a deer and some ducks.

For the first time my whole family played a football match together and had a laugh. Another thing that usually wouldn't happen was we all played Monopoly together. Surprisingly we also all agreed on a moonie and actually enjoyed it.

Kind regards

Alvin (age 10)

Tuesday 23rd June

Dear Florence

Lockdown has brought many changes to my life. I'm bored all the time except when I play with my family.

I have noticed people help the elderly and those in need they make home made food for the needy and help with shopping. Many people also call their friend and family that are ~~not~~ not with them. Every Thursday we all come out in the evening to clap for the key workers & to appreciate their work.

Another thing I saw was a variety of wild life like robins and parakeets in my garden. The air outside was much cleaner and fresher because there are less cars on the road.

Finally the lockdown made me realise close to my neighbourhood there is a small patch ~~where~~ where some of our neighbours grow their own vegetables.

This odd time showed me how wonderful my community is. People are generous and caring and I wish to see the same spirit to be continued. Best wishes ALYAN



Tuesday 23rd June

Dear, Horris, Sir

I have been feeling sad because I have been trying to occupy myself. I've helped tidy the house up. I have played with my cousin. I helped my mum do the garden.

I have noticed that there is less rubbish on the ground now shops were closed unless they sell food, also I notice fewer cars on the road which make it easier to cross the road more safely out.

More birds are around and because there is less noise it is easier for them to sing. There are less people out. The grass is growing taller in open spaces.

Hope to see you soon. Take care Alyshia



Stone Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham.

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June

Dear Horace,

It is a very strange time in lock-down. I am feeling lonely because I miss my friends from school. I noticed and appreciate the different birds and their different songs. I also drew a rainbow to support the NHS. On tv I seen people giving food to those who couldn't get to the shops. On my journey to my local park I noticed that the sky is more brighter and the river is now clearer.

We are now allowed to see family from a distance. After lock down I am looking forward to having lots of hugs and going on holidays with my family.

Best wishes  
Amara (age: 8)

24/06/2020

Dear Horace

Lockdown has been very weird, we have been at home for a very long time now mum says we have been off school for 14 weeks now

Everything is very different and very quiet, even aeroplanes have stopped flying past.

because it is so quiet, I can now hear the birds a lot more they are noisy.

Since being at home I have seen a lot of different things that have made me smile.

People have been drawing on walls and pavements, there are pictures in windows, people helping each other with shopping and taking dogs.

Being at home so much I have realised that I have a lot more toys than I thought I had and that I think I might have every Enchantamel doll there is now.

What I have liked most about being at home with my family is that I have been able to do a lot of painting with my sisters we have a lot of paint and stuff in one craft cupboard. I have also enjoyed playing board games with my family and one night we video called my mums friend and her little girl who

is my friend called chloe and we all played  
chudo together it was really funny.

After lockdown i am looking forward to seeing  
my friends again and going on holiday and  
going to the zoo

Best wishes

Amelia aged 8



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

Tuesday 16th June

Dear Horace,

Day 86

Quarantine! Eighty six days ago, that word was a synonymous to torture. It still is in my opinion and many others, but quarantine has taken a surprisingly good turn on the United Kingdom and other parts of the world. When the Pandemic of the Coronavirus started I was gutted. I would miss school and getting to meet new people. But from what I can tell, the pandemic has brought my friends and family closer.

Kindness

In my community, kindness and committing acts of kindness overall has released stress. Over the past 86 days, I have definitely seen several acts of kindness and generosity being committed by myself, my family, neighbours and complete strangers. One of them was one of my other neighbours buying my other rumourable neighbour with her food and shopping. I thought this was amazing to see, so I decided to commit some acts of kindness myself. This included

attempting to get out of my room more so I could spend more time with my family. My mother said, "Amelie you're recently been bringing more joy to our household". Additionally in a few days, I will be creating a type of spa day for my parents since the both work very hard (my dad's a design manager and my mum is a social worker team manager).

Environment

Another perk to the Pandemic is the fact the environment overall is looking cleaner and healthier. BBC Future said "In a nutshell we could see long-lasting positive environmental change after the pandemic." Even when quarantine is over, in my opinion we should continue to keep the environment this way.

Atmosphere

The coronavirus has really shown peoples true colors, showing how people just can't follow simple rules. Yes some do have to come out, but others who don't still go out without social distancing and risk others lives. This has been announced during government updates in the UK. Apart from those people I think that COVID-19 has showed the good in people in my community.

Overall, Coronavirus has showed how much we need the people who are usually forgotten about.

Amelie (age 11)



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill Lane  
Twickenham

Dear Horace,  
What a strange and weird time  
this has been. Lockdown is so boring but a  
little quiet.

During lockdown, at 18:30 I had seen people  
clapping for the NHS ~~as of~~ because of their  
hard ~~bring~~ work to help us which really means  
my heart. Furthermore I have seen many people  
help each other out. If you didn't know I have  
seen been passed someones house and they drew  
colourful pictures that I love and appreciate during  
these hard and difficult days. Another thing I have  
noticed is the ~~amount~~ amount of cars and planes  
I have not seen about of them recently.

Finally the most amazing ~~the~~ thing I realized ~~these~~  
these days is the lack of sleep. I used to wake up  
early ~~now~~ now I don't!

Whenever I wake up I appreciate the people that  
helped.

Best ~~and~~ wishes

From A mine



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

Wednesday 16th June

Dear Horace,

Wow! What a weird time this has been! I have been feeling very excited lately, as I have been discovering a lot of things during lockdown. I have seen my local neighbours doing kind acts for old people who cannot go out. I have also noticed that several people have put rainbow drawings on their windows to show



little children as they walk past. Also I have seen a lot less people coming out of their houses lately as they have instead been enjoying in their gardens. As we have been in lockdown, a lot of things have been changing in the environment. When I went for a walk I saw that the lakes were splashing and making more waves. There were a lot of helicopters flying past. I had never noticed there were so many stray cats in the forests. I didn't even notice that there were so many parks behind my street! I thank my community so much that I can't even explain it.

Yours sincerely

Amneet 11 years old



Flora's hallway  
Strawberry Hill house

Dear +/once

3.5 Feb  
2000

When I started at school down. When I know  
that I don't have to go to school. But I like  
it but then I got bored. + go now no  
enjoy and the shop where they  
people had to stay 2 m. distance and  
every one had to wear mask. I see  
the community has each other. I see  
other cure results. Nothing very hard to  
live. I had to go back at school. My  
son is good because my friend  
I wish everything back home.

Best wish  
my  
S



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June

Dear Horace,

What a strange time this has been. I've never been in a lockdown before. Throughout the lockdown I have been through a lot of different emotions. ~~Firstly~~ When we were put on lockdown I was scared but I was also quite excited.

During the lockdown I have noticed many nice things that our community have been doing. I have seen people drawing rainbows and clapping for the NHS. I have seen people having conversations from a safe distance. In my family we have been doing zoom calls every week together. All of these things have made everyone a lot happier.

I've also noticed how the natural world has changed a lot. The birds seem a lot louder as everything is a lot quieter. Also in parks everything seems different. They're a lot quieter and all the grass and bushes are a lot more overgrown.

After lockdown I will appreciate a lot more about my community.

Best wishes

Andre





*Andrew*

*12 Years*

*23/06/2020*

*Dear Horace,*

*In the spirit of Walpole.*

*The Extraordinary, gothic revival house we are enormously proud that we live nearby, we will tell you many facts and historical values about Walpole and Strawberry hill and the wonderful architecture in the Gothic style with beautiful garden and many lovely parks surrounded the area. Elegance architects made of unique Gothic style ceilings, incredibly magnificence done windows and roof.*

*An influential historian, collector Sir Horace Walpole was a genius and was living there in the 17 centuries.*

*Feel the Magic at London's Enchanting Gothic Castle, Strawberry Hill House & Garden. Gothic and love nothing more than wandering around houses you will never actually be able to afford.*

*Yours Sincerely*

*Andrew*

My dear Mr Walpole,

Twickenham has been a haven of silence these last few weeks - perhaps our friends have gone to London to sample the jollity which I expect is there enjoyed, for I have seen none of them in the past weeks - no fêtes, no river pageants, no breakfasts to enjoy together, no carriages or barges bringing friends from town. Even the hot air balloons which once filled our skies are rarely seen now. How strange a time it is!

However, I do believe, in this strange world, that my nectarine tree, like yours, will bear fruit this summer. I remember that you once told me that in your first winter at Strawberry Hill your nectarine tree bloomed so mild was the season; mine has now bloomed and I do believe will bear fruit this year - such a spring as we have had. I shall send you a basket of wild strawberries for your table to honour the name of your little castle, and add this letter to serve as a dessert, tucked in between the battlements.

My cook was much taken by an article you wrote for 'The World' newspaper, which I read aloud to her in the hope of achieving a better dressed table, but now I find as you did before me, that by candlelight it is difficult to tell which are the delectable items she made of sugar and which the pieces of Sevres porcelain upon the table. The Duke of — dined on Tuesday fortnight and I was much amused when he bit upon a tea bowl, thinking it a sugar plum, but I believe he was later forced to have a tooth drawn. Much was my mortification!

There is another matter of great strangeness that I thought I would mention to you - have you become aware of the strange behaviour of our neighbours, who come to their windows and doors clapping and knocking pans together? What can this be? For surely a week last Thursday every door around was occupied with



noise makers, yet these were people unseen before, indeed I should not have recognised them had I passed them in my carriage, I am told that these same neighbours of ours have even offered services - sometimes of great worth - one visited the apothecary and brought to my doorstep a concoction of herbs, neatly made up with paper and string. Another time, eggs and fresh vegetables appeared, doubtless from a nearby farm, all greatly enjoyed by those who partook.

I wished to tell you my friend that even with this unaccustomed stillness, and the presence of a full moon, I have heard none of the nightingales you mention, but I wonder if you have been visited by any of the flocks of strange green birds which seem to have taken up residence around? They are very pretty and colourful and I hope to find feathers from their tails to put into my wig for the next boo party - but they cannot sing and indeed appear tone deaf, although they might grow to enjoy a serenade from your French horns and Clarinets.

Adieu! Yours, Anne Liddell,

Countess of Upper Ossory



Horace Watpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

17<sup>th</sup> of June 2020

Dear Horace,

How are you? Hope you are well during coronavirus. But it's not all bad like people are decorating their gardens. Are you?

We and my family go to the Park alot. All the female deer are hiding, protecting their babies. It's so quiet you cant hear planes, trains, and cars. You can only hear nature, birds chirping, bees buzzing, and dogs barking. cars are not allowed in the Park which is nice. Pollution and noise isn't there. So the park can be enjoyed. Actually, smog and pollution is clearing all over the world!

On local walks wild areas of grass and flowers are left to grow it looks great! There's lots of sun and rain so everything is looking so green and healthy.

It's nice to hear people chattering in garden to garden because people are sad about self isolating but they are still being social.

Hope you are well and safe

from Annie.



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

22nd June 2020

Dear Mr Walpole,

During lockdown, I have seen many ways of kindness acted out by many people in my neighbourhood.

There was a time I remember that shows examples of kindness being acted out, it was the day we had a neighbourhood barbecue. Someone in our neighbourhood came up with the idea of a neighbourhood barbecue. On the day of the barbecue, an elderly lady, Vicky was baking things for everyone in the neighbourhood. She couldn't go outside, so a man volunteered to hand the food out for her.

As we couldn't do much much, whilst sitting at home, me and my family have started to go out for walks. A place we visit often is, Crane Park. I used to believe that Crane Park had only one entrance, I was soon proved wrong. Down the main road, I discovered many entrances and discovered new places.

While staying at home, I have observed many things. The birds singing are more prominent. Not many airplanes pass by as flights are on a hold. There is less noise of cars or any other vehicles. My family are normally distant from each other, as ~~we~~ <sup>if</sup> we lived our lives separately. Ever since lockdown, my family became closer by playing games and doing baking.



Eventhough lockdown is mainly a bad thing. I have noticed many positive outcomes from lockdown.

Kind regards,  
Annora (age 11)



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

23<sup>rd</sup> June 2020

Dear Horace,

This is a heartbreaking time in this lockdown. I would love to tell you about how I felt and what I noticed! I am feeling really sad and lonely because I am not able to play with my friends at this very difficult time. This is not a safe time to gather people in your home.

I have noticed that so many things are happening around the world. As well I have realised that people donate food to others and some give hand to them. Some group of people are explaining the others how to keep themselves safe at home.

I felt that when I go outside it is so quiet because there is no one on the street. Children feel sad when they don't get to go outside. Outside the noise level has reduced. There is one reason that planes can't fly

During the lockdown time.

I have drawn some beautiful rainbow picture. So people will stay home and support the keyworkers.

I have seen people clapping on every Thursday at 8 o'clock for NHS. I also did it.

I just wanted to say that we have to stay safe, until lockdown ends. We will live happily soon!

From,  
Anushri



In this period of time in lockdown I noticed many different things. Some times I felt happy because I can text with my friends and also with my family. But some times I felt bored because I couldn't play with them. I have noticed that people stopped visiting each other like they used to do. Also my neighbor has been so kind helping my mum with shopping. I've seen more people cycling than driving. As well I have seen many people than usual walking in the park keeping distance from each other. What I really liked was the calm and quiet atmosphere. The air was fresher, which is on the benefit of all living lives. In addition I think it will be wonderful if people after this lockdown start to appreciate each other more.

Best wishes from  
Ardi



17th 2020

Dear Community

In lockdown I realised how important school is. I miss my friends a lot and it's boring staying home all day. The teachers at school are all very nice and help full.

I feel as if it was easier back at school because some times you get stuck on the work.

I like doing something different every day. My favorite subject is maths because it's easy and I enjoy it. My least favorite subject is english because I find it boring.

I hope Boris Johnson opens the schools as soon as possible because I can't wait to see my lovely friends and teachers. I want everything to go back to normal. And I don't want to be in lockdown ever again.

Yours Sincerely

Arion



Day: 2

## WRITING A LETTER

Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

Dear Horace,

It has been an strange  
time in lockdown life is  
different than before It's  
been more quieter and calmer.  
During Lock down it is  
Sad to Stay at home.

In lockdown in the neigh-  
bourhood I saw LOT'S of rain-  
bows for NHS. I even saw  
people going shopping with  
their family. It was nice to  
see every one being happy  
I even have to take books  
from school and I read them  
at home. I even like to watch  
tv in lockdown. At Parks  
It's so nice and peaceful.  
I even saw some picture  
on my street

Horace Wells

Business, 10 years

in 1880s

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June

Dear Horace,

What a horrible time it has been in lockdown! Life is so much plainer and boring. The birds have been very loud than usual.

During lockdown I have seen such kind things going on like you people some good. My family have also raised money for charity. People also can get the NHS on their day's service. It is so good that people are donating blood for the NHS.

Another thing is people have been doing is keeping the roads. The roads are so quiet and the park. I can hear more helicopters than planes in the sky. People are also using more bikes than cars. People are working from home which makes it calmer.

It is very dull being at home all day. It is so hard going out because you do not know what will happen. You can't see many people.



It is really nice that people are giving  
other people good, and the kindest around.

Best wishes

Amyan

Dear Horace,

Tuesday 23/06/20

During lockdown I have been very bored lately got I am forbidden to go outside and have fun like I used to. I just wish I could go out but who knows what danger lies there.

In lockdown I feel bored and upset and I'm pretty sure other people feel that too. The sick community delivers good to those who are unable to get good themselves.

Outside I noticed only a little amount of cars. (2) Due to the virus shops, restaurants etc, has been closed because of the very high risk.

The world around me went from busy to non-busy. Shops closing, no cars, no people walking outside, we're only allowed in our back gardens.

Overall I feel mostly bored during lockdown and sad for the community.

By Ashbit Y3  
[Age 8]



Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June

Dear Horace

Lockdown, it feels like such a normal word, now that we've been in it for nearly three whole months! Life is way more quieter - but the days seem to go and come much faster than usual - I always seem to keep myself occupied.

Whilst in lockdown I have noticed so many things that have made me smile and appreciate my local community. I have seen my caring neighbours bake cakes and give them to anyone who has a birthday during lockdown, others picking up rubbish and just friendliness in general.

Walking down the street I have seen many new places I never came to realise before - such as new open spaces or brand new shops. The natural world has really changed as well - everything has bloomed, sprouted and blossomed. All animals seem to shimmer and I even spotted a gold and green beetle!

There have also been no planes in the sky, or cars in the street for about, well, just a long time really. The only noise you hear nowadays is the birds in the sky, chirping peacefully. And even then there not as loud as aeroplanes. After lockdown, I'm going to open my eyes up more and take some time to just focus on nature.

Best Wishes,

Asia

Horace Walpole

Strawberry Hill House

Twickenham

Dear Horace,

I am delighted to tell you that due to this consequential virus called Coronavirus, the natural world has grown much to my liking.

The birds are louder the airplanes quieter. Nature is starting to buzz start to wake up after a long hibernation, while pollution, airplanes and cars start to fall asleep.

A few days ago me and my family went out we went to a place called the woodland gardens it is a lovely place and perfect if you like a quiet, calm stroll. There's a river there and I tend to find myself there gazing into the water. All the gishes were swimming under, occasionally popping their heads up to see what's happening.



The Sight of an airplane can help you to remember that they even exist. With all the pollution being less you can even feel the difference in the air when you breathe!

I hope you enjoyed hearing from me.

yours sincerely,

Love

To Sir Horace Walpole  
Storbury Hill House  
Twickenham

Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill house  
Twickenham.

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June.

Dear Horace,  
During lockdown I felt really bored because there was no one to play with me instead of my brother which got a bit boring. I really want to go to school so I can meet my friends again. Everything just got louder and louder even the cars when they move.

The world has become a different place since lockdown started, people are starting to help other people who need our help in these dangerous moments. Also I have noticed that people are giving good to the good banks so poor people can get good and live a happier life. I have seen neighbours trying to do something to help their neighbours feel better but some neighbours aren't trying because not everyone has the same personality.

Another thing I have noticed is that the birds got louder and louder I think this is because everyone is inside. I really want this world to become the same as it was before but it is not going to be easy. As well as this I really want to say that homelearning is not the same as you learn at school.



because you can get more knowledge  
from school.

The most difficult thing to  
hear is the tragic because there  
are not many cars at the  
moment but I know there will  
be soon. Finally I want to say  
that there is so much that I  
haven't seen in lockdown for a  
long time.

After lockdown I have lots of  
planes to go to other countries  
and learn more. I wish lockdown  
is over.

Best wishes  
From Ayan.

Dear M<sup>r</sup>: Walpole

I cannot express to

Mr. & M<sup>r</sup>: Conway; hearing from you

in your last letter with many

making; it appears very strange to

on the 20<sup>th</sup> or even on the 23. We sh

gress, or Retreat, as I shou'd ima

liberation, without they had chang

What I dread is, that the Minestr

B



Horace Wapole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

1st July 2020

Dear Horace.

For a hundred years we have not seen a virus as bad as this. It has been ripping across the world. Boris Johnson, our prime minister has led us through this pandemic.

Leaving school in March I could never have possibly imagined that it would be almost 6 months until I would be back again. Seeing my friends walk away down the street, it struck me that I might not see them for a long time. How long would it be? Driving back with my mum, I felt a strange longing for everyday life. We were all worried about an unknown virus and how it would affect us. I knew it was serious when I stopped getting the bus to school but I couldn't have imagined the time ahead. Early on in lockdown, the queen made an encouraging speech, urging us to stay at home, she praised our amazing key workers who were working tirelessly to keep our country safe.

Outside, everything changed. Less cars. Less planes. It was very quiet. The juxtaposition of tranquility amongst emergency was breathtaking. The world has stopped. Empty busses patrol the streets, their seats vacant. When exercising, it was safer to run on the road



than on the pavement. More people are out now, walking, cycling, enjoying nature more.

Our Daily routine has changed. I now wake up at eight instead of six. Now we are stuck at home, our family has meals together 3 times a day. Our house is very busy, three different calls, on three different floors! Mo and my sister are doing online school using platforms like Microsoft Teams and Zoom. We had to do our end of year exams online. It was really strange doing my first exams on different platforms. Every Thursday night, the community comes together and claps for our carers. It's moving to see the whole street appreciating all the key workers; it's strange the sense of coming together while being so far apart. Online shopping is the norm now, normal shops were empty and had queues extending around the corner. I first saw these astonishing when we drove past our local shop. Every day at 5 o'clock the government put deadly statistics into the news. Nestled in the middle of this lovely disaster was VE day, a day we were meant to be celebrating. The celebrations were muted though however, it felt like breath of fresh air during the pandemic.

When we saw our grand parents for the first time the ecstatic elation was overwhelming. I had to resist the overpowering urge to hug them. Now the government have eased the restrictions and we are allowed to see people it seems like we are stuck in a macabre purgatory where we can't go to the next stage. We get fleeting glimpses of reality, always with the threat that the freedom will be short lived. For now we will take whatever liberties we can. Yours Sincerely  
1300



Dear Horace,

I want to tell you about a virus called: coronavirus / covid 19. It is a crisis like the Black Death. It has caused changes in our lives ~~and~~ and our communities. People are being kinder and more helpful to each other. A few days ago I saw one neighbour ~~meeting~~ another neighbour's glowers. We've also done clapping for carers, this means that we go outside every Thursday at 8 PM and we clap for all of the people who are looking after people who have covid 19.

In our family we've stayed at home to keep other people and families <sup>is</sup> safe. We have also been facetimeing our nanna and grandpa because we ~~are~~ aren't allowed to see them any more. We have also done some fun things like drawing on our front patio with ~~magic~~ chalk to make it nice and colourful, bright and cheerful for passers by.

There have been other changes too. I have heard the birds tweeting in morning because there less cars about, and <sup>are</sup> ~~no~~ planes ~~and~~ and people. I hope this all finishes soon.

Beatrix age 8



Strawberry Hill House

Tulickentham

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Horace,

This year a virus has come and we've had to hide at home! While we've been hiding, I've been doing kind things for others. For example: Our road has set up a food bank collection for families who don't have enough to eat. I've also been writing to my Great Granny who is 86 and lives in a care home. We visited her recently and talked to her through a window in the care home. She was very happy to see us!

One of my friends had a birthday so she delivered cupcakes and me, her and lots of my other friends ate them together using Zoom. Zoom is an online communication app to see your friends via computer or iPad.



Luckily things have started going a bit back to normal so i've been able to have walks with my friends. I even went to a shop called Waterstones today, you would've loved it because it is full of books!

I hope you are doing well!  
from Bella (age 10)

Dear Horace

We have been in Lockdown as well  
had the most awful virus called covid  
many people have died.

We can go out Saturday & Sunday  
but must keep a 2 metres away from  
others. On our walks I have noticed  
many rainbows and the birds  
in peoples windows in support  
of all key workers.

Many people are like finding  
jogging and walking.

I have heard more birds.

Singing me about Robin, a

Redpoll and a Goldfinch. I went

to the park and saw a lot of birds.

Been watching them & I can't stop

it's amazing I cannot wait for

things to get back to normal.

Every one still says be kind

to each other.

Best wishes  
Ben (Aug 21)



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

30.06.20

Dear Horaces,

Don't you think it is strange? How out of something so terrible, the world emerges a better place? I walked my dog last week, ~~walking~~ down the streets, I had never seen so many warm smiles greet me on the street, so many generous gifts overflowing at the local food bank. I even saw a young boy helping a lady cross the street! A cliché I know, but it happened!

Before the pandemic, it felt as if everyone was fighting for themselves. They didn't need to acknowledge, help, or even care about others around them. But now, from the tragedy of Corona virus, we have learned to pull together, rely on each other, and help each other.

However, it is not only the people that are happier, it is also the earth. At my local park, it had never been so peaceful, so quiet and yet so loud with sounds of the birds and the rustling of the trees, as calm winds flowed through them. I had never seen the sky so ~~clear~~ clear and blue, and the sun so bright, the grass so green, the flowers so colourful. I had never enjoyed a walk as much as I did.

Ben



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

Tuesday the 30<sup>th</sup> of June

Dear Horace,

I am writing to you to tell you about how certain objects have become a lot more significant to me, while others have lost a lot of their significance. For example, I had not used my bike for around a year before lockdown, but now I am using it regularly. Furthermore, the rise of the bike seems to be universal, a local bike shop that at one point had relatively few customers now has people crowded around it. Another object that has seen its usage surge is the tennis racket, as in lockdown, I now have the opportunity to play a lot more tennis. Along with the bike, the usage of the tennis racket seems to have rocketed for everyone else - before you usually had all the tennis courts to yourself, but now it is very difficult to find a free court. Whilst some objects have seen their usage soar others have now lost a lot of their value. For example, the usage of the football has slumped due to lockdown restrictions because it requires many people to play a game of football. Anyway, what objects around the house have you seen the significance of change drastically?

Yours faithfully,

Ben



Strawbery Hill House  
Twickenham

17/6/20

Dear Horace,

Firstly I would like to say well done on your book, The Castle of Otranto. It is a very fine book indeed. I would have come to congratulate you myself but for obvious reasons I can't.

I am writting to you to ask if you have been affected by this pandemic. I hope it's not just me missing everything possibly to miss. Have you noticed all the brilliant rainbows in people's windows? I think they're spectacular! In my opinion it is horribly hard for the children across the planet to work from home. I'd much rather it if they were back at school and all happy again.

Well, I hope you are well and not affected by Covid-19. I will be most delighted to be able to see you as soon as the government allow us to meet up

Yours sincerely,

Benji





Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June

To Miss Rowland

A few weeks ago ended however, my tablet randomly stopped charging so I went outside with my parents. The roads were still silent because it was early in the morning. ~~When we are~~ we ~~are~~ arrived the mail was closed so my dad gave it to our neighbor the only neighbor outside helping wanting to help us.

~~3 days~~ <sup>3 days</sup> before that happened, we rang my dad's mom who has moved to India so we ~~are~~ which now has more cases than England and luckily she was perfectly fine (with my ~~dad's~~ dad). Earlier that day my family went to check if my mum's parents were OK and they were fine. Thinking back to the ~~mor~~ morning we woke up early and drawn rainbows.

4 weeks before my ~~ma~~ mum decided we will have a morning jog and ~~as~~ <sup>asked</sup> I said can I ride my bicycle and when she agreed with me I was delighted. While cycling I realised the birds sang way ~~to~~ louder and there was no airplane in the sky. I ~~it~~ was so quiet I could hear the wind!

I also realised the milk was delivered earlier than I wake up now and one of my neighbors have a new car and I did not ever meet him or know anything about him.

From Bhasir



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June

Dear Horace

For the last three months my smell and I have been in lockdown. It's been a difficult time because I haven't been able to see my friends and family as much as I want to. It's been bad sometimes because everything I loved to do has been put aside. I haven't been able to play football with my friends. However, I've been able to talk to my friends on some time. I've been <sup>going on walks</sup> ~~even~~ <sup>one</sup> every other day with my family and we found a lot of cool graffiti.

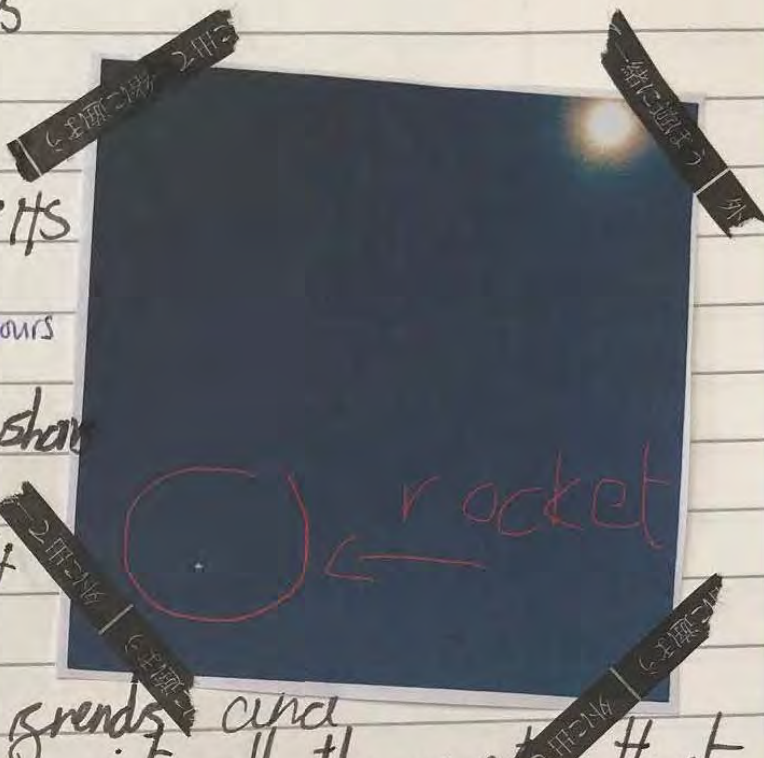


In the evenings we're like a gym in our chimney and talked. ~~we've~~ we've had ~~that~~ <sup>these</sup> blogs once a week with burgers, hot dogs, and halloumi.



on May 30<sup>th</sup> we watched the *Orion* rocket and  
we actually saw the rocket pass  
under the ~~new~~ moon from  
our back garden. Every  
thursday we clapped for the NHS  
~~stags~~ <sup>stags</sup> and waved and  
smiled <sup>neighbours</sup> and my ~~neighbours~~  
our family has made donations  
is good for people in need  
that people that in need ~~but~~  
help. A glen ~~look~~ <sup>work</sup> look-  
down I can't <sup>work</sup> see my friends and  
be in year 6. I appreciate all the people that  
helped us during this ~~time~~ time, like Key-workers and NHS  
stags, ~~but~~ best wishes

Brown, age: 10.





Dear Hoare,

I write to you from the position and the rather uncomfortable position of sharing a name with you but not knowing whether we are indeed related. I suspect I may have ancestors with you but perhaps 'born on the wrong side of the sheets'.

Sitting in my 'modern' 1820s oak framed house, also built sometime in your future, I listen to 'Simplified' on the radio as motor vehicles whizz by. Not just two weeks ago they were digging up the road a few feet from my front door to lay new gas pipe, bulky yellow polypropylene to replace the archaic iron.

The sounds of the hammer drills and diggers threatened to hamper my novel writing endeavours as I completed 'Alone Among Equals' in record time of two months. Some seventy thousands words in total it is a kind of science fiction set in Hong Kong.

I've sent the manuscript to various London literary agents but fear like you I may have to self-publish. Could you recommend the model, make and manufacturer of the printing press you currently use?

Yours sincerely, an aspiring author,

Brett W.



Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June

Dear Horace,

How are you doing during ~~lock down~~ lockdown? For the past few months, I have actually enjoyed my time however I have had a few mixed emotions as I have never experience this before. As weeks passed, I found ~~that~~ that most of my days are shorter as I ~~kept~~ keep my self busy with by doing actively activities with my family.

For a few weeks, I have noticed that people are helping others shopping also picking up medication for other people. Furthermore more people are giving more money to charity as well as donating good to a good bank. Also some Thursdays at 8 pm lots of people ~~calap~~ clap for key workers. As you all ready know, people are putting up posters up on there windows, draw on the floor with chalk, and giving it to support every-one. During quarantine, I have ~~noticed that there is more~~

During quarantine, I have noticed that there is more ~~green~~ flowers and plants in parks this is because there is less pollution. Time by time, I also noticed



that there is less aeroplanes because less people want to go out the country, and they are one to lock-down. ~~As I was going to get fresh~~ <sup>going</sup> ~~some fresh air~~ As I was in the car coming back from shopping I saw a golf course 10 minutes away from my house. Surprisingly there are less cars going around and it has been a sunny day.

Globally there has been many changes that the governments has made. Also charity has been set up to help those with the virus. On the ~~the news~~ BBC News people ~~have not notice~~ it has stated that at least 130,000 people have died during the pandemic. Around the world, there has been 8.3m cases so far.

~~After the lock down~~ With all this pandemic going on I feel proud of my community.

Best wishes

Briana



Dear M<sup>r</sup> Walpole

I cannot express to

Mr & M<sup>r</sup> Conway; hearing from you

in your last filled me with many

making; it appears very strange to

on the 20<sup>th</sup> or even on the 23. We sh

gress, or Retreat, as I shou'd ima

liberation, without they had chang

What I dread is, that the Minestr



Dear Horace,

My name is caln coleman.  
I am writing to you in regards to  
The current situation of lockdown in  
the united kingdom i done some research  
on you, and i found out that you  
are the king of writing letters in fact  
you started at the age of 7 years old.  
I think its amazing that you have written  
over seven thousand letters in your life  
time that is ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> inspirational.

The whole world have never experienced  
something like this in mine or my  
Parents lifetime.

During this world pandemic whole  
communities have had to come together  
to help one a other.

I helped my neibourish children by  
leaving some of my books at a local  
book swap. I really hope that they went to  
some children who enjoyed them whilst  
bookshops are closed.

Another thing i done was help my Mum  
Deliver some food to The elderly people who



Time close by.

I really miss my friends and family  
I miss playing out and going to  
School, but I know that things  
will get better soon.

During we have all spent at home I have learnt some  
new things such as fishing in the river, I  
caught lots of different fish, a frog, and some  
tad poles.

I even got some garden snails, made them a  
habitat filled with soil, silt, leaves.  
I have enjoyed baking, doing art, and  
helping with chores around the  
house.

I am happy that this has <sup>taught</sup> people around the  
world to take care of and appreciate  
each other.

yours faithfully

cain




Dear Morice

During lock down I have have  
One of my neighbours some  
cake and stored to have a ch  
I've ~~to~~ cheered in on some of  
my very nice neighbours to  
I also took some food to  
the food bank

I have really got to know my  
Community better

From Caitlin Age 8

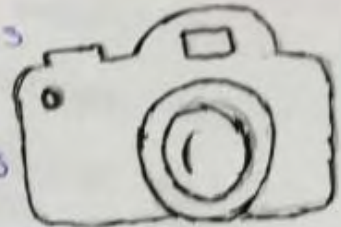




To Horace,

During lockdown, the community has come together, to help the vulnerable with shopping, and taking the bins out. This simple gesture, can simply put a smile on someones face.

The environment, is becoming less polluted, due to lack of aeroplanes, buses, and trains. This is causing there to be less clouds, and safer roads.



An observation I have made, is that globally people are exercising and decreasing the percentage of obesity. Another thing I have noticed is that, people are appreciating each other more, and the people in jeopardy keeping in touch with family friends.

NHS

Yours sincerely,

Cara, 12





Dear Mr Walpole

These are indeed troubled times and how strange are the accidents of life. My visits to your famous 'little castle' have been curtailed by a strange and deadly phenomenon called a coronavirus. Like the much-feared plague it is powerful but completely invisible.

Do you recall how in 1743, ships coming from the Mediterranean were quarantined for 14 days? Now voyagers returning from Spain must face the same restrictions. I remember you described how you trembled with fear that the plague might spread here. Your unease has proved to be justified.

Until recently we were confined to the four walls of our abodes and for a while could only venture forth to partake of a little air or to purchase comestibles. I hear that you are eating a great deal of fruit and drinking peppermint water. My dear sir, do you really believe that these remedies will prove efficacious?

You once wrote about the devils overrunning the earth headlong but let us remember and celebrate the kindness of our fellow beings and, in particular the bravery of our physicians, apothecaries and surgeons.

One day this will end and, in the meantime, yours most sincerely...



June 2020

Dear Mr Walpole

Now that this endless lockdown is easing even for over 70s like me, I can take stock of the experience.

As I live on my own, for ten or so weeks face to face encounters with people in the flesh have been limited to chats with neighbours at a suitable distance in the open air. Otherwise it's been telephone or Zoom. Telephone calls go on for a bit. There is no reason to ring off except to open the door to take delivery of vegetables from Pale Green Pot or recipe ingredients from the Mindful Chef or equipment for on line yoga classes. With Zoom you only see the top half of family, friends and lecturers, so you speculate about the clothing of the bottom half. My yoga teacher can still correct my poses at a distance!

The silence in and around the streets has been wonderful - no noise from aeroplanes taking off <sup>from</sup> and landing at Heathrow, no traffic rumbling along the South Circular Road - and of course the clear and clean air. It has been bliss to have as the only noise bird song, children's



voices as they play outside and the swish of bikes. I cannot identify which bird is singing but the chorus of sound is glorious, joyful and calming in equal measure. My daily walks have been enriched by witnessing in great details the glories of the English spring and in glorious weather too. It is a magical time of year. Highlights were: trees bursting into leaf, particularly venerable copper beeches in Old Mortlake Burial Ground and East Sheen Cemetery; a feast of cherry blossom along Gilpin Avenue; carpets of bluebells in the wood on Palawell Common.

Nature has not stopped for Covid-19. In my small garden the herb seeds I planted in tubs have germinated and soon I hope to eat the produce. Much less welcome has been to see slugs and snails chomping their way through the plants I try to grow. You can't win them all.

Was the ~~etc~~ lockdown fun? Not really, though it was impressive the way local coffee shops transformed themselves into grocers and greengrocers. It was good to get to know many more neighbours. But I want to see my family and friends, go to cultural events and eat someone else's cooking! So now Strawberry Hill House needs to reopen soon.

In gratitude  
Catherine



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

02/07/2020

Dear Horace,

Recently my grandpa has fallen ill with Covid-19. He had to go to hospital and he even had to stay in the ICU for around a week. Because of this a lot of people have been really supportive, because we live in the same community it has been really easy to help my grandparents but if we weren't in the same community it would have still been fine because I have noticed that all of the people in my community have been really supportive and have constantly asked if they can do anything to help.

An example of other people's kindness is when they bring food to my grandparents when they were isolating. They couldn't leave the house because they had Covid-19 and they were at risk. People have also started a book swap community. People leave books on the walls outside their house, people take books when they want and then leave them. This lets people read new books and it brings us together as a community.

Yours Sincerely,  
Charlie.



In Twickenham, early 1700s Horace Walpole had an amazing idea. he wanted to build the most ~~extre~~extraordinary home on earth. So he set off to work.

Planning and building for months until it was finally finished. The Strawberry hill house - Horace was born on the 24<sup>th</sup> of September 1717 and passed away on March 2<sup>nd</sup> 1797. The house is open to any body from two PM and four-thirty PM.



Buckinghamshire 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2020

Dear Horace

Well you would not believe what a strange year 2020 has turned out to be. A new deadly disease has crossed our shores, at present there is no cure and we had to spend the Spring in isolation, locked up in our houses.

The weather fortuitously turned out to be glorious. In April we did not have showers and the skies were wonderfully blue. This may have been because there were very few polluting motor cars on the road or aeroplanes in our skies (both modern conveniences that you will not have encountered).

The month of May was extremely dry and everyone was able to make use of their gardens and our public parks. Many people, unlike yourself, had not been gardeners previously and their eyes were suddenly opened to the joys of this pastime.

We have all been encouraged to partake of a daily constitutional, this was made more pleasant by the absence of vehicles. The populace started to appreciate the delights of nature, as they now have more time on their hands, and life has slowed to an easier pace. Wildflowers, birds, butterflies and insects were all topics of conversation.

There is no doubt that this experience has done us all good. We will never be able to return the country to how it was in the eighteenth century. However we must all make more effort to look after our environment and ensure it is still there for future generations to enjoy.

With very kindest regards Claire



Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Hagrid

How quite it is outside I've never been on  
lockdown before everything is a lot quieter Not  
the Bird there loud Don't Relly Notice  
them before

In lockdown I've noticed so much  
that makes me feel good my Neighbours  
Helping each other lots of Rainbows and  
Bloss in the window I miss my family that  
I can't see but I'm more excited to see them after  
lockdown I miss my family and friends

After lockdown I can't wait to see the world again  
I miss more when every thing is not  
so busy I think I will appreciate the natural  
things in life things I've never valued  
before

Best wishes  
Connor



# Letter to Horace

18<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Horace Walpole,

I'm Coralie and I live in Twickenham<sup>and</sup> I am seven.  
I am writing to you to tell you how Covid 19 is going.  
I've been noticing many shops have been closed and I have  
seen loads of rainbows in the windows. People have also  
been donating food and supplies to people who are old  
or have lost their jobs and we have all been saying hi  
when people walk past ~~are~~<sup>our</sup> houses. Now this makes me feel  
happy. It makes me feel unlonely <sup>that</sup> all me and my friends  
are together. But we would still like to have play ~~dates~~  
and not have to social distance all the time. I've noticed  
way more birds in our garden and we are going out a lot  
more often. ~~I have~~  
I have seen lots of cyclists. And the up side of it is that  
you get to spend more time with your family.

From Coralie - Twickenham! xxx♥



Dear M<sup>r</sup>: Walpole

I cannot express to

Mr. & M<sup>r</sup>: Conway; hearing from you

in your last told me with many

making; it appears very strange to

on the 20:<sup>th</sup> or even on the 23. We sh

gress, or Retreat, as I shou'd ima

liberation, without they had chang

What I dread is, that the Minestr



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

Wednesday 17th June 2020

Dear Horace Walpole,

I hope you are well, but nobody really is that well at the moment. As you probably know, there is a virus around called coronavirus. I recently just found out that corona is a type of beer and many other things. But anyway, we are all in lockdown and have to stay at home.

I can go out sometimes. Like when I go on socially distanced walks with my friends, and going to the supermarket with my mum. But other than that, my family and I just stay in our house, like animals in a zoo. The zoo is open now I think. But I'm probably not going to go. Everything is very odd at the moment.

I don't know if I should social distance or not.

I see some people wearing masks.

Some people wearing gloves.

Some people social social distancing.

And some people hugging and touching.

And it is hard to social distance sometimes, in a crowded place, or walking on a thin pavement with other people. And the government certainly don't know what to do. This whole thing is basically falling apart. And I'm just sitting here in my kitchen

wondering what to do next. But really no one knows what to do next. Because no one knows what's going to happen next. No one knew this was coming. They say they have a plan. What's the plan? Dunno! This whole thing is out the window. But I'm still mostly staying happy. And I do believe this will be over. I'll see my friends, my family, my teachers, my classmates. Because as her majesty the Queen said: we will meet again.

Sincerely Yours,

Daisy,



strawberry hill house  
+ wickham

Dear Horace

I never knew what lockdown was and never experienced it one before even my family, friends and neighbours never had a lockdown in their life. I was very excited as I had no school and I was very happy because it gave me lots of free time to spend in my garden with my neighbours and I learnt how to play violin and do difficult puzzles.

I saw lots of houses with rainbows and pictures in the windows for the NHS and it made my <sup>heart</sup> look cheerful. My uncle did the shopping and got medicine for his old neighbours. My mum was doing shopping for my gran parents when they could not go out.

When I went outside I had notice it was alot quieter and I could hear the beautiful birds singing. I felt the air was clearer to breathe. There were not so many cars or buses on the road which made everything peaceful.

The world around me is so surreal and caring. This city is starting to look like a ghost town because shops, schools, church and the air port are close. Some times the opposite house sight on the road. I been seeing green parrots on the trees lately.

I live in the best community with much wonderful support with my teachers, neighbours and family.

Best wishes from

Daksh



Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Horace,

In lockdown, I have felt really bored and depressed since schools closed but you can still see ~~mom~~ and do many things inbetween these hard times.

Lately, I've seen people chatting to each other and wearing masks. Also, they have been clapping for carers on every Thursday and keeping distance. We have made posters for the NHS to stick on our window and looked after a baby sparrow. A rather thing we done, is helping my nan with shopping and played games on the phone with grandad everyday.

Around the environment, birds were chirping loudly as the trees rustled through the wind. Less traveling was made during this time and fewer people were outside as we want to be safe at home even though we can.

As the world spins round, the big lines were made in shops with a 2 metre



distance at all times. Parks were making rules everywhere and games were even closed. At the minute, most people are exercising outside or doing a indoor workout with 5 or 6 weeks.

I think our community is quite safe at the moment.

From Daniel Age: 10



Peace Village  
Shawbury Hill House  
Twickenham  
12th June 2020

Dear Mr Watson,

During lockdown I have noticed that loads of people are helping neighbours and relatives like me and my mum Moriah have be helping my next neighbour with the shopping because she's 97 and can't do anything she called 'pat'. Also I've been helping my aunt Gill ~~the~~ with the shopping as well and helping my next door neighbour Lisa walk the dog.

When I go for walks I see more dog walkers and dogs. I hear a loads and loads of birds and more plants and trees growing in places that I always see. more cats in the streets since were off school and homelearning and people can't go out so the cats are out and about. No more traffic and pollution and litter in the sea.

I've noticed that being at home I've had lots of time to draw and paint than being on electronics the whole time I've also had more time to rest. Also having more movies with my family and listening codies and Rupa Kalia. I read more than usual. And my family have come together.

Kind regards,

Danielle (age 10)



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

26<sup>th</sup> October 1765

Dear Horace,

I hope you are doing well back at your wonderful mansion back in Strawberry Hill. I wonder how you are doing with your very impressive letters and I can't wait till I might get to receive a reply! Your letters are always wonderful!

Last year I finished reading your latest book "The Castle of Otranto". It was a very exciting novel by the way I liked every word of it!

Last time I visited your house, I admired your beautiful old roses. I also have some big bright coloured tulips growing in my garden too as well as the lovely smell of my sweet peas that are currently climbing up my gate.

I bumped into your wonderful friend Thomas Gray the other day and he told me an exciting secret about a person called Lord Gorrife! So next time I see you I might tell you in case someone else might get their hands on this letter!

Your loyal and humble friend, Dashiell Aged 10  
EARL OF TIEPPINGTON



Horace Walpole  
Warburton road house  
Twickenham

Dear Tuesday 17th June.

Dear Tom

What a strange time this has been I have never experienced anything like a lockdown before. Life is so much slower and quieter, Except for the street, shop and world. Everything stopped in place. This is the time we spend in our home. Spend time together with mum and dad. I can stay in my room for months reading books watch my classes online, I would have happy life in my room. But the last few weeks have completely changed my perception. Having so much time to myself has naturally led me down the decide road of introspection. I miss my class teacher and friends. Lots of reading my english, I hope everything isn't coming back and we back like before! After lockdown I really must open my eyes and appreciate the things around me because there is fantastic local and there full of supportive neighbours gardens and wondrous nature



Horace Widdale  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

Tuesday 23rd June

Dear Horace,

I'm feeling good in the lockdown.  
Because I can spend more time with  
my family.

Kids draw a rainbow picture  
and hang on windows. So they don't  
feel alone. I drew a NHS flag  
and attached it to the window.  
THANK YOU NHS

Parks closed and sometimes the  
street is very quiet. I learned that  
our neighbor has a cat. It is  
very cute.

I understand the importance of  
the local community. Because everyone  
is trying to help each other.

Best wishes

DEMIR ZAT

(Age: 7)



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June

Dear Horace,

During the time of the lockdown, it has been quite a challenge to adjust with this new way of life. That said, I happen to be enjoying a few positives; sometime to spend with family, extra time to pursue hobbies and a bit of prolonged time in bed, to mention a few.

As time has gone by, I have developed a few skills in the lockdown, such as being kind and helpful to those in need, the importance of hygiene and the power of a community standing together can be of much help. However, the lockdown does have a small effect in mood occasionally. Furthermore, we have been able to find time for family exercise, for instance family bike rides to the park, family walks in the sun and a bit of yoga with my yoga expert - my mum.

In addition, a huge positive is that nature is reclaiming its rightful place. Animals seem to have felt less intimidated as our presence has dropped due to the lockdown. Everything is different; however, it is so



relaxing and peaceful to sit in the garden and listen to the gentle ~~but~~ buzzing of the busy bees ~~add~~ and the joyous birds tweeting their melodious tune.

I am quite excited to go back to school and reunite with my teachers and classmates.

Best wishes

Dhruvi



Thursday 25th June 2020

Dear Horace:

My lockdown has been very boring because I can't go to school and I can't go to the places that I want to go. Such as going to the playground because it has been closed. The lockdown has also made me feel sad because I can't see my friends and family.

\* During lockdown I've noticed that my neighbours <sup>are</sup> always helping each other out by helping old people to get their shopping because they are more vulnerable to the coronavirus. Our <sup>community</sup> has come together when we went outside to clap for every Thursday to show our support for the workers for the NHS.

During lockdown I've been walking every day with my family in the massive Park we have ~~discovered~~ discovered which is full of beautiful nature and lots of wildlife like Snakes & <sup>reptiles</sup> ~~lizards~~ and Squirrels and birds that <sup>sing</sup> lovely songs which we never realised before.

When we are out of lockdown I am going to try and appreciate the nature and the world that is around me because it is very important to me now. Also I'm going to see my friends and family and spend time with them because I miss them.

From Diana



Tuesday 25th June

Dear HOME,

What a boring time I hate it in  
this time it's so boring during lockdown  
- everything is changing  
I always go shopping and it was my  
vitamin I had the ~~best~~ best day  
ever I have realised life is much  
more important than any thing  
after lockdown, I really never opens  
my eyes more and appreciate the  
things around me

Divine  
(Age 9)



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

Friday 19th June

Dear Horace,

Lockdown has changed this year completely! Anyone with plans to go on holiday this summer had to cancel because of COVID-19. I hope you are safe and well. In spite of the things above, I have noticed how the community has changed. People are driving less so there is less pollution and traffic. Instead of causing mayhem on the roads, people are actually taking their children for bike-rides and walks (like my dad and I). Strangely, the birds have gotten even louder or maybe I just never noticed them. During my walks I have seen so many things which make me feel happy: there are pictures of rainbows all around me and strangers and passers-by are always ready with a smile! Everyone has become so much friendlier: people are stopping to chat in the streets and neighbours are helping each other with the shopping. We donated food to a food bank at my brother's school! I have never done that before. When we go out, we all have to wear masks and gloves - especially if we are going to do shopping. Every Thursday, I and my family stand outside and clap for the NHS! Since I can't see



my school friends nor out-of-school friends, I made a bond between me and neighbour's son.

I was able to do this because our fence had been taken off and the new one had been delayed so I was able to walk into their garden and play with him.

The boy's name is Alex and he is  $3\frac{1}{2}$ . He also came into my garden and jumped on my trampoline.

Maybe lockdown is a blessing in disguise!

Kind Regards

Diya



22.06.20 Dear Mr Walpole

I walk around the park some times our  
every day and I all ways see this 2 peopl  
helping a Atistic person they or the cares for him  
and I think they are very kind.

I Am all ways hearing cars and motorbikes  
but now it is like a 1/2 cause I hear enye  
And plains I cant here them much as wall.

Me And my brother dint really get along but now  
we do because we now we kind of have  
the same sigal And we like BasketBall  
and Show.

From Dm (age 11)



Hot air wave Pella  
Stunk berry hill house  
Twickinew

Dear Harkness

I hope you are well

The past year has been very difficult because of the coronavirus. This means I haven't been able to see my friends and other people so it has been very hard.

Every Thursday night everyone goes in their front garden to chat for an hour and it's made us feel better.

When I go to Bushy Park I can hear more animal noises than anywhere else because people's lights are delayed or closed. I make me feel good because when you are on a really long walk it is very peaceful and quiet and it is nice to hear animal noises you don't normally hear.

I also have to spend more time when my family I am leaving lots of new board games like chess and draughts. I am bringing spending time with my family.

Yours family

Oliver

(1 hour old)



Dear M<sup>r</sup> Walpole

I cannot express to

Mr & M<sup>r</sup> Conway; hearing from you

in your last letter with many

making; it appears very strange to

on the 20<sup>th</sup> or even on the 23. We sh

gress, or Retreat, as I shou'd ima

liberation, without they had chang

What I dread is, that the Minestr



Tuesday 23rd June 2020

Dear Horace,

The lockdown has been very strange for me as I haven't been in one before. I have been bored being confined in my house and I have missed seeing my friends and grandparents. I have enjoyed the extra time at home with my family and more leisure time.

During lockdown I have been clapping at 8pm for the keyworkers and chatting to my nippers. We have been shopping for my grandparents and I have got mountain gummy Nuts. We even decorated the house for V-E day. I have been drawing <sup>much</sup> more and making awesome pictures.

I have been walking my dog more and getting lots of fresh air, we have found new areas to explore and I have heard the birds singing more because it has been so quiet without cars and planes. I have also smelt more B B Q's and hot baguettes. After lockdown I will continue to explore my local community.

Best wishes  
Edward (age 7)



Dear H otake,

During lockdown I felt bored because I had nowhere to play with outside but the weather was not so great. In lockdown I have

In lockdown I have noticed many heart warming things such as: Clapping to the key workers at 8:00pm with the community. As a community we help keeping a safe distance from each other. Also when we go out we all take masks and gloves so we don't get infected.

A other thing I noticed is how the season has changed spring to summer very quickly. I realised I saw BBQ's in the garden. My mum and the community bought ice cream from the ice cream truck. There has also been more people having fun outside in the sun. Finally the most fascinating thing during this lockdown is that they have not cut the grass as often as it was before.

Also what I have realised the queues in the shop are longer and the time of the shop when it opens and closes has changed.

Our community has worked together during this hard time in lockdown and I am so grateful.

Best wishes Edy



Horace walpole  
Strawberry hill house  
Twickenham

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2020

'Dear Horace,'

Hope you are well. I am well today. I want to tell you somebody has been really kind to me. As well as I have been kind to them in return.

My friend knew it was my birthday coming up so she gave me a card and present I found that a surprise. She also checked on me even though we lived far from each other. She checked on me by writing letters to me. In return I made a plate for her and wrote a letter in return.

Secondly, during this difficult time I have been worrying about my neighbours so I sent some letters to them and gave my friend some banana bread to eat. I hope you are staying well too. So the weather is nice and I have been enjoying it. Another act of kindness was when we were going to the park I didn't really want to go so I didn't make any complaints I just went and had fun...

From Elizabeth



Tuesday 16th June 2020

Dear Horace Walpole,

It has been an unusual but very interesting and exciting few months for me in Lockdown! It feels as if life has slowed down so much for me and my family as we are all off at home.

As the months passed by I have noticed that people are helping each other a lot more than before, for example bringing medications for the elderly, bringing groceries for people who cannot go shopping. Neighbours are checking up on each other more often and lots more. I have also noticed that since Lockdown has started everybody is more connected than ever, especially with all this technology that we have now.

I have been keeping in regular contact with my grandparents, Aunts, uncles and friends by greeting them and we also had a SUPER-FUN Zoom Party for my dad's party with all of my family members from all over



the world, my grandparents from calafornia.  
my cousins from Netherlands and my extended  
family ~~is~~ from Afghanistan.

Furthermore, we have been taking a lot more  
daily walks in the park when I  
noticed there were a lot more animals  
than before!

best wishes,

Ella J



In this letter i will be talking about  
how our community have come together  
during lock down.

During the this <sup>tough</sup> ~~hard~~ time, even is it was boring everyone  
Stayed in as best as they could. Also not being to see there  
family and friends. Although people have gotten closer to  
people in there house.

Over Thursday our country would come together and Clap for  
NHS. This showed that loads of people cared ~~at~~ and brought  
the country together. When we clap we talk but 2 meters away. Some  
times we have to are neighbors to say hi.

In conclusion this lock down may have been tough at times  
but has brought our country together.



I hope you are having a wonderful time and are enjoy this lovely weather through the past weeks. I am here to talk to you about the acts of kindness going on during this period. First an a hundred year old man walked 100 laps of his garden to raise money for the NHS and he raised more than a million pounds. Second of all the nation has been putting up rainbows in their windows to make people happy. Third my road has been putting up happy birthday signs when it is someones birthday.

I am also here to talk to you about the hobbies some people have grown into. My brother Albie has grown into drawing and playing family games and I bet even you have maybe got a new hobby. Some people are missing their friends and seeing their family more often. The only bad thing about coronavirus is we can't see anyone who do not live with us and we can't go out as often.

It has been very nice to send this letter to you.

Yours Sincerely

Ella

age 10



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry hill house  
Twickenham

17<sup>th</sup>.6.2020

Dear Horace,

I would like to see you in person but because of Covid-19 I have to stay indoors so this is the best way I can talk to you.

I usually would gacetime my friends and play Roblox - if you even know what that stuff is - Roblox is a really fun virtual game on a computer and gacetime is a way you can see each other and talk online; you should try it one day. One of the other games that I think you should try is minecraft. It's also another virtual game, where you can destroy and create worlds at the same time. If you're lucky you can find villages and witches huts, but if you're unlucky you might find a zombie layer.



well I hope to hear from you very soon

yours Sincerley

Ellie age 9 (almost 10)



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June

Dear Horace,

It was really annoying in lockdown because I never went through this. The first day it started I was already lonely. This is the worst time to do a lockdown in the middle of Spring!

During not happy times I was glad to see many people helping the key workers, elderly and sick people. I was also happy I didn't get the virus when I was walking in the fresh air because we can't survive without it. Every Thursday at 8pm I joined in for clapping our

heroes.

We go to the park a few times and it was not noisy as before. Lots of birds singing nicely, fishes swimming in ponds, ducks walking around the street - it was so amazing!



Horace Wabpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

Tuesday 16 June.

Dear Horace,

Lockdown has been a very uneventful yet sort of fun time. Even though I haven't left the house for goodness knows how long, I have found it quite calming and though a lot quieter.

I haven't left the house so I haven't seen properly but during lockdown I have seen that people have put up rainbows in their windows to support the NHS and all the other keyworkers helping to keep the transport and our lives as normal as possible. People have also helped an elderly person or couple get their food shop to protect them from getting sick. Sometimes friends or family will ~~move~~ mail over ~~a piece of~~ <sup>source</sup> of ~~entertainment~~ ~~entertainment~~ entertainment such as a game or puzzle.

It is amazing how interesting wildlife can be now that we look at the <sup>outside</sup> ~~piece~~ world a bit more. Even looking through the back garden I can see squirrels, robins, parakeets and a lot of pigeons.

Finally, I found that life was so busy I hadn't noticed the little things in life such as the fact my friends have very cute puppies and how important people <sup>such as</sup> ~~are~~ friends <sup>or family</sup> that live even down the road are and how amazing it is to see them.

When lockdown is over, I hope to go out and cherish all the small things I never really paid attention to. Kind regards,  
Emily.



Emily  
age 12



Keyworker

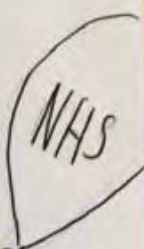
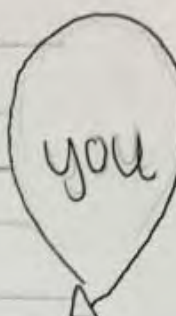
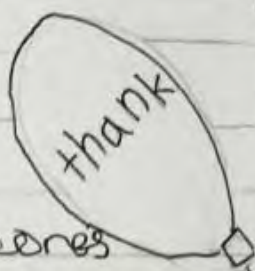
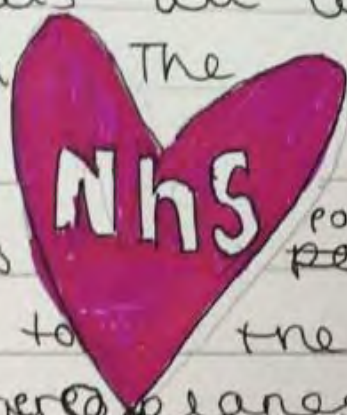
To Horace,

During lockdown, the community has come together to help the vulnerable with shopping and taking the bins out.

The simple gesture, can simply put a smile on someone's face and I think that's all we really need. The environment

is becoming less ~~polluted~~ ~~populated~~ due to the lack of aeroplanes, buses and trains.

This is causing there to be less clouds and safer roads. causing less pollution.



NHS

Yours sincerely,

Emily



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

9<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Horace,

My name is Ethan and I'm seven years old. Yesterday I went to Bughy park with my mum, dad and my baby sister Every. While we were at the park I saw some strange logs and I climbed on them. My favourite one was wobbly like a seesaw. When I was at the park I also saw a really big tree and all around there were logs. After that we decided to go. Then my mummy saw a white deer. I took a photo of it. I hope you like my letter.  
From Ethan



Friday 19th June  
I can write a letter

Dear H. Grace,  
Are you having a good time? I am 7 years old. It is the corona virus so everyone has to stay home most of the time. I have to do school work from home and I know what to do because we get it from google classroom. Now the year is in reception and year 1 has gone to school. Most children are doing rainbows to put on windows for NHS with stars for national health service. I did my rainbow with Lili on face time. My BFF. Sometimes I get my mum get's shopping for my nanny and granddad.

Love Eva.



Hence Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

14th June 2020

Dear Hence,

During Lockdown, I have done many things that I don't usually do because I don't have time with clubs and football. I have really enjoyed riding my bike with daddy to places like Hampton Court and Bushy Park. Last week we even went to your house at Strawberry Hill. I thought it was quite cool. Even though we weren't allowed inside, daddy downloaded an app that showed us all around the different rooms. My favourite room was your bedroom because it had nice walls and the ceiling with golden lines was great. I would love to visit when it is open again. There were so many books in your library too! How did you get so many?

When we were in your garden I heard birds singing and it sounded like they were talking and answering each other. I have noticed that I can hear grasshoppers in my garden which I wouldn't normally

because of the noise of cars and planes. I feel calm thinking about being quiet. I hope you enjoyed living in your house because it is amazing.

Sincerely,

Eva



Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

19<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Horace,

I hope you are well. In lock down I have experienced lots of different acts of kindness, people working together and helpfulness. I've even got my own tips for you.

I feel grateful when my Mum's neighbours give us home made treats since we can't go to the bakery and in return we give them treats that we made.

Also there are alot more weeds on the path so our neighbourhood put together a clean up. It was super weedy before and not so weedy after.

Since there's not much to do during lockdown and it can feel frustrating I thought of some fun things to do and wrote them down in a list. If there are some jobs to do make a list of them too.

Yours faithfully  
Evelyn 18



Dear Horace,

I am writing you this letter to say how much I think the natural environment has improved over the space of lock down. I am a 12 year old girl who really cares about the globe's environment and how much plastic we use, but I must say during this tough time how much petrol we use has gone down by so much. The reason why is because everyone is barely coming out of their house to drive, which means less petrol is being used.

I still think that there are things we could work on but it is more important that you tick the things that are bad for the environment off one by one. During lock down I have seen many changes for the environment, and I know we can do it if we all work together.

Kind Regards

Evie



Dear M<sup>r</sup>: Walpole

I cannot express to

Mr. & M<sup>r</sup>: Conway; hearing from you

in your last letter with many

making; it appears very strange to

on the 20<sup>th</sup> or even on the 23. We shall

graze, or Retreat, as I should ima-

liberation, without they had changed

What I dread is, that the Pinestr



Horace lara  
strawberry hill house  
Twickenham

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June

Dear Horace,

Everything has been different since lockdown started for example started some kids haven't gone to school for almost 3 months and lots of shops and have been closed.

During the lockdown i have noticed people helping their elderly neighbours more also we have been more appreciative of our family as we are ~~spending~~ spending more time together.

Furthermore, we are going on more family walks and we have gone <sup>to</sup> ~~2~~ new parks and when i'm outside i see more people jogging because gyms are closed

~~Finally~~ ~~Finally~~ Finally,  
1. Finally, as lockdown is easing there is more  
cars and people outside because people are feeling  
more confident in going outside.

Best wishes

Faisal



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

24<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Horace,

The past few months have been the most difficult and peculiar that I have had in my life. Back in March nearly everything in the country stopped. As we went into lockdown, most places closed including schools, parks and restaurants because of Covid 19. At first, I was a little excited because it was a new experience but gradually I realise it was going to take a long time. This made me sad because I would be unable to see my friends and family or enjoy sports like football or swimming. Furthermore, my favourite football team, so close to winning



②

the premier league had to stop playing.

Amongst all the bad things there were also some good. The lockdown has shown how kind and generous people can be. E.g., I know that many elderly or unwell people had their shopping done for them, sometimes by people they don't know well. Every Thursday at 5pm people would clap the NHS and key workers. Afterwards we talked to neighbours, many of whom we had rarely talked to before - all at the two metre distance! My brothers and I also donated some money and food to charities which are helping people who are having a worse time than us. All of this showed how wonderful and caring people can be and how supporting each other makes life better for everyone. It helped me to understand the community much better.

We are allowed to

looked more colourful and even, the grass appeared more vibrant. With less pollution, at least the environment was enjoying the lockdown even if we weren't!

For lots of reasons lockdown has been tough but it has also demonstrated how we could be better people if we change our behaviour a little bit. I hope to carry on with some of the changes that I have made to my life,



(5)

especially talking to some of my  
elderly neighbours who may be  
lonely, and appreciating what I  
have but didn't always realise.

Best wishes,  
Faisal, age 7.



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June

Dear Horace,

What an unexpected few months this has been! The environment really has changed during this quarantine. During these few days, I have noticed some really good things that I had brought a smile on my face. People have been shopping for people over seventy which is really helpful.

I really love the rainbow outside of people's windows which says stay safe. And also the birds have singing classes. One time they put up a show outside the show my door.

Best Wishes from,  
FARZAD



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

1/7/20

Dear Horace,

The last few months have been extremely unusual as I am sure you know, the roads and paths almost empty, the skies cleared of planes and a hanging smell of baking home-made bread.

Every Sunday I cycle along the river and to Richmond with my Mother, ~~and~~ during this period of 'Lockdown' the paths along which we pedal have lost many people and to compensate, they have gained many beautiful birds and bugs.

Even the eternally busy roads of Twickenham have starkly calmed, to the point where I could travel along the roads with my eyes closed and only fear striking a lamppost.

With my education being converted to electronics where no teachers need to be present, I have been able to start and finish my day early than usual, giving me the time in the evening, to take things slowly, binge Netflix shows and slurp on hot chocolates.

I hope that we can meet and make contact face to face very soon,

Felix.



Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June

Dear Horance,  
my name is Florence and I am nine  
year old. In lockdown I have been  
spending time with my family playing  
games, paddling pool and riding my  
bike. I miss my friend.

For 10 weeks me and my family have  
been clapping for the NHS every  
Thursday. I have also coloured and  
drawn rainbows for the windows. I have  
been putting a teddy in the windows  
for the local school.

What I have noticed in lockdown is that  
people are wearing masks and using  
hand sanitizer. I have spent a lot of time  
in the garden as the weather was nice and  
sunny.

The world around me has been less  
polite and you have to queue to go to  
the shops also the park has been empty.

I feel people have been a lot kinder and  
friendlier

Florence Age: 9



Dear Howard,

Since the lockdown it has been very weird  
because we have to go to school  
I miss my friends and being in the cage  
I have been sad or people dying but I am  
happy when we see it for the NHS  
to see people the caretakers looking  
after our kids so I made pictures  
for him so he can be happy but I don't  
think he supports lockdown  
at one time we went for looks  
or looks and it was like  
like a ghost town  
when the lockdown is over  
I am so to open my eyes  
and appreciate and love  
after my best to be in the

best wishes

Franklin

or age 7



Dear horace

Things are a bit wierd right now because me and my friends are fiding Satying 2 Meters are a bit tricky because we want to play to geter. I have notist that people have been putting rain bow's in there wild os. I have been doing Rob bidolf and I have been better at drawing. I have Notist that people have been & kind to eech other like my mummy has been doing my granly and grandads shopping.

Things are tricky but I have Noticed that Nature has been comeing out.

From Freya Age 6



Dear M<sup>r</sup> Walpole

I cannot express to

Mr & M<sup>r</sup> Conway; hearing from you

in your last letter with many

making; it appears very strange to

on the 20<sup>th</sup> or even on the 23. We sh

gress, or Retreat, as I shou'd ima

liberation, without they had chang

What I dread is, that the Minestr



Horace Walpole

Strawberry Hill House

Twickenham

Friday 26 June 2020

Dear Horace,

I am writing to you to tell you about an object that has been of great significance to me during lockdown. In lockdown, I have been really missing sports. Most days at school, I would play basketball with my friends. However, due to the coronavirus pandemic, I cannot go to school and play basketball.

Now, I have been <sup>playing</sup> with my basketball in my garden and it has made me feel a lot better and it is making my lockdown experience <sup>a lot</sup> more fun. Before the coronavirus happened, the basketball would just sit there on the grass, occasionally played with. But now, I try and play with it everyday with my brother. When I train and practice new skills, it makes my day. That is why I have <sup>found</sup> ~~been~~ my basketball very significant in my life during lockdown.

Gabriel, 12



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

18<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Horace,

I'm writing to you to describe some of my experiences over the past few months

There has been no school since March because of the lock down which is meant to keep the

new virus at bay. Some things about this I like but others make me feel a bit sad for example I'm quite happy about the fact that I can spend more time with my family but its quite sad that I can't see my friends in person.

There have been protests all over the world about the death

of a black man named George Floyd. He died when an american police officer knelt on his neck after he



was accused of using a fake 20 dollar note. I feel angry that white people still get better treatment than them.

A good thing about lockdown is that we are still allowed out of the house. I have been going to the park a lot and ~~and~~ I've noticed some things I don't normally see. There

have been lots of baby animals including baby deer, crows, goslings, baby coots and ducklings. There ~~have~~ are also a lot of fish in the ponds and I find it interesting to look at them.

Yours sincerely,

George



Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May

Dear Horace

During lock down, it has been strange as we can't do a lot of things as we used to. It has never been like this for me before.

As time has passed, I have noticed that people are doing the elderly's shopping and then leaving it at their door.

Also, neighbours, that have never met, are having friendly chats from a two meter distance. In addition, some people call

other family members to check up on how they are doing. Every day, when I come back from the park I see pictures and drawings with colourful colors to make sure people can see it. It makes me smile when I see these acts of kindness.

What I have noticed that is different about the environment, is that the

plants have been cared more since we have more time to properly care for them. It is getting louder as time



A animals are starting to come out  
Since it is summer. There are no. aero-  
planes in the sky as nobody can go out.

As time has gone by we go on walks  
and there are lots of people enjoying  
there spare time. I have noticed that  
there is lots of parks around me.

Also I have heard my neighbours playing  
piano which I didn't ~~ket ke ko~~  
know they played before.

I think the community is caring about  
others more. So, when lockdown is finished  
I will try do that more often.

Best wishes & Georgia



Strawberry hill house  
Twickenham



Horace Walpole

Lockdown has been extraordinary I never thought I would miss school and my friends as much as I have. I've also missed theme park and London to do Pokemon hunting (mummy goes to Tesco every week to do shopping for my dad who is a key worker and for an elderly relative)



Every Thursday people in my flat go out and do for NHS some people even hang saucers (!)

Every week I phone my nan who lives in a rural place in Ireland. It makes me happy to make her happy when I spoke to her. I helped Mum make a balloon rainbow that we hung from the balcony and I made a giant rainbow coat over my twin.



We did not go out for very many walks and when we did there were too many bikes going too close to me however we found a path which almost led to Sunbury



and found your house garden which we never knew existed and I has lived here most whole I noticed that the animals have become tame. ducks by the river ate out of my hand ~~the~~ and the squirrels were surprisingly gentle and held my fingers with therep while they ate chips and some even jumped on my knee.

Best wishes,

Gianluca age 8



June 11<sup>th</sup> 2020

Dear Horace,

We are writing to thank you very much for keeping your gardens at Strawberry Hill House open during lockdown. We enjoyed running on the lawn and exploring your magical woodland area. It was a perfect place for us to wander to and make happy memories while our Daddy slept after his night shifts at the hospital.

We pretended we were at Forest School. We made nests and dens. We imagined the tree stumps were tables of activities and we drew pictures and 'wrote' messages in the mud with sticks for pen. We loved running down the hill and peering in the big holes. We listened to the birds singing, noticed the plants changing through the season and we loved dancing with the fairies.

Your gardens were a very special place for us to visit and we were able to see that other children were enjoying the gardens too, as they left behind daisy chains and their dens.

Thank you again for enabling us to visit this magical place during these unusual times.

Yours sincerely,

Grace (age 4), Chloe (age 1) and Mummy



Grace has drawn a picture of Chloe, Mummy and herself looking at paw prints on the ground at Strawberry Hill garden. Daddy is at home, asleep in bed.

# Thakyou





Horace Walpole  
Strawberry hill  
house  
Twickenham

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June

Dear Horace

What a strange time this has been in lockdown! I have never experienced anything like this. During lockdown I have noticed that we have been ~~staying to chat to neighbors~~ chat to our neighbors from a far distance. I have also noticed that the world has slow down and has gone really quiet. In ~~quarantine~~ ~~quarantine~~ quarantine we have been ~~been~~ going on our usual walks everyday. ~~What~~ Sometimes in at 5am in the ~~morning~~ ~~morning~~ Morning I can hear the birds cheeping more clearly and sometimes in my head I think of what they are saying. Lastly I have been noticing that we have a massive Tangle across the street. It has been fun talking but I must go.

best wishes from  
Gunira age 10 (well turning ten on the 23rd)



Day 4

Gurbir

## NEAT COPY

To all,

I am writing to summarise how my community acts during lockdown. Me personally feels kind of bored and pretty upset. It took me some getting-used-to for it to feel normal. During lockdown I realised many parents were watching the news everyday and the roads are no longer busy. Another thing I noticed is loud clapping for the NHS occurring outside and yeah it was fun. The world around me had changed too: Barely any people walking, masks, no cars, and loads of shopping. I also feel about the community pretty sad but at home I'm mostly bored.



Dear M<sup>r</sup> Walpole

I cannot express to

Mr. & M<sup>r</sup> Conway; hearing from you

in your last letter with many

making; it appears very strange to

on the 20<sup>th</sup> or even on the 23. We shall

graze, or Retreat, as I should ima-

liberation, without they had changed

What I dread is, that the Pinestr



Horace walpole  
Stanhelfy Hill House  
Twickenham

wednesday 17 June

Dear HOFace,

What a strange time it has been!  
I had never expected that there would  
be something like. I mean everything  
is different because of lockdown.

During Lockdown our neighbors  
and us were invited to a party where  
we got to know people in our street.  
Another act of kindness occurred  
on Eid when our friends came over  
and gave us food.

AS weeks passed by I have noticed that more people are cycling than driving. A nother thing I have noticed is that more people go to the park to exercise.

I have also noticed that there are more birds in my back garden. Because of the lockdown people stay at home which means people don't use their cats as often as before.

I am vefy grateful to have a community as great as mine.

0 4 HgMDe ADI 10



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June

Dear Horace,

I have seen that the streets are slow and quiet and homes are loud and busy. I've seen people chatting with neighbours and helping people buy food for them when I walk past. At home we've been drawing rainbows to support the Red workers and brought good for my grandparents. I noticed that on the news there were people blocking the roads and delivery trucks came more often. During lockdown there was no airplaner or people outside except the wind and birds chirping. after lockdown I should pay more attention to my family if this happens again.

Best wishes  
Hannah  
age: 8



Honore Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House

22nd June 2020

Dear Mr Walpole

During lockdown everything has changed.  
My friends dad does our shopping for us he  
asks us what we need and brings it if  
they have it. Because of lockdown we can't go  
out much. My friend asked me if I  
want to go on a walk ~~toget~~ with her. If  
you look outside you can see how  
beautiful it is with the butterflies flying  
around and the chirping of birds is relaxing.  
The sun is out shining making the ~~see~~  
place shine so beautifully. Since lockdown has  
started I have gotten a lot closer to my  
family. I have enjoyed baking with my mum a  
lot. She makes it so tasty.

Kind regards  
Hanneen (age 11)



Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July - 2020

Dear Horace,

First of all, what is lockdown? Lockdown, is the situation we are in, where we have to stay at home to avoid the virus - Covid-19 - from spreading. Everyone, all over the world is in lockdown. The government informs us on how to maintain lockdown, as at 5 o'clock, they broadcast it on the news.

I am writing to you, to tell you about my experiences in lockdown so far. I have noticed that many people are starting to exercise more, and I think this is, because they are purely eating out of boredom. I have also noticed, that people are buying things out of moderation. Personally, I think that this is unacceptable, because the people on the front line, who are protecting everyone, have very long shifts; hence they do not have that much time to shop. And when they get to the shops, just to find out that people were stockpiling, they will not be able to get their essentials.

However, I have noticed that people are understanding how serious this pandemic is, and are starting to accept and follow guidelines, that the government has produced. But there are a few people who are not accepting or following the rules, and are rebelling against the government, which in my opinion, is a bit ignorant and unintelligent! I do not understand why they think they can rebel, whilst everyone else is just simply following procedures.

Personally, I have developed my hobbies and skills, to entertain myself in lockdown, as we have restricted travel, to maintain social-distancing. I am quite sad that the travel ban was set, as I really wanted to go on holiday, in the



summer holidays, as we were going to learn a whole range of new things.

Overall, lockdown for me has been quite interesting! It has its ups and downs, but what is most important, is to learn from your mistakes and follow the government procedures.

Harresh



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

22nd June 2020

Dear Mr Walpole,

I am writing this letter to talk about the positives of lockdown I hope you read this.

First I would like to talk about how my mum and the ~~neighbours~~ neighbours are becoming closer, normally we just go about our days but now we all talk everyday.

Now I would like to tell you about all the nature and animals I have seen; I normally never see birds however now I always see them at least one a day also I ~~for~~ ~~or~~ ~~earlier~~ ~~ever~~ ~~heard~~ ~~them~~ now their beautiful songs enter my ears everyday.

Finally I would like to tell you about new things I have found while doing my one hour exercising, I found a small park that I don't know the ~~the~~ name of. It houses a ~~best~~ beautiful grassy area which I love looking at ~~there~~ the elegantly spray-painted pictures. I have also seen a lot of foxes even an albino one, it was so heart warming to see it run around with its mate.

I Hope you have read all through the letter.

Kind regards,

Harrison 11



Beddington

Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham.

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Horace,

I am writing to tell you about our very strange year. 2020 will go down in history because of a nasty virus called Covid 19 which has spread around the world from China. To stop the virus from spreading the country has gone into 'lockdown'. Our school has closed and we are doing lessons from home, adults are also working from home instead of in their offices. As I sit doing my school work, I have been noticing all the pretty birds and animals who regularly visit our garden. A pair of blue tits, robins a squirrel and sometimes foxes. During Lockdown, cars have been banned from Bushy Park and everyone is cycling and walking for daily exercise. I have loved watching the beautiful deer, it is also birthing season and some babies have been spotted. Bushy Park also has many amazing birds to spot. We have seen a Kestrel, a red kite, parakeets and a wood pecker as well as lots of friendly robins. It is very peaceful without cars and aeroplanes and it has also been beneficial for the environment. Although people are outside they have to keep 2 metres distance from each other which seems unfriendly but it is to keep everyone safe. One of the



positive aspects of Lockdown has been  
spending more time with my family in the  
park, on the river in our canoe and on bike  
rides. We have been lucky with sunny weather  
and I have been growing vegetables and sunflowers.  
I think you would have enjoyed lockdown in  
your beautiful house and grounds!

Best Wishes  
Hattie



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June

Dear Horace,

During Lockdown I have been feeling strange as we have not been getting up at normal times for School. Although it has been bizarre that I haven't been ~~seeing~~ seeing my friends, the past few months, it has grown normal.

As time has gone by, I have noticed many different acts of Kindness Such as, vibrant chalk drawing on the pavements. One of them was a rocket shooting to the moon which I thought was awesome,  
~~moon~~

most of the time, when we go to the shops, the streets and the park are quite quiet.

However, when the sun is out, people seem to forget the rules which can sometimes be frustrating. On the positive side of Lockdown it's easier to appreciate nature because there are far less planes and cars which makes the sounds of birds chirping seem much louder.

On one of our evening walks, me and my mum met a lovely couple with a cat, named Oaker, and a dog, named Basil, then the next day we



met another xcat, would you believe? Also  
called Badger! Crazy!!!!

Even though I have a back garden, sometimes it's  
nice to go to the park, if it's quiet enough, and  
play chess (even though I always win :) although  
I did lose a knight in the grass which meant  
that she had to buy a new set but it was great  
because instead of black and white pieces they  
were gold and silver.

Through all this madness it's been lovely to  
see people helping each other because it's  
not something you see on a day to day basis.

I could go on and tell you more stories  
but my hand is aching now so I hope you  
enjoyed my letter.

Best wishes

Hayden - 10 yrs



Twickenham

25. 6. 20.

Dear Horace

My name is Hazel and I am a volunteer at Strawberry Hill House.

I am now 82 years old and have been showing visitors your beautiful house since it opened after its restoration ten years ago.

When the present government declared there was a deadly disease sweeping the world the volunteers were informed of the closure of the house in March and were suddenly deprived of their main purpose and I for one was sad to give up the stewarding which had been so enjoyable and interesting.

Older people and the infirm were deemed to be at most risk and were instructed to stay at home and not go out except for exercise. The realisation that we were old and vulnerable was hard to accept but we soon came to the conclusion that we needed help and luckily we had friends and neighbours who were very generous in their efforts to buy food for us.

After the first few weeks of this unreal regime the initial terror and anxiety I felt about the dangers of this hidden disease subsided a bit and we settled down to a routine of meals and various activities to pass the time.

My husband and I have had a walk most days to give us a change of scene, but avoiding other people as we are instructed to do.



The weather in April and May was particularly beautiful with days of blue skies and sunshine. I had never known such continuous fine weather and it seemed part of the collective dream that we were all in.

On our walks we have often taken a turn round Strawberry Hill Garden and saw the Spring flowers and the flowering cherry trees and later the Syringas in all their beauty.

The garden has been a haven of peace for us and the few other people who have frequented it; but it has suffered a little in the heat and in the last week before the rain came, I was reminded of the time in June 1765 when you wrote that you were 'mortified' by the brownness of the verdure.

The sight of your beautiful house and garden has been a solace to us and a distraction from the news of illness and death that this pandemic has caused. When we get through this time, I will, I hope return once more and try to welcome people to your house again, continuing the tradition of hospitality you extended to friends so many years ago.

With best wishes

yours sincerely

Hazel.



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June

Dear Horace,  
Everything is very strange now. I didn't think I would ever have to be in a quarantine! During lockdown I have been seeing lots of acts of kindness. I always see people helping with shopping or helping them go somewhere. I also noticed that people draw rainbows then stick it to their windows. I have also been going for lots of walks in Bushy Park! I really enjoy watching the deer. I have also recently been talking with my cousins! I play lots of online games with them.



I have been going for bike rides  
With my dad and little sister.

I couldn't even ride my bike because  
it had a flat tire! So I just.

Watched my sister ride hers. It turns  
out I'm a very fast reader! I have  
read ~~17 books~~ 13 books! I wonder how  
much I can read until September.

Best wishes from,  
Heela



Dear Horace Walpole,

The past few months have been an utter bore, a deadly virus called Corona virus or 'covid19' is going round and almost the whole world has been sent into the horrible darkness of lockdown. Although the rules of lockdown are not as strict as they were a month ago it's still the most boring thing I have witnessed in my lifetime. I mean, you can't see your friends, you can't go to the cinema and worst of all you have to do schoolwork at home, which doesn't sound that bad, but trust me it's so much better at school.

At the start of lockdown you could only go outside once for shopping (only supermarkets were open though) and once for exercise. And the most important rule, which is still in place now, the 2 meter rule, meaning you have to stay 2 meters away from anyone outside your family. The streets felt so empty and you could see people frightened to even leave their house for exercise because of fear of this virus. I couldn't even imagine being homeless during the lockdown, without a home living on the streets loads of people would come past you every day making you extremely vulnerable.

Now the lockdown rules have begun to get less strict. Lots of closed shops have now reopened and you can now go out whenever you want. And the best bit is that you can now meet up with one other family, although you still have to stay 2 meters away. Looking round the streets are no where near as empty as before and people aren't as scared as they were at



the start of lockdown. Although everyone is getting used to lockdown it is still extremely dull and it's a time i will never forget.

From Henry



Strawberry hill house  
Twickenham  
Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June

Dear Horace

the lockdown was a challenging time for people. I have heard times during the lockdown. Life is so boring and quiet.

During the lockdown I noticed people were clapping for Keyworkers every Thursday also the first time I left the house in the lockdown I saw people wearing gloves and masks when they go shopping and it was hard for me to stand 2m from people and my mum was posting a note through all the neighbors doors.

Me and my family are supporting my local food bank further more we are sending greeting cards to friends and neighbors. As well as this we are planting vegetables such as cucumber, tomato and mint.



## Wishart's note

In addition I saw beautiful flowers growing and I have seen the sunlight filtering through the leaves of a tree. Also I have heard a cuckoo twice this week since a very long time. Furthermore the wild mint smells stronger when soil is warm.

Another thing I have really noticed is the natural <sup>world</sup> ~~world~~ around me. I have realized there are huge green spaces and farm animals near my house. I discovered there is a stadium with a walking distance from my house that I did not know. In addition I recently realized that my friend's neighbor with new dog and cat.



Strawberry hill house  
Twickenham

17/06/20

Dear Horace,

My name is Honor I am 9 (But nearly 10), how are you? I am writing to tell you about my time in Lockdown. We've had a good time because I get to spend more time with my family. I am really jealous of my brother though because he gets to go to school! I miss my friends and my teacher!

Yesterday, we picked some Sweet peas from our garden and went round to our neighbour's house to give them to her! She loved them, it made us feel really good! When we went on a bike ride to Richmond and had a sandwich and ice cream, anyway when we came back we found a letter on our doorstep. It was from our neighbour Carol she had made a thank you card for the Sweet peas!

We have also been growing a lot of stuff in our garden like sunflowers, Sweet peas, alliums, lettuce, courgette. Have you been growing anything?

Yours sincerely Honor



Dear M<sup>r</sup> Walpole

I cannot express to

Mr & M<sup>r</sup> Conway; hearing from you

in your last full'd me with many

making; it appears very strange to

on the 20<sup>th</sup> or even on the 23. We sh

gress, or Retreat, as I shou'd ima

liberation, without they had chang

What I dread is, that the Minestr



Horace Walpole

Strawberry Hill house

Twickenham

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June

Dear Horace,

Who would have predicted 2020  
had been so different? It has been  
so much more different now it is  
much more quieter and calmer

During lockdown I have noticed  
how kind and caring our  
community is and how much they  
care about everyone. I really  
appreciate all my neighbors that  
have ~~be~~ put rainbows outside to  
help me spot them when I go



for my daily walk. To support  
key workers we all as a community  
gather together to clap every  
thursday. I have also tried to  
call my cousins to make sure  
they're okay.

Another thing I have noticed  
about the environment is that  
it is becoming much more clear  
since there are hardly any cars.  
I have noticed much more  
wildlife which is nice. I have  
also explored and found out that  
there are many more local parks near  
me than I thought. Seeing an aeroplane  
has become so rare now.

Finally, I think lockdown has taught  
me to appreciate life much more.

In addition to this, I have also discovered  
new hobbies like skipping and



baking. Life before lockdown was  
so busy that I never knew it  
was the little things in life

After lockdown I really want to go visit  
my friends and family. I also want  
to get to know wildlife more.

Best wishes,

Ikveer



Strawberry Hill House  
268 Waldegrave Road  
Twickenham  
TW1 4ST

27<sup>nd</sup> June, 2020

Dear Mr Walpole,  
How I loved my family visits to  
the Strawberry Hill House and Gardens.  
It's a stunning place for family  
days out and for hosting a  
variety of different events.

I was pleasantly surprised by the  
variety of lots of plants, trees and  
bushes, along with fauna representatives,  
such as birds and squirrels.

I was impressed by the beauty of  
the Strawberry Hill House.

I want to thank you for this  
amazing place. I will surely  
visit it again this summer, as I want  
to see the Palace from inside,  
as during my last visit it  
was closed unfortunately.

With thanks, Illia.



Tuesday  
23rd  
June

Dear Horace,

It has felt a bit odd staying at home and barely being able to go out since we are in lockdown. I have not enjoyed being in lockdown because I miss playing with my friends and going to places that are closed right now like Theme parks and restaurants. The thing I miss most is my family.

Our family has been going shopping for people who can not go out of their house. I have even made pictures for some of my neighbours.

During lockdown I have noticed less cars on the street which means less pollution. Another thing I have seen is more people going out for exercise.



People have to wear a mask if they go on public transport, like a bus or a train. Some houses have made colourful rainbows and put them on windows to support the NHS. The rainbows were very brightly coloured, like highlighters.

I am very upset that people are ill and dying because of this awful virus which is why we have to stay at home to stay safe. I hope the world will find a cure quickly to help people that are not well right now.

Best wishes Isabelle



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

30/06/2020

Dear Horace,

Through these remarkably stressful times, the likes of which I daresay none of us have had the misfortune of experiencing, it may come as a warm and rather touching surprise - the sheer magnitude of small things that may go unnoticed amidst our regular haste.

In recent times, with the hope of not being caught within the stagnated air of my house, I had soon found myself adopting the habit of daily walks. My route was charted from my house across the main road, around the outskirts of the local park.

It must have been some time around half past eight, close to dusk but still the slivess of half-light were visible in the distance, almost a ghostly glow cast upon the brick houses and rusting fence. The sky was still overcast, the grass damp, reminiscent of that day's earlier downpours.

I had not noticed it at first, on account of its hazel-brown fur, which blended it almost perfectly against the oak's study trunk. The little flurry of movement as it swung down from a higher branch to perch upon a lower one, what appeared to be an acorn in its hand, was what caused my glance to be averted from the path in front of me. It had been a fleeting moment initially, but I stopped in my tracks altogether at the sight of it looking directly back into my eyes.

It is a difficult thing to describe. A squirrel, a rodent, fifty; maybe even one hundred, scurry around the park, darting in, out, between trees and bushes and groves. Yet, inexplicably, I realised in that moment that it has never come across my mind as a living, breathing creature like us, a sentient being. Indeed many times I have seen a squirrel, maybe the same squirrel, even, but never cast more than a moment's thought to the animal's existence itself. So small, so vulnerable, yet miraculous a beauty innate within its perfect simplicity, the simplicity of nature and the natural world.



Presently The squirrel turned and scuttled back up to the higher branches of The tree. I, too, turned back and proceeded to complete the rest of my course around the park and back home. I returned, in what could best be described as a moment of clarity, lucidity, a moment of realisation, of both the things I have missed out on through my life and, at the same time, the vast number of simple yet wondrous miracles of nature I have yet to witness.

Perhaps, I guess, we could all do with a little more time to stop and simply consider the world around us. It is only then, of course, that we may stop merely looking and start seeing instead.

Yours,

Ishaan



Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June

Dear Horace Walpole,

What confusing times these are! Though the pandemic carries on, worldwide, it seems our community has come together, to help each other and our environment.

During lockdown, many ~~people~~ such as myself, have begun using alternative modes of transport, resulting in less emission, so the air is becoming clearer. The unkempt wildlife thrives; in Hounslow Heath, there are unmetable blossoming plants, and new species of lizard and insect too! The birds heat joyfully, louder than ever before, and all other aspects of nature seem positively lively.

Amongst this, the public are more generous and more charitable: I have noticed how some sto and chat - at a suitable distance, of course - and how less able members of our community are constantly aided. Although it ended long ago, the Clap for Carers was enjoyable, for it showed so much support for the NHS, and the overall hefty ~~increase~~ of selflessness is a nice change.

However I do feel quite bored at times, so I can't wait for school to fully re-open. This truly



has opened my eyes to the world around me, and  
I shall be sure to advise and acknowledge it.

Regards,

I shag, 10 years old.



Honore Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

22nd June 2020

Dear Mr Walpole,

Although Lockdown has been very hard for some people, others have had positive times during this situation. Some <sup>people</sup> are unable to go shopping so others go shopping for them. During Lockdown I've noticed that there's been less littering across Twickenham. Some kids have found Lockdown useful to play on their PS4's, Xbox's, and PC's. I've found Lockdown useful to relax and chill. Lockdown helped me get in love with the <sup>game of</sup> basketball. Now I know how NBA players and I got myself a basketball on the weekend. So, for me, Lockdown has been very helpful.

Kind Regards

Israel (age 11)



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Horace,

I would like to discuss nature. Nature is all around us. I know you have a big garden so you must have loads of nature. Well I hope you are okay. Anyway what is your favourite tree. Mine is cherry blossom.

ISSY 9 years old



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham.

16/6/20

Dear Horace,

While on walks in Bushy Park I have noticed a few things: I can hear the birds more, the deer are walking on the roads more and the ducks are sleeping where people walk.

Maybe the birds are not singing louder and because there aren't as many cars we can hear them better. Maybe because cars aren't driving in the park the deer think it is safer. Maybe there aren't as many people in the park so the ducks think they are safe on the paths.

All of changes are because of Covid-19 and I hope people can feel safe and take part in social distancing.

From Izzy,

Age 10



Dear M<sup>r</sup>: Walpole

I cannot express to

Mr. & M<sup>r</sup>: Conway; hearing from you

in your last filled me with many

making; it appears very strange to

on the 20<sup>th</sup> or even on the 23. We sh

gress, or Retreat, as I shou'd ima

liberation, without they had chang

What I dread is, that the Minestr



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

Dear Horace

23/06/23

DURING lockdown it was Different  
Sometimes I felt bored and sad  
because I missed my friends

In the garden a lot of bugs have  
come out When In the garden  
Plants grew better and the birds  
were singing more. Along the river  
there was more ducks than usual.  
I noticed my neighbour has a rabbit  
the same age as mine.

After lockdown I must learn to SP  
to my friends more.

Best wishes  
JOHN  
(AGE 8)



Thursday 18th June 2020

Dear Horace Walpole

I have seen your magnificent snowy white castle. I think it is great. Every time we drive past it we wave and say "Hello Strawberry Hill House". But recently we have not been doing this. This is because of a new corona virus case called Covid 19. It is very contagious and as a result of this the whole world is in lockdown!

During the lockdown I have noticed some things that I thought I might share with you. I am proud to say that people are helping and looking out for each other. People are adding bits to their shopping lists and click and collect for ~~their~~ friends. I am pleased that people are being more social and they are stopping to talk to strangers in the street. All from a safe distance of course!

We have also discovered some things that before we were too busy to notice. For example surprisingly we have found a vast new park that we didn't even know was there! I enjoy going for a long walk or cycle ride because when I get there and I'm all tired out, I can sit down and eat an AMAZING ice cream.



On the way there is a lake called the Longwater  
~~near~~ Hampton Court Palace and I think it is fun to  
see the big fish jump up into the air.

I hope we stay friends with our neighbours and the  
kindness continues.

Yours sincerely

Jack (aged 8)



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

Thursday 18th June

Dear Horace,

What a weird few months it has been! Me and my family have had to make lots of changes during lockdown, the biggest change is that I can't go to my nan's house who I miss very much. Throughout lockdown I have felt worried that one of my family might get the illness but we have been very lucky. When there's nothing to do or no place to go I can be very bored.



In lockdown i've seen lots of ways that people have been showing acts of kindness. One is that my Aunt runs a local charity who provide a neighbourhood care group for elderly and disabled people. Local schools and businesses have been donating meals and food parcels and then volunteers go and deliver them to the people who really need them. It is very nice that people take their time out of their day to help others.

During our time in lockdown we have gone on lots of walks and heard loads of birds chirping. We have also noticed clearer rivers, butterflies, bees and more birds. I was thinking maybe because there was less cars and people around we could hear the birds better.

We have been lucky that there's been so much good weather so that we can have fun and go outside. When we go outside we see people talking from a safe social distance. When we need to get past someone they nicely say hello and move out.



the way for us.

Finally this experience has taught me not to take things for granted anymore.

I hope you are safe at home with your family

Jack



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

1<sup>st</sup> July 2020

Dear Horace,

During this lockdown time, my family and I have started gardening a lot. This is because before, our garden was a bit of a mess and needed a lot of work, however thanks to a lot of effort, it now looks great!

We started by removing some large planters that contained some old plants, this required unscrewing the wooden planks from around the sides and then pulling them out. My Dad and I then had the mammoth task of removing all the shingle, that coated the ground like a heavy blanket. It took such a long time because we had to rake it all into small piles, before shovelling it into a wheelbarrow, where we hauled it over to the other side of the garden before emptying it out onto the drive.

This was all so I could create a football goal in my garden, I haven't had one since I moved house 3 years ago. The final step to making it was flattening it out, this took a few



hours. Then finally it was finished, we put up the goal, and once again, I could play at home.

However, the ground was still only dirt, so during this last week I have been growing grass due to the perfect ~~weather~~<sup>w</sup> weather - for it, sunny and rainy. The only downside is that I cannot play on it for a bit now.

Gardening has been a great way to keep myself busy during this time, it has kept me active whilst also allowing me to spend good time with my family as we all help out around our new garden!

Yours sincerely,  
Jago



Thomas Wilson  
Shelburne Hill House  
Windsor

Tuesday 10 June 1810

Dear Maria

The winter has been a very disagreeable year for everyone. We have had  
a great deal of snow in the winter but hardly felt as things have been  
disagreeable for the winter.

During the winter I have felt better than ever. I have not felt  
sick. I have no more colds. I have been with my family  
and the old people. I have been to the school. I have been to the  
church. I have been to the school. I have been to the school. I have  
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What I have been told we must expect lots of things  
to have been made yesterday during around and so  
more beautiful places to addition there are lots more people  
coming to see and more people say Hello more  
than before!

The sky is clearer, I can see more birds and see the  
clear ground!

Everyone has been trying to support each other  
before we reach 15 million for the year. The NHS is now 50 per  
cent of the NHS but what has happened is that help and the  
money 10 thousand pounds of the NHS  
we know that we are always trying and making things  
happier!!

Bob Lushin

Mike

Age 12



Dear Hostad,  
I am having a wonderful journey with  
my family during this lockdown.

I have been colouring rainbows and sticking  
them on the window. This is to show support  
to the NHS also it's a way of saying "hi"  
to children.

We do lots of bike riding and while  
we are out we count how many rainbows  
we can see.

I like to say hi to other kids from  
a distance as I miss being around  
other children.

I can't wait to meet my friends  
and family again.

Bye Bye Virus its time to go  
home.

Love  
aged 7 Sakeena



Horace Walpole  
strawberry Hill House  
twickenham

Tuesday 16th June

Dear Horace,

What a strange time it has been. I've never seen anything like this before.

During the lockdown in Crane park I saw a nest in a tree and a baby pigeon in it and people doing some exercise in the park. There are birds loudly chirping as well. My friend Jack has collected breads and gave them to poor people that are in risk of getting corona-virus. ~~also~~ I've also seen a golden dragonfly and its wings were not able to fly so we rescued it. People are looking like robbers in the masks walking down the street.

Another thing I noticed is that it is very quiet in the park on roads everywhere except the birds chirping.

We had a barbecue in our garden and we ate sausages, Hot Dogs and burgers.

I'm having a good time so far but

I miss my friends and school especially playgrounds.

Best wishes

Jack



Stambridge  
Twickenham

Tuesday 23rd June

Dear Horace

I feel calm and safe at home even  
in this time of covid 19. I notice  
the birds are singing loudly  
every day, and I notice there a lot  
of leaves on the branches.

I notice people are buying a  
crazy amount of stuff and  
other people can't get that much  
supplies, when we bring the shopping  
home we wipe the supplies with  
dettol wipes until its clean.

I have not seen my nana in 3 months  
thats why we call her  
to see if shes ok, we checked  
for the key workers because there  
risking there live to help people  
that are sick. last month my cousin  
could not come because of the virus his  
plane ticket was canceled because of  
the virus.

I hope he could come next  
Year



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

Wed 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020

Dear Horace,

I am writing to tell you about the magnificent things I have witnessed during lockdown. First of all, I have noticed that the air seems cleaner. The roads are not as crowded as they used to be and people all around the world are doing more exercise. They are going outside and enjoying the nice fresh air. Technology has developed a lot over lockdown. Everyone has adapted to the fast change in technological development and have even started using streaming platforms like teams and even zoom. The world is changing rapidly and to see that change up have to be the change. I have seen many people deliver food parcels to the NHS and to people who need it. Another thing I have noticed, is that people are making a conscious effort to keep fit and stay in good shape. I cannot count how many people I have seen jogging along a street. I have found new hobbies in this lockdown and they have helped pass the time. In my opinion lockdown can be quite dull but if you fill it up with activity, it can be quite an interesting period.

Best wishes,

Jason (12 years old)



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020

Dear Mr Walpole,

During lock down I have been so bored and I have watching loads of ~~mouse~~ movies with my Dad since there is nothing else to do. I have also been helping my mom get the shopping for my nan because she's not allowed to be out and about. There has <sup>also</sup> ~~also~~ been less cars and people out on the streets.

Before lockdown, there ~~has~~ used to be planes going by every second of the day but now there is hardly any. I have noticed that there are more people in the world helping others.

Kind Regards

First name Jess (age 11)



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June

Dear Horace,

I have had the best time in lockdown since I got to go out and play with my friends (at a 2nd distance!). I've done so much enjoyable cooking, baking and making playdough for school projects.

We have been collecting medicine for a friend who was shielding. We put up hilarious pictures on our windows to cheer people up. My dad works as a postman and my mum works at a school. My brother was also catering in a hospital. Most importantly all of us have been clapping for the key workers and the NHS.

I have seen more people enjoying themselves having picnics. My family always have a movie night on Sunday. My mum has gotten into planting. My friend found a snail with a broken shell so she helped it and let it go back into the wild.

My brother and I went to Bushy Park where we saw lots of magnificent deers there were more than 20 (I tried to count them). We got ice cream and sat down then a deer came really close to us so I got petrified but then it saw another deer so it trotted off.



This whole experience made me realise to pay attention to nature and the people around me because they are precious.

Best Wishes

Jiji



17 June 2020

Dear Helen,

You won't be over but we are going through unusual times at the moment over the last three months the whole world has been suffering from a virus called Covid-19. It is a disease that strikes the elderly especially the lonely. In the UK we have sadly lost over 40,000 people already from the virus. This is very sad for so many families but luckily no one in our family has been affected.

As you know good things often come out from bad situations. In our community neighbours have been getting together to shop for the elderly, and do nice things for people that they can't do them selves. Our mail collector goes to take to a food bank each week to help feed those who can't afford food. People are caring for those who are working for the NHS and we are writing letters and making phone calls to the elderly who live on their own and are isolated.

The good news is the things are beginning to get better by lots of deaths reducing and also it is nice because we can see people now in parks or back gardens. This is all my news now best wishes

Joel age 10



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

30 Tuesday 30 June

Dear Horace,

During this time at home I have seen many different things some comedic things and some unfortunate moments, & I have also spent more time with my bike and with my family. The air around us has also been cleaner.

Firstly, I have spent a lot of time helping people in our ~~comm~~ community. My mum ~~is~~ volunteered to help around the community and deliver some food, ~~and~~ I helped my mother by cycling to their houses - ~~and~~ I met some different people however, for example, there was this old lady who was extremely kind while some of them were not very thankful. Perhaps this is cruel but I cycled a lot and saw a lot of people and ~~at~~ I saw one person fall over and getting over it is not funny but to me it was as the way he fell ~~was~~ humorous in the instance.

Also, life around has of course changed. My bedroom is by the main road and I would very commonly wake up due to the cars making a lot of noise but now I have found it ~~more~~ much easier.



to sleep as there's less noise. While there's less noise on the street due to less cars, there is ~~now~~ much more noise from people homes. Every other day I hear someone mowing their lawn or playing music too loudly. It really ~~annoy~~ annoys me so I've decided to play my own own ~~too~~ music very loudly.

In the environment, I have felt that the air around is much cleaner than it was before and I have also heard the birds chirping much more around my house and at the park. I have also read however that April was the first month in the past fifty years that the amount of carbon Dioxide in the UK went down as opposed to up.

These past few months have been boring as I thought I would enjoy it and although I had a lot of time to watch old movies but I eventually got extremely bored.

Take kind regards,  
Jose



Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup>

June

Dear Horace

It's been a strange time since we have been in lockdown. I never thought we would be stuck at home and I always have to wear mask's on public transport. My neighbour has some chalk and we write and draw **NHS** pictures. We have two old people in our community. Some people do shopping for the old man and lady. Me and my friend water their plants everyday. Nearly every kid in our community draws for **NHS**. On Thursdays at 3 we use to clap for **NHS** for 6 minutes and 2 or 3 trumpets.

From Joseph Age: 8



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

22nd June 2020

Dear Mr Walpole,

I am writing to inform you of the tragic disease that unfortunate haunts our lives and the lives of many. Huge quantities of people are making a vital stand against this terrorising out-break. In this confusing, worrying period that simple act of kindness should be massively encourage so this disease can eventually begin to diminish. Kindness comes in many forms and can be displayed if you accompany people on simple tasks for instance and care for someones every need. Presently people are doing that but many should follow their example so we can possible conquer this virus and over-power its simturns by helping those who struggle in times like these.

Nature is progressing hugely and life is blooming whilst pollution decreases rapidly due to the reduced operation of machinery. Wildlife is venturing into places like towns unlike how they would usually act. Flowers blossom and young are adapting to their better and safer environment with a ~~one~~ worry about pollution. The world is gift with a new plant each day and eventually the world will be a place of gasinating not wildlife one again.

In this difficult time many family and friends are pulling together building an unbreakable bond. Many are discovering stuff about others and themselves that greatly surprise them. Unimagenable things are taking place in this period where many triumph whilst others are thankful to be okay. We need to join together like those around us to destroy covid 19.

Kind regards

Joseph (Cage II)



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry hill house  
Twickenham

26.6.20

Dear Horace,

Today I am writing to explain the current lockdown situation local to me.

On the first day of 'clapping for our carers' everybody was clapping, but there was unease from everyone as this was the beginning of quarantine, and none of us knew how long this would go on for, and if it would get any worse. A few more weeks in, we were more aware of the situation- this caused for celebrations, like bells, cheering, drums and even fireworks. Now lockdown isn't as harsh, we no longer clap, but this was an important memory of what the NHS does.

Secondly, I am going to explain the attitude and actions of people by me. Behind my house is a large field, and normally I have it all to myself. But with the 'one exercise a day' rule the field was packed, with people I knew I people I had never known lived on my road. There was tennis being played, football and family's playing on fallen trees. I watched from my window confused as there was no space for anyone else to come on. Generally, people who were active and wanted to be outside didn't obey the rules initially, but after multiple police warnings, and news stories about deaths, their beliefs about this being overrated as a threat was proved wrong.

Joseph, 12



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill house  
Twickenham

18th June 2020

Dear Horace,

I hope all is well with you. The last few months have been quite strange. I have noticed a few things I want to share with you.

I have been amazed to see kits in the Woodland Gardens and Fawns in Bushy Park. The reason is there are less people and less cars. It was so exciting to see the Rabbits and their babies.

I also feel lucky to see Cygnets, goslings and Ducklings growing up. I was surprised to see catfish and froglets in the river in Bushy Park. There is so much wildlife I hadn't noticed before.

I feel grateful to have technology so I can have Facetime, Zoom and Skype with my friends and family. The only thing is a bit sad I miss them all. I feel happy to have my Dad at home because now I see him a lot more. There is no school for a while so I do home learning.

Yours faithfully

Josh (8 years old)



Dear Horace,

School

The year is 2020. If you were expecting news of flying cars and rockets to travel to space, you'd only be half disappointed. A rocket took two astronauts to the International Space Station in May. Meanwhile, back on Earth, we were all in 'lockdown'. A horrible virus called COVID-19 was sneaking around and people were dying. Schools were ALL closed and no one could see each other or go anywhere. It suddenly became very quiet. No airplanes or cars buzzing around, only the bees were buzzing. We could hear birds and all the wild animals seemed more





Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> of June

Dear Horace

Since we have been in lock down I have just been doing home work and playing out side. I felt bored as I can't play with friends.

Since my neighbours mum was having a baby my mum helped her so I was on my best behaviour. The baby was a boy he slept for 4 hours he cried lots but milk and dummy was how to solve it.

The cleaners have done more cleaning than their normal bit of cleaning. Not many people are going to school. No one is allowed friends only family is allowed over if your family is ill then they stay at home.

Lots of birds have been going in trees tweeting and 1 bird had 3 babies. The babies practice their flying it looked so cute I wanted to hold one.

Also I have been joining in joo wicks community





Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

18<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Horace,

I hope you are happy and ok. Life, as we know it has been turned upside down!

I would like to tell you what I have been doing since the pandemic started:

Staying at home is boring because I miss everybody like my friends and teachers. I even miss school lessons. I especially miss football club and that makes me sad.

I spend more time at home which can get boring but it means I can make more food. I especially like making lamb. I also play more games with my family like Cluedo, Rummikub and

football. That makes me happy and excited to see who wins. I also have more time to play with my toys which is fun.

We go to Bushy Park more often where we play with a ball, go for walks, and bike rides. We also see the new signets and ducklings. They are very cute. The squirrels and rabbits come out more often because less people are out and about. It makes me laugh and smile going to the park and getting fresh air.

Yours faithfully,

Joshua (8 years old)







23.6.2020

Dear Horace,

I would like to tell you about my favourite local park that I have been spending a lot of time in.

Marble Hill park has a beautiful house that was built in 1724. You can have a tour around, it has lots of original furniture and art to see.

It has a really cool old ice-house that was used to store ice and keep food fresh. It has some great big spiders living inside, I'm glad I did not see them!

My favourite part is the old grotto. You go down some steps and there is like a cave. When I was small my dad told me the Gruffalo lived there and I was scared to go down the steps.

It has some really old trees, one of them the Black Walnut is the 3rd largest in the U.K and was planted in 1725.

There is also an adventure playground and cafe.

At the river you can catch a ferry to take you across to Ham House. This is so much



fun, you can even take your dog.  
I want to visit Strawberry Hill House one  
day soon.

from Julianna  
Age 8



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June

Dear Horace

I know it's been a while since we last spoke and I hope your well. I have so many things to share with you since lock down. I never thought I would have so much sun. One Thursday night at 8.00pm I got out of bed and looked out my window and I saw people clapping. I asked my mum what they was and she said they was clapping for the NHS. In the morning we went on a bike ride and saw so many more people doing exercise. I noticed every where we went people said hello how have you been through lock down. I realised that there was less planes in the sky and there was more birds. My dad was made a key worker because he keeps people intouch with what is going on in the world besides that he delivers food to hospitals and elderly people. So with out my dad working we would be lost. My mum and sister donated food to a food bank and I made chocolate cup cakes. I painted rainbows on paper then stuck it on the window. During lock down me and my family have have got along together great.

Best wishes from Turbot



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

Tuesday 16th June

Dear Horace

During lockdown I have felt sad because I miss school. I also felt bored because there's nothing to do.

While in lockdown I performed some acts of kindness. I helped to chat with my friend. I was helping my mum by looking after Alissa. I was being good to my family.

Some things I noticed about the environment were that the birds were singing louder. Also, less aeroplanes were in the sky. Finally I saw cute foxes.

I didn't notice that a forest was nearby. I also didn't know we were close to the airport. Lastly I didn't know there were lots of birds in my garden.

Best wishes  
Justin



Horace Walpole

Strawberry Hill House

Twickenham

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June

Dear Horace,

What a boring and strange time it has been so far!  
I have never went through anything like the lockdown before.  
Life has never been so plane and slow like this before.

During lockdown, I have noticed so many things that  
I found really kind and helpful. I have seen some  
very kind acts especially <sup>my neighbours</sup> who have been helping each other  
from getting food or other things that they need <sup>it</sup> as they  
can't go out. ~~The~~ Also the thing I found helpful from  
my community is that when we go grocery shopping there  
has been put arrows and lines to help people keep a  
distance and to know which way to go.



There is also some more things that I have noticed about the World and it's about how louder the birds are especially in the morning. It is now very rare to hear or even see an aeroplane across the sky. ~~I~~ Whilst going on walks, I have seen a lot of colourful pictures <sup>in</sup> people's windows which make me smile.

Finally, I have now realized how busy the world is and that the rubbish is mostly taken early in the morning <sup>as that the</sup> as well as posts are being dropped off at houses nearly at the same time.

After lockdown I will now know a lot more than before.

Best Wishes

Juwariyah



Dear M<sup>r</sup>: Walpole

I cannot express to

Mr. & M<sup>r</sup>: Conway; hearing from you

in your last letter with many

making; it appears very strange to

on the 20<sup>th</sup> or even on the 23. We sh

gress, or Retreat, as I should ima

liberation, without they had chang

What I dread is, that the Minestr



HORACE Walpole

Strawberry hill house  
Tutchenham

Tuesday 23 June

Dear Horace,

lockdown has brought a range of feelings. It is a  
very strange and scary time at the moment everything  
seems still and on hold.

Lockdown has made me realise the kind ness of humans and how  
the small little things can make you smile. We have been  
cheering in on our grounds and going to make sure these jobs and  
helping our elderly neighbours with shopping. Our community has  
come together weekly to call for the NHS and as I take my daily  
walk there are lots of windows in windows to show support.

Have you noticed how quite it seems the noise from the  
aeroplanes is much less. The air around us seems much  
cleaner and easier to breath. I think the birds love the change  
as I can hear them singing much louder.  
We really do live in a beautiful world we just need to  
slow down and enjoy it.

KAI (AGE 8)



Dear H. Grace

There is a bug called coronavirus that makes people sick so we have been on lockdown to keep us safe.

We have been allowed to go for exercise everyday. I have been going for walks in the fields and forests and have seen loud, bright coloured pheasants, 36 humping and leaping deers, many big kites, huge and very fast Harriers and giant Herons, that make their nests in very high trees near ponds and lakes.

I have also been giving bees, giving them sugar water and putting them on flowers to collect pollen.

I have noticed less cars and people outside because everyone is at home, people have been putting pictures of rainbows in their windows for children like me to enjoy spotting on my walks.

Everyone has been clapping for the NHS on Thursday night at 8pm. It felt good to hear people cheering for the frontline workers.

It's been hard for everyone so I have given toys and clothes to children that don't have any. This has taught me to be grateful for how fortunate I am.

Tom Kairon age 7



Dear Horace,

What a strange time this has been! I have never experienced anything like a lockdown before. Life is so much quieter and slower.

During lockdown, I have noticed so many things that have made me smile and appreciate my local community. I have seen some kind neighbours going to shop for elderly.

Another thing I have noticed is how quiet it is and it feels... Peaceful. It feels like Trees are following me into the Woods

Best wishes,

Sharon: AGE 9



Dear horace,

Coronavirus has caused people pain and all of the communities are trying their best to keep everyone safe even though they are risking their own lives to help others survive this virus and that is exactly what good,nice,kind and caring people do.The NHS and other people, like the police, the firebrigade and even the army have all helped with Coronavirus to keep everyone safe. If Coronavirus did not happen we would be outside having fun, but also we have thought more about washing our hands and not wasting stuff and not using so much money and if we could do that every day even when Corona is done and we can go out and we don't have to social distancing it will be a big change of life styles and a good change.

And you can help give the NHS a rest even though that may not be possible at the time i meant to say it more like this please help the NHS by not going out alot and that may not seem like you are doing a lot to help the NHS but you are so please don't go out alot thank you so much for understanding

From kiera



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

30th June 2020

Dear Horace,

I am writing to you regarding what I have been up to during lockdown and what new things I have experienced in this troubled time. As I believe you would have heard about, schools have been closed and although I have been working a lot from home on many calls, I have found myself with a large amount of free time regularly. With this time, I have been frequently trying to leave my house and in particular drive nature. This has been possible when I have decided to go on a run, walk, or cycle and I have a specific route that helps me discover the best parts of the environment and here is a description of my journey yesterday. The sky was full of tumultuous, dark, ragged clouds as I set off and inside the first few minutes of my swift run, a driving rain began drenching the humid air. I braved past cascading trees, who offered some brief shelter, before I stepped onto a jagged, ungiving path that ran parallel with moss filled lake. I raced around the lake with the animals beside analysing my every gait. Deers crammed themselves into the gaps in the trees, squealing quietly as their chestnut coloured skin gradually became covered in rain drops. The once soothing sound of chirping birds had vanished and now they squawked in large flocks, all desperately attempting to cover their frail wings from the relentless rain. I raced on and I was

fortunate that a howling wind developed, cooling my body against the rising temperature, and swaying the resistant trees from right to left. As my journey edged on and I came towards my destination, the darkest of clouds quickly advanced into the distance, and the blazing orange sun became illuminated in the sky once more. Although my legs became covered in the opaque, thick mud I found the journey incredible to notice nature and how it adapts.

From,  
Kristian



Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June

Dear Horace,

What a strange time this has been! In my years of being a child, I have never experienced anything like Lockdown before. In my opinion, because of this Lockdown, the world isn't lively like it used to be. The only thing lively at the moment are birds who keep chirping merrily.

During this Lockdown, I have noticed many things that made me put a <sup>Smile</sup> ~~Smile~~ on my face and appreciate my local area. I've seen my neighbours go and get food for other neighbours so they won't have to go. When I go bike riding with my family. I have really enjoyed looking at all the colourful banners and pictures children have put on their windows to support all key workers. My mum always calls her mum and dad to check if they are OK and my dad walks to his mum and dad's house to check if they are OK. These tiny acts of kindness have helped us all during these difficult days.



Dear M<sup>r</sup> Walpole

I cannot express to

Mr. & M<sup>r</sup> Conway; hearing from you

in your last, I'd be with many

making; it appears very strange to

on the 20<sup>th</sup> or even on the 23. We sh

gress, or Retreat, as I shou'd ima

liberation, without they had chang

What I dread is, that the Minestr



Friday 26th June

Dear Horace

Lockdown has been really strange, it's so weird not being able to go to work, shops, all those things that we usually do every day. I feel like the entire world is upside down.

During the lockdown I have noticed so many acts of kindness within my community. I have seen people offer support to my elderly neighbours like collecting groceries or coming for a chat with the distance.  
I called family more often.

Instead of becoming bored, as I imagined I might, I have found that my local natural areas feel like new destinations each day. Bird songs are richest at dawn and dusk.

Finally I have noticed the world is coming together as one big community, united in fight against COVID-19.  
I hope this is over soon.

Best wishes

Laura, age 8



Dear Mr Walpole,

These are surreal times indeed. The world has been hit with a global pandemic and so much tragedy has touched so many families. But, despite this, and probably because of this, people have pulled together to help, heal and support in a multitude of ways. The bravery and selflessness of frontline and key workers have surpassed all expectations, but others too have stepped up to support and guide through these most terrible of times. As a family with a vulnerable member, we have had to pull together as never before. At the time of writing it has been five months to the day since I ventured out of the house. But we have established a new routine and adapted to, and dare I say thrived from, a slower pace of life. The day has been punctuated with Zoom classes covering everything from dance to classical music to embroidery. My daughters' teachers have given their time for free to continue the dance lessons and crafts that they have loved so much, in order to bring a normality and a familiar face to a life that is suddenly so alien.

But perhaps the most striking outcome of all this is the way we have started to notice more. The garden and its wealth of wildlife have opened up new worlds to us. We loved hunting for minibeasts prior to lockdown, and I prided myself on being a bit of a birder and nature lover, but this experience has given us the time to dwell, to investigate, to ask questions, to share, to photograph, to document the nooks and crannies of the natural world on our doorstep.



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham  
Tuesday 16th of June

Dear Horace

At this difficult time of writing this letter to you. We have been in a lock down situation since March due to an awful virus called covid 19. Many ~~cases~~ people to have died from this it causes me to feel very tense and scared to go out of my front door. We do daily exercise but have to keep distance from others out side of your household. When taking a daily walk its amazing the things that I noticed I haven't noticed before. The rustling of leaves in the trees and bushes. The smell from the beautiful blossoms in my neighbours gardens. In our back garden since lockdown I have noticed different kinds of birds we have a robin that keeps visiting our garden. In the evening we have a hedge hog visit its amazing watching it eat. We went to a park and got some tadpoles and tiny fish. The tadpoles are now changing ~~into~~ into small frogs. Eventually we will have to release them back into the park stream. When walking some people that are doing there daily exercise acknowledge us. I have seen many people dog walkers, without aeroplanes and cars it is so peaceful and when things get back to normal after covid 19 it will be so noisy.



Also reunited again. I hope that the community  
stay friendly and I still notice special things  
that I found in lockdown. I didn't realise  
that I liked in such a friendly community  
with so much nature around.

Best wishes

Leah Jane

(Age 10)



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

Tuesday 23rd June

Dear Horace,

I am really missing school these difficult times I am writing this letter to inform you what I noticed during the lockdown.

During the lockdown I have noticed that I have been healthy while others were suffering in my local community. I have seen the people were helping the elderly who cannot go for shopping. I have seen along lines and distancing people in the food shops and also pharmacies. We kindly check every day my family is they are doing well that I miss so much.

I also noticed the beautiful sun coming and going and the natural sound of true birds.

Finally I have notice the people riding bikes early in the morning and afternoon whole family together and the people staying their house at all time.



After Lockdown I will change my  
situation, I will go school  
library and swimming pool because  
I miss all so badly.

Best wishes

Libah

7 years



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June

Dear Horace

Lockdown has been a very strange time for everyone. During lockdown Sometimes I have felt bored because I can not do all of the things that I enjoy like ballet, Swimming, gymnastics and playing in the park with my friends. However, I have really enjoyed being at home with my family and my school. I have been able to spend more time with my mum, dad and my brother it has been fantastic. Soon I will be going back to school into year 4 I am very excited. Throughout lockdown I have seen lots of acts of kindness! Joe Wickes has been keeping everyone fit, Captain Tom raised £23,000,000 for the NHS and we ran 5K for 25. It has been lovely to see everyone helping each other out.

Since lockdown began we have been going out for our daily exercise but to make it more exciting we have tried to walk to different places or use other paths. During lockdown I have seen lots more nature, plants growing and animals exploring! Everywhere has been much quieter!



There are lots of nature trails close to our house that we had not explored before lockdown. I feel lucky to live so close by! Throughout lockdown I have noticed lots more children playing in their gardens, people exercising outside and lots more people say Hello!

I'm looking forward to everything getting back to normal soon.

frome

Libbie



Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

Tuesday 16th June

Dear Alice,

What a weird time it has been. It is really boring as there is nothing to do. I am missing my friends a lot and it has been hard not to see them for a few months. My family have missed going to the theatre because we were planning to see a few shows.

In this rough time my family has done the best we can. We've helped grandad with his shopping, we've stayed social distancing and I've drawn a rainbow to show our support for the NHS and key workers.

Even though I've stayed indoors a lot I go outside sometimes. I water the plants while the fish swim in the pond. We have planted some flowers and kept some tadpoles safe and now frogs.

I can't wait ~~until~~ until lockdown is over and I can see my friends and family again.

Libby (9)



## Community come together

Lili, 7, London

Dear Horace, kindness

I gave food to my School to the teacher's who were working during lockdown and my neighbour's were making visors for the hospital's and we got involved.

They gave materials and we made them and got sent to the hospitals. Doctor's were so pleased!

I gave a donation to caption Tom online say well done and I took care of my brother and sister to make sure there okay.

## Environment

Two chicks fell out from our tree because it was windy! We had to walk them to there Mum, I looked after plants to make sure that they had enough water and we walk, scoot, and cycle so we don't pollute the planet.

## Life around you

I facetime my Nani and Nand to see what they are doing and my friend Eva to play with her and my cousins to see what they are doing! I made a rainbow for the NHS because they have done a lot of saving! And we clap to say well done!

Love Lili X ♡




Horace walpole  
Strawberry Hill house  
Twickenham  
Thursday 25th June

Dear Horace,

This year there has been a big virus which has effected many people around the world! To help prevent it we have been staying at home and have not been going to school. But during this time at home I have been doing lots of fun things like watching movies with my sister, trying new meals and even tie dying my clothes! I have ~~been~~ also been spending more time with my family and cat, her name is tiggy, as I don't spend as much time with them when im at school. Now we are allowed to see a small number of people I have been going on walks with my ~~family~~ friends and spoke to my great granny through the window at her care home!

Hope your well!

~~From~~ From Lily 



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry hill house  
Twickenham

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2020

Dear Horace,

This has been the most troubling past few months for all of us. I did not believe anything like this would ever happen! It has been so shocking! How are you feeling about this strange lockdown? Have you been worried?

During lockdown I have noticed people being kind and chatting to elderly as they are sometimes lonely. My neighbours have also helped local elderly by getting them the food and medicine they might need. These hard times have made me appreciate my family more and we have been sending letters and cards back and forth to cheer us up.

I have realised that there are not many clouds because less planes are about. In my back garden we have noisy parakeets and lots of cats sitting on our shed roof. As well as this the roads are mostly empty and this causes less pollution so more plants can grow.

Finally, the most wonderful thing I have realised is that so many things are happening without me knowing! For example my neighbour is having a new baby!



Also little children are sticking pictures of rainbows up in there windows to show they care about the community and the NHS.

After lockdown I shall appreciate my family and community more. I hope you keep safe.

Best wishes,

Lily XX  
(age 8)



Horace Halpern  
Shawbury Hill House  
Twickenham

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020

Dear Horace,

I have enjoyed going on nature walks recently with my mum and brother. I have noticed that it has been quieter with not as many cars around. Cars are not allowed in Bushy Park at the moment, so you can hear the wind blowing through the trees and the leaves buzzing.

Every so often little green parakeets fly in and out of the trees in the park directly opposite my house. In early Spring, volunteers from a community project planted seeds in this park and now they have started to bloom!

I enjoy the great outdoors!

Best wishes,  
Lily, aged 8





Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> of June 2020

Dear Horace,

Since we have been in lockdown I have been doing all of the housework you have set up for me and been going in my garden in the pool and playing with my boys.

Since my neighbour's mum has had a baby boy he has been having fun with his little brother. When I have been with my neighbour because Zayden's mum had the baby my boys have been helping Hanner who had the baby and I have been with Zayden helping him learn and be playing nicely to make him nice and learn.

The cleaners have still been cleaning the stairs but not in the house I am the top house of the flats so we have stairs to go down. But there is only 2 layers.

lots of birds have been tweeting in trees and it sounds cute that's tweeting but it gives me headaches. one day ago I saw robins and put my hand out so one can go on me but never does. I always try to but robins don't go on me.





I also do see Wick's humanity  
with my family

From Lily-May





dear Mateo

This lockdown has made me gloomy because our population is decreasing and it's sad to see so many people ill. We all have to stay at home unless it's most needed to outside which is very unusual to our old life back before this pandemic began. Another reason why I'm gloomy is because I wish I was at school so my teacher called Mrs. Langer Hernandez can teach me as everything is much more easier when she's teaching me and I can have a good understanding of the work my teacher set out for me. I miss my friends in school because I can't see or play with them anymore because of this lockdown. However, the positive things from this lockdown for me is that I am practicing Spanish and I've gotten closer with my family because we play board games, card games and video games everyday.

During this lockdown I have noticed many strange things which I never noticed before especially in my neighbourhood. I have seen my neighbours outside cheering for the NHS and key workers at 8pm my family and I joined along, some people even got fireworks to celebrate how hard the NHS and key workers are working for the society well. This shows how some of my neighbours stepped outside and did all this, one of a neighbour also did all the food shopping for us and my family and I am so grateful because I was ill so nobody could go out food shopping and there was no delivery slots available with any supermarkets. Our neighbours helped us get through this lockdown these simple acts of kindness from my neighbours made a tremendous impact on our lives.

Thirdly, another thing I've noticed was how the roads and streets are empty most of the time you won't even hear a car horn that doesn't mean you can't see the car struggling like waves in



a sea. I could hear and see bees busily  
buzzing as they flew from flower to flower.  
I think they enjoyed collecting pollen. When it  
wasn't sunny I still liked it because I listened  
to the raindrops making a drip sound when  
it fell on the grass and leaves of plants.  
The only sound I experienced in this  
lockdown was the aeroplanes flying over my  
roof and once when the skies were rumbling  
due to thunder. The sounds of these things  
were very different to other very peaceful  
sounds in lockdown but still like it because  
I miss the loud usual sounds a little bit.

Finally, one of the last things I've  
noticed during this lockdown was how fast time  
passes. Although you feel bored for example this lockdown started just  
before spring and it's already summer, two seasons have  
passed from sitting at home but it feels as if it's only been  
1 or 2 months at home for me. I don't know if other people feel  
the same way as me I've been seeing this way since  
Easter during this lockdown. However, I learned how  
quickly grass grows. I helped my sister cut the  
grass and every two weeks the grass got so long  
like hair grows so fast. I also realised you'll mostly see  
dog walkers to you go on a walk, there is so much  
wildlife and plants out here that I've never seen  
to them. About in my free time. To be honest  
I've never had this much free time on my  
hands except on weekends, every day now  
feels as if it's a Saturday or Sunday.

once this lockdown is over I will never forget  
what I've noticed in this lockdown and I will  
have a closer eye to everything because  
it intrigues me to think about things I've never  
really thought or spoke about the whether it  
be the most vague and random thing or  
the scientific thing I will always  
now notice small things rather than  
just focusing on the big picture. The only  
thing I want now is for this virus  
to have a proper cure so people can stop  
losing their lives and they can stop suffering.  
I also want to go back to school so I can



learn new things every day from my  
saviour teacher as well playing at time and  
break time in the playground with my friends. I also  
want key workers to relax after this pandemic  
is over because they've been doing such a good  
~~job~~ for us. I wish life back comes to normal  
so although I've learn to appreciate the smallest  
things in this lockdown and I will continue to do so.

Your sincerely  
(Abed)



Strawberry Hill  
House Twickenham

School.

8

19 June 2020

Dear Horace



Lizzie age 7



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

Since lockdown began, everything has been a lot quieter apart from the birds, who have been singing louder than ever. During this time, I have felt strange like nothing is normal. After a while, lockdown became slightly boring however I have noticed a lot...

When I was walking my dogs, I noticed someone had left out a basket to donate food for others to take when they need it. I also noticed, while walking my dogs, that some very kind people have been walking other people's dogs when the owners can't. One thing I see very often is people doing shopping for others.

Throughout lockdown, I have noticed that the rivers have been a lot clearer and the ducks have been very lively. While walking I have seen two Muntjac deer even though they are usually quiet and like to hide. Altogether this proves lockdown has made me notice new things.

From Lola



Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June.

### Letter Writing competition

Dear Horace,

Well, what an uneasy time we have gone through! I have felt so bored, worried and strange. I have never experienced anything like this before. I am writing to tell you what life in lockdown for me and my family is like and what we do to keep busy.

Since lockdown, my family and I have seen and done many acts of kindness. My mum has gone on lots of shopping trips for my elderly neighbor and guess what... our other neighbours have just had a baby, but we are not allowed to see him. Of course, we were very happy for them! Did you know that a 100 year old man raised over one million pounds for the NHS! How amazing is that!

As you know, the environment has been very different during lockdown. Let me give you some examples! The birds are singing much louder than usual and less people are out walking their dogs. I think walking my dog when there are less people, it is very peaceful.

The world around me is so different! It feels so strange! Social distancing is the worst for me. I also hate not being able to visit my friends and family.

As we know Lockdown was a huge impact on all our lives and we really want to get back to normal. I really want to achieve being able to get more exercise and healthier. Hopefully Lockdown will not last for long.

I'll write again soon,  
Lottie Age: 10



Honour Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June

Dear Honour.

Hope you are well. If you have seen the news you will know about the coronavirus pandemic, and how it is affecting our daily lives. It has been a very strange past 85 days and I am starting to wonder when it will ever be the same! I have not been isolating because I have been going for walks and seeing my friends, but that is not to say it hasn't been extremely difficult! I do question when it will be a bit more normal, and not a day goes by without me missing my family or thinking of going back to school. But I know with the strength of our community, that this is the right thing to do!

We are lucky because our community is so caring. In fact our community is so compassionate about the hard working NHS that my mother received a gift for her tireless work as a NHS key worker. One warm summer evening I sat in the back garden below the shade of our neighbours blooming cherry tree, the sweet scent filling the air around me. I was startled by a knock on the door. My mother went to answer the door and she was greeted by a bag bursting with an array of colourful, vibrant flowers. My mother was so thankful. The wording on the bag said "a little bag of thankfulness". It was a surprise present from our neighbour, who had kindly sent the flowers to my mother. Mother was overjoyed, what an amazing act of kindness!

There have been many more acts of kindness around our community. Neighbours have put colourful rainbow pictures in their windows thanking the NHS and keeping spirits high! Even the local stables have been cheering us up by bringing round a pony to our very own doorsteps! Our community is so loving and compassionate. It's so wonderful that in a time of help and need that kindness and nature still lives on!

Hope to see you soon, from Lucy age 10



Dear M<sup>r</sup>: Walpole

I cannot express to

Mr. & M<sup>r</sup>: Conway; hearing from you

in your last letter with many

making; it appears very strange to

on the 20<sup>th</sup> or even on the 23. We sh

grefs, or Retreat, as I shou'd ima

liberation, without they had chang

What I dread is, that the Minestr

M

Dear Horace

lockdown has been very boring but i have learnt so many new things!

during lockdown i have noticed so many beautiful flowers i had never seen before. So many fruits like strawberries cherries and raspberries growing in our neighbourhood and our garden.

I have noticed people clapping on thursday at Eight for the NHS. I have noticed rainbows on windows spreading happiness during lockdown. We have also drawn a rainbow on our window. We also have given food donations to our neighbourhood. When i go shopping with my mum i have noticed big queues and people with masks on. everyone is a distance apart. lockdown has been very boring at times but it has also been fun! i have learnt how to ride a bike and i go on walks everyday with my family. It has been fun overall.

Love from Makayla



Dear Horace,

It seems that as I grow older the less certain I become about life.

Who would have thought that by limiting ourselves to only one form of exercise a day we would cherish our daily observations and delight in the unfolding of Spring 2020? The greening of the bare trees, the delicate wild-flowers and the nest building, courtship and rearing of young birds.

Aspects of life that we would generally take for granted are now valued and appreciated. It gives me great pleasure to see children and parents enjoying time together in the fresh air; feeding the ducks, seeing youngsters roly poly down the slopes and just running around. Free-range children, eh?

One young boy I spoke to who was about ten years old initiated a conversation with me the other day. I asked him if he was missing school. He replied, "not really..... I used to get bullied." The good news is that he was really looking forward to going to his new secondary school in the autumn and perhaps meeting some more like-minded boys. Which just goes to show Horace, that from the mouths of babes there is always hope in life.

Our society has had to learn patience, tolerance and respect - all honourable virtues. People have had to queue to enter supermarkets and ensure they keep two metres away from one another at all times. The term is called, "Social distancing."



People have had to learn not to be greedy and stockpile toilet rolls, pasta, bread, eggs, tins of tomatoes and Paracetamol. The panic buying and empty shelves caused such anxiety at the beginning of the lock-down.

The air we breathe has been purer and with less man-made noises we can really hear the birds singing now and our hearts are lifted by their beautiful songs.

We haven't missed the aircraft or the heavy traffic at all - not really Horace.

We have of course missed seeing our family and our friends, but we all know it's not forever; it will eventually come to an end and life will return to something more "normal."

What the Covid-19 Pandemic has really taught me is that what really matters are the simple aspects of life, such as the love of our family and friends and the love of nature

Of course, being retired I'm in a fortunate position financially. I haven't lost my job or been furloughed. I also live in a good size home with a garden. I can't imagine how difficult it must be for families with young children living in a high rise flat with no available green space.

Well Horace, I do hope you are well and using this time productively. I am curious to see if Sylvia Browne's prediction of this virus returning in ten years time, comes true. It's on page 210 in her book titled, "End of Days" published in 2008.

Please be assured that I have washed my hands before sending you this letter.

My very best wishes,

Amanda.



Horace Walpole

Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

26<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Horace,

Cycling has ignited a new passion inside me. It used to be a regular hobby but as I grew older it faded. However, cycling has reinstated itself as part of my daily routine and I've got to notice how lockdown has made the environment a better place. The loss of sneezing cars and roaring engines has left a sense of tranquility behind. Litter seems scarce and people seem kinder in general on the road. It has made me realise lockdown has provided us with numerous positive outcomes.

Gardening has also become a recent passion I've discovered. Gardening, previously I saw as a tedious chore, has become a hobby of beauty. I've got to see the gladioli blossom and their vibrant, rich colours shine. It made me understand how beautiful nature can be if it's taken care of. Lockdown has shown me how privileged we are to own a big garden, let alone a garden, and that I have to acknowledge and do something about instead of taking it for granted.

I've also recognised during lockdown some people have it a lot easier than others. I realised I was in a position of power and had to take advantage of it, so I decided to donate and collect food for good banks and look after



People at care homes. It made me happy to see the elderly enjoy and appreciate my company and that the smallest acts of kindness can make a colossal difference. This also showed me that this shouldn't be an act as a result of lockdown and I should pursue helping at care homes.

In conclusion, lockdown has helped me realise more about nature and helped me understand my place of privilege and how I can use it. In all, it has offered numerous positive results that I wish to continue to work on.

From Maneesh



4th August 2020  
Twickenham

Dear Morace,

How pleased I am to have been volunteering at your home in Strawberry Hill and seeing many of the 'lost treasures' that were re-assembled in the Exhibition.

I have been inspired by your accounts in your letters and in sympathy at your humble acceptance of lacking the mastery of Mathematics, mistaking 70 for 7 gallons of wine in your letter to Horace Mann, 13th Dec. 1759. I was also intrigued to discover how you found the French people disinclined to speak English in your letter to Richard West, Esq. 21st April 1739. Believe me, Morace, in this month of August 2020, the same still applies today!

Your many quotes to Francis Conway, 1748, such as "the worst place to find solitude is the country" still rings true today. I myself was born in a country village, with an idyllic childhood,

but totally agree in that, "In the country there is that unpleasant, Christian commodity called 'neighbours'."

Having lived and travelled in many countries around the world, I can honestly concur with you in the thought that

Strawberry Hill, with its proximity to Richmond, Twickenham, Kingston and London, is the most pleasurable site in which to build a house, close to the River Thames.

Thank you, Morace, for guiding my way to your beautiful, quirky, Gothic castle, and thank you for sharing your thoughts and aspects of life. Thank you, also, for the companionship of all the friends I have met here whilst volunteering and for furthering my education.

Yours sincerely,  
Margaret

Dear Horace

I am miserable in lockdown I am going to be very kind and eating so pepa don't feel the same. I am so bored in lockdown I can't go outside there's nothing to do inside. I went outside for one hour with a mask with my family. I read books draw film I very bored there's nothing to do. Why does this have to happen I can only call my friends I meet them outside but can't go close. This is so sad I do hope this lockdown will go it's terrible that we can't go outside I miss all my teacher's it's so annoying I'm in my house and have to put masks on I hope it will go soon I hate lockdown.

best wishes,

Murija

(Age: 10)



# ABC ENGLISH FOR vocab

## LOCKDOWN Noun

Acts of kindness (dard corn)

- People have been putting pictures of rainbows with "I love the NHS"

- People are mostly clapping for the NHS almost everyday.

- ~~People~~ People have stopped taking casual walks down the street to see their friends

Acts of kindness (family)

- My Dad phoned every single relative on Eid to ask if their OK

- ~~Per~~ My Dad and Sister donate loads to charity mostly monthly

- We ~~always~~ always say "hello" to our neighbours and ask how they are.

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Thursday 1st June

Dear Horace,

Laithorn is in better than I ever imagined  
nothing like the one in the book but more so.

In the house I have had some good and bad things.  
My things and the other things and although I am  
a bit of a person I am a person.

EMPH: Thursday the shop for the NH  
and the workshop and to see the best of the world.

I have just got some new things but I  
don't know what.

I go for work in the park and  
find for 1st in Park with my own  
and others.

At Laithorn I hope to see you both  
very soon.

Love...



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

30<sup>th</sup> June 1820

Dear Horace,

I recently saw a woodpecker in the garden. This is the first time that I have ever seen a woodpecker, although I have heard them in the distance many times before, pecking at the great oak trees around the edges of the common. Swig's live in our attic and we hear them every now and again. It is an unusual thing that began 5-6 years ago and we enjoy them as company every summer. We enjoy hearing them chirp to each other during a calm hot summer afternoon as they dive and swoop overhead. A few weeks ago some blue tits were in our apple tree, much to the delight of our cat, as she would watch intently as the blue tits tried to find a hole to nest in. Multiple times our cat clambered her way up the tree quickly, and as soon as the adrenaline ran out and reason hit her, she realised that it was too difficult for her to climb down. Originally, she would only go a couple of metres above the ground, so it was easy to be able to get her down when she begged for it. However, as she became more confident we would have to get a ladder to get her down, and one time she wanted it!

Whenever I go for my run, I can hear the slight chirping of birds, a sound which I previously had heard very little of. I enjoy it and it calms me as I feel closer to nature. It is quite odd that whenever you go outside, rather than it being full of traffic and pedestrians there is no one there. Sometimes I bike through the beech woods close to my house with a family, although I usually do it with my father. It is interesting and enjoyable, as it is a break from the outside world and it takes you into a world of adventure and the unknown. Around the point at which we turn back, there is an incredibly steep incline that we go. Although it is difficult here, going down is extremely fun, as you can feel the cool breeze as you reach incredible speeds. It is an enjoyable and exhilarating experience.



and adds more to journey, rather than just going through the woods and some road, you have a challenge with an excellent reward.

Staying at home can open your eyes and make you realise things that you did not know before. For example, my cat has been leaving for around 3-5 hours per day at midday, and coming back whenever she is hungry. Normally, when I would be at school, I would not notice this as when I get home after school she would be waiting for me at the top of the stairs. Now though, I wonder where she goes and why she goes, if she normally goes to the same place and does she always go there. I am quite interested in this, so whenever I have free time I will try to follow her to get an idea for where she is in case she goes missing. But as the weather becomes cooler, she spends more time at home in her favourite chair, next to me.

Yours sincerely,  
Max



Horace Walpole

Strawberry Hill House

Twickenham

5th June 2020

Dear Horace,

I wanted to write to tell you about some of my experiences during lockdown period caused by Covid-19 in the spring of 2020.

My name is Meg, I'm 12 and I live in Richmond borough. I had my birthday in lockdown which weird, particularly because it was right at the beginning, when rules were really strict so I could only see my friends via Zoom.

Zoom, I had never even heard of Zoom before this started.

It's a video calling programme, which everyone was now using to stay in touch. Without it, everyone would be even more isolated.

I belong to a local scout group, 3rd HapHampton Hill.

Normally, we would meet up on a Friday night, there's about 20 of us from all different schools who get together and have fun. When Covid started, scouts had to stop.

This was a real shame because I ~~had~~ looked forward to Friday nights, and I have friends at



scouts that I don't see anywhere else. We were also set to go camping, and of course that couldn't happen either.

There is some positive news though. We are now meeting on zoom every Friday night. I now go to scouts in my kitchen. I still put on my scarf and scout t-shirt, and my friends are online. So far, we've taken part in quizzes, a scavenger hunt, a pet show, a mental health awareness evening and always have a general catch up where we can talk about our week.

Scouts becoming an online group is just one way that a small part of our community has come together. I'm sure that there are many other examples of people learning new ways to stay connected. From my point of view, my Friday nights are now something positive that I have found to do during lockdown. It's a part of the week where I can stay in touch with friends and have an evening of fun to look forward to.

I'm excited for the day when we can once again meet in person.

With best wishes

Neg



Dear Horace

I hope you're well. I am writing to tell you what I am doing in lockdown and what environmental changes I have noticed. My family have been doing lots of baking, such as cinnamon buns, olive bread, bikkies and lovely cakes. We have also been baking for friends and also have been sent cakes by friends. When I am going on runs I have noticed that that more animals are coming out because it's much quieter. During lockdown I have been looking through my craft draws and found lots of things to do. I have been sending lots of letter letters to my friends and family. I have been making lots of rainbows for the windows of my house. During lockdown I have ~~be~~ had lots of time to do my favourite thing, reading. Here are some of the books I've read: Harry Potter, Ottoline, Dotty Dexterville, Matilda and DFG.

Yours Sincerely

Megan



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

22nd June 2020

Dear Mr Walpole,

During these months I have now come to see <sup>the</sup> extent of Lockdown. Covid 19 is deadly, there is no denying it, however it has released positivity and has united my family and more. Luckily people are able to embrace Covid 19 and change it into something better. Something we wouldn't have without it. Of course it has had its downsides but we can hope in the future this all ends.

As this Lockdown has really affected our daily lives, people are learning to be more sympathetic to one another. Considering my mum has to work more shifts and works for the NHS my family came to a conclusion that it is only fair to help out around the house. However even the smaller things make a difference. You don't have to do something big to help out around the community because every little thing you do will eventually change the world. Covid has affected more people than others so we need to try and put ourselves into other people's shoes.

Considering more people are staying home, the nature has really improved. More flowers are blooming, more butterflies are spreading and birds and cats are taking advantage of this time. Nature is the best thing to distract me from this and if you spend more time out there you will notice things you never noticed.

I hope you are doing well in these difficult <sup>times</sup> and supporting the community. Everything little you do can help and you might not realize it.

Kind regards,  
Melissa (11 years old)



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

Wednesday 17th June 2020

Dear Horace,

I hope you are well and keeping Healthy. I am going to tell you some things that are happening in my life right now. I am having to do home schooling because of a horrible disease called the Corona Virus (COVID19). Me and My family are trying to stay happy even though it is a really tough time. In the UK there is a Health service called the NHS (National Health Service). People are supporting and raising money for them so the Corona Virus can go away sooner. I hope that you are writing some wonderful letters and keeping positive.

Yours sincerely,

Mia

Age: 10



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Wickham

First Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Horace,

On the first week of lockdown I felt ecstatic because I had time off school! However a few weeks later I realised that I was going to miss my school play and this made me feel dejected cause I was the wolf.

In ~~the~~ (rare) parks it grew so much plant grew so much that I couldn't climb trees because of the nettles. I saw ~~real~~ <sup>had not</sup> ~~never~~ <sup>seen</sup> in a long time. There were new apple trees and pear trees.

One evening dad took us for a drive around central London. We saw so many things such as the London Eye, Buckingham Palace, and the art gallery <sup>(BIBBENS)</sup> and Trafalgar Square! We arrived at this time London was not busy.

From Micah



Dear Horace,

SORRY about the formal start. As I was saying we're in a lockdown so we can't travel much, you must be okay though in your mansion. You must've seen on Thursdays people come out and clap. My neighbours did it too - It feels normal now because we have not gone out for a while now, whilst some followed rules others didn't - But we followed rules - Home is more fun when you're there all the time - I was rude to me not to ask how you are? Also Please write back! Please be gone virus.

Best wishes from Mikhail, 9 years old.



Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June

Dear Horace,

Things are not doing so good there is a dangerous virus spreading and it is pretty bad I feel a little bit sad because of the virus.

My mum and me were going to my granpa's house and ~~put down~~ <sup>good</sup> some food on the doorstep then we left. When we went back home I saw birds flying in the air and trees shake. I heard some wind whistling. We went home and my granmiff helped my mum with the shopping.

We have helped by giving foods to all everyone. We have donated to the shop I have also drawn a rainbow and stuck it to the window.

I have felt brave and I heard a lot of earplanes that were noisy. We also found birds living in our garage we fed them and it was kinds of cool.

Best wishes from Mina







since the lockdown I noticed many things like  
now lots of Robins come in my garden and  
not a single car moving and no traffic  
we used to have lots of aeroplanes now not  
even 1 in the sky. One good thing in the  
lockdown is I get to notice all the things I  
missed and spend time with my family!

Lots of people are wearing masks and lots of  
shops are closed there are lots of new  
rules. on the ground there is yellow spots and  
finally everyone 'Keeping safe and never  
leaving their houses'!

Best wishes

M. Hamed

age: 8



Twickenham  
17 June 2020

Dear Horace Walpole

I am sure your father would have told you about how people suggested during the great plague of London. It is now 2020 we have lived in quarantine because of a new virus called covid-19 our lives have changed so much. I know you loved to write to your friends and gossiping so I thought you might like to hear my story.

The worst thing about lock down is TOO MUCH FAMILY TIME just kidding (Maybe). We got to know our next door neighbours more. Oh and I am sorry to say that all of the shops are closed so you can't go and get any more clothes but they are opening now. I love the portrait of you in your lovely lavender suit, you looked very nice.

At first we could only go out once a day for an hour but we are lucky to have a garden. I have loved to watch all of the wildlife in my garden.



Its not big but I have seen:

para keets

Stag beetles

foxes

and Squirrels that bury their nuts in our grass So my father dug up the lawn and put fake grass down. I wish I had met your pet squirrel. We live near bushy park I am sure you went there during your life time.

Today we went to bushy park and watched tiny baby frogs hopping in to the water. There was millions, we watched them all day. I also play in the bushes making dens with my friends. I wish I could tell you how much I like to play in the bushes at Strawberry hill. I know it ment so much to you to have a magic castle its still very magical to me. And when lock down ends I am going to see your lovely castle.

from

molly age 10



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

26<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Horace,

During the coronavirus 2020 lockdown, I have been to my local park (Bushy Park) almost every day, and I think I have used my bike more in the last two weeks, than in the last two years. As a result, I have learnt most of the routes and roads in it. And, I have enjoyed cycling there a lot more than I used to. For exercise, I also go running around my block, which is strange because I normally walk around that area when I'm walking to school, so I have come to notice – this sounds weird – the different types of pavement, and where they are along the road.

I think that the lockdown has really made me appreciate my everyday life before quarantine, and not take simple things for granted, like when I walk past my school, I remember going there almost every day, and quite a lot of the time moaning about it, but now I actually really want to go back, and meet my friends. Nevertheless, I think this lockdown has taught us all a valuable lesson, and I think we will all look at the world from a different perspective when the quarantine is over.

Monty, 12



Dear M<sup>r</sup> Walpole

I cannot express to

Mr & M<sup>r</sup> Conway; hearing from you

in your last letter with many

making; it appears very strange to

on the 20<sup>th</sup> or even on the 23. We sh

gress, or Retreat, as I shou'd ima

liberation, without they had chang

What I dread is, that the Minestr



Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June

Dear Horace,

Strange

What a time it has been! As of right now, we have been in lockdown for 3-4 months and I still can't get over the fact that Covid 19 has invaded our lives like it has done with some of our bodies.

Recently we have been helping people such as giving them hand sanitiser, asking if they need groceries and maintaining social distancing whilst talking to others. Overall we have been staying inside unless we need necessities or for some exercise also. I am telling you know it has been very hard not seeing my friends.

I've noticed that, my natural environment has changed so much that there are less trains coming by my house also on the very few occasions that I have been out I have seen less litter on the ground.

Although being in such a difficult time I have learnt so much about the world right now such as BLM protest movements and Yemen crisis. It has been a hectic time for the world right now.

I think my community is trying hard right now.



and I hope we all get through this!

Yours sincerely

Nabiha - 9

18<sup>th</sup> June 2020

*Strawberry Hill House*

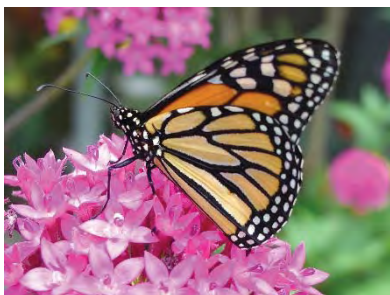
*Twickenham*

*Dear Sir Horace Walpole*

*I am writing to you to tell you how wonderful the nature has been these past few weeks. Since we are in lockdown, we are all finding it hard not being able to see friends and family but bird song every morning has been cheering everybody up a bit. Out in my garden, I see butterflies of all sorts, and sometimes I see a rose or two popping over from the neighbours. Because it is nearly summer, there are always bees on our flowers. My brother actually made a bird feeder, but it fell down because of the wind.*

*Yours sincerely*

*Nancy, aged 9*





Strawberry Hill house  
Twickenham

Tuesday 16th June

Dear Horace,

Quarantine has been quite a melancholy so far! Why may you ask? Well, this is because of certain things like homework, lockdown, not getting to see your friends and many more passionless things. Ugh what a perogative. Regardless of corona, I went to my cousins for his 7th Birthday. However we social distanced as best as we can! 😊 As well as this, me and my parents made some dumplings which they assumed were luscious and piquant (they really weren't). So <sup>far</sup>, quarantine has been a glabbergasting experience and it's defintley something I've never experienced of 10 years of living. 😊

Kind regards,  
Nerile



25.06.20

11.06.20 Dear Mr Walpole,

I am going to tell you about the nature around me.

Let's start with the nature in my garden. My family and I have been planting vegetables and flowers. The vegetables and flowers we have been planting are Kale, runner beans, viola, forget-me-nots, tomatoes, aubergine, courgette, cucumber and potatoes. They have been growing really well. Some have actually started flowering! The runner beans' flowers are white colour, the tomato's flowers are yellow and the courgette's flowers are orange.

To stop weeds growing, we put bark chips around the plants but some weeds found a space to grow.

I also have a tree in my garden. I like to climb up it. When I am at the top, I can see over my fence and the lovely flowers some gardens have. Not only can I climb up it, I can swing on it too!

I think the tree is the best bit of nature in my garden.

Time to talk about the nature outside my house.

Not far from my house there is a Nature Reserve. There is a nice variety of nature at the Nature Reserve.

There are so many pretty flowers! Yellow, blue and purple flowers are there.

The Nature Reserve also has a swing and a den made out of logs. The swing is really fun. I like going high but not too high. In the Nature Reserve a little stream sits. Since the stream is very shallow we can dip our toes in it.

Back in my garden we have a bird-feeder. In the morning I see birds eating the seeds making a lot of noise. When the bird-feeder is empty, my dad and I refill it with new seeds.

Outside my house there is a lawn. We see squirrels running and magpies picking food from the grass on the lawn.

I hope you enjoyed reading about the nature around my area. I can't wait to write to you again.

Kind Regards,

Nethuni  
Age: 9



Feb 200

Dear Horace,

So, forgive my familiarity, but having spent many happy hours helping as a custodian of your house, I feel that I know you a little. I would like to make reference to your garden, your 'Paradise', to which you refer in your 1765. I know that you felt that Mr. Pope's garden was 'a bit of ground of few acres, enclosed with three lanes & seeing nothing' & I write to tell you that 360 years on I have also been experiencing 'enclosure' during the early days of our current pandemic when we were caused to be housebound. We are allowed daily exercise & this is where I pass on my thanks to you. Your garden has been an oasis of calm in a world, albeit at that time, unusually quiet, affording the opportunity to be able to concentrate on the sounds & scene that would have brought pleasure to you.

My sincere thanks to you & the local community who made this space available to me.

Yours most sincerely,  
Nai.

Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill house  
Wickham

19/6/20

Dear Horace,

Since lockdown has started, many things have changed. The main thing for me is that my school has been closed since March. I'm glad about this because I've been able to study with my parents at home which is more fun.

Outside I have noticed that shops are closed and the shops that are still open have to queues. Many people wear facemasks including myself and my family, we do this so we don't catch the coronavirus.

Was there ever anything like this in your lifetime Horace?

Yours Noah 7 years old



Horace Warpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Titchmarsh

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June

Dear Horace,

During the pandemic, I have had a hobby which has helped me to pass some time. I grow vegetables in my back yard. I grow vegetables because they can be easily watered and grown and ~~and~~ I use the routine of watering them every morning. Although very little produce comes out of the process, they taste nice and I am proud of myself for growing them.

An object that has recently become important to me in lockdown is my bike. Before the lockdown had occurred, I had hardly ever used my bike. Now, I will use it to travel exercise or just to go outside and enjoy the weather. This object is important because exercise is needed in these times to keep yourself healthy.

Yours, 12

Dear M<sup>r</sup> Walpole

I cannot express to

Mr & M<sup>r</sup> Conway; hearing from you

in your last told me with many

making; it appears very strange to

on the 20<sup>th</sup> or even on the 23. We sh

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liberation, without they had chang

What I dread is, that the Minestr



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June

Dear Horace,

Since lockdown began I have noticed more people walking past my house. I think it is because they have more time, I have also found more time to walk my dog, it has been nice to be able to spend more time in the fresh air and it has allowed me to appreciate my surroundings more. These surroundings that I have previously taken for granted.

I have also realised that objects that weren't very important a while ago are suddenly very important. My watch which I never really used I have found endless time for now to read and test in it.

Kind regards

OLI



26<sup>th</sup> June, 2020

Dear Horace,

I woke up on a Friday, like today, four weeks ago. It was a silent world. The parks were undisturbed and the streets were at rest apart from the occasional runner. I was enveloped with a feeling of serenity unlike any days before. I could wake up when I wanted without my dad or younger brother knocking on my door, hurrying to get me up and ready for school. It almost felt like a holiday - so I thought. Have you had any days like this?

But what I thought was a holiday soon felt more like a prison. I was stuck inside trying to have school lessons on my iPad. And lessons became a lot harder with internet cutouts and technical errors. I also could not see my friends and my birthday was then cancelled. I was feeling a mixture of being bored and worried. I was at home desperately trying to come up with different activities to do or learn. For example, I taught myself basic Japanese and spent ages learning to roll a coin on my knuckles.

Today I am waking up with cars bolting down the street and many people rushing into local shops and supermarkets. The lockdown is over but I do not know what to feel. I think it is great that I can finally see my friends again, however, I also liked breaking off from my normal routine and trying something new.

Yours sincerely,  
Oliver



Horace Walpole -  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

19th June 2020

Dear Horace,  
Hello, this is me, I'm 200 years in the future. After 3 centuries, you want to know what happens in the future, so carry on reading if you want to know.

Now, we start in the 1900s, when Queen Victoria was ruling England. The rules were very different to your time in school. (Although yours were probably quite strict too.) The Victorian era had ruled countries such as: Canada, parts of India, Australia and New Zealand, we also ruled small parts of Africa and South America.

This had ended in 1901 when Queen Victoria passed away on the 22nd of January. Shortly after the death of her, her son Edward the 1st; then George the 5th; then Edward the 8th.

During 1914 - 1918, World War One had begun. The war started because of the assassination of Francis Ferdinand.

It ended in 1918 when the German signed a armistice. World War 2 was in 1939, but in 1933, Hitler became prime minister, and the Nazi party ruled the country.

In 1939 Hitler invaded Poland, then France  
and Britain declared war, but in 1945 Hitler  
and killed himself.

There wasn't any big events until 1969. On  
20th July 1969, the first ever man to walk on  
the moon in history, his name was Neil Armstrong.  
Nothing really happened until now. Right now, there  
is a global crisis, it's called, Covid-19.

In December, 2019, China had started this virus be-  
cause of their weird eating habit. The  
UK went into lockdown on 23 March, 2020.  
We always have to stay 2m apart from people  
who aren't in our household, we can't see friends  
we can't really do much, but this is 300  
years of history in the future. I hope you  
enjoyed it!

Sincerely, Oliver, 9



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June

Dear Horace,  
~~mixture~~ During Lockdown I have felt a  
mixture of feelings such as bored, Strange  
and of course, worried about relatives.

Throughout lockdown I have also been doing  
good deeds such as donating to food  
banks and helping elderly neighbours.  
As well as this I have wrote to elderly  
relatives to ~~check~~ check up on them and  
make them joyful.

I have also noticed other people doing acts of  
kindness such as making little ones smile  
~~with~~ with rainbows, clapping for our Key Workers  
and helping others.

~~Alt~~ Although I have noticed the people  
that are hoarding essentials such as  
cans of soup and toilet rolls therefore there for  
also preventing the elderly from getting  
the things they need

Best wishes,

Oliver 10 Yrs old

During this time I have had ~~nothing~~ to do but I have my family to enjoy lockdown. I do people's shopping if they can't and also give out letters that they can ask us for shopping so they know. I have also made sure my friends don't get bored by saying hello and playing online with them which I enjoy as it makes me happier.

While walking around I have noticed that you can smell nature and see all the clear sky's around you and have a nice day with your family's which would probably brighten you up. In the park I see so many people smiling, instead of hearing cars you would hear the beautiful sound of birds singing and see the grass swaying. I have also recently seen that people are getting more and more bored each day but also eating a bit too much. So, they ~~exercise~~ <sup>try</sup> to be fit and be healthier. I'm pretty sure every one is trying to make a change and stop the virus from spreading.

goodbye, Oliver, 10

Oliver

16.06.20



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

6/17/20

Dear Horace,

During lockdown people have been doing lots of kind things like making posters and pictures of rainbows, policemen, policewomen and putting them up in their windows to make people smile as they walk past. People have also put teddies in their windows for children to count while going on walks. On Thursday people across the country have been standing on their doorsteps to clap and cheer for the NHS and all key workers. Some people have taken pots, pans, bells, and spoons to shake and bang around and there have even been fireworks let off. People have been shopping for others who are not allowed to leave their homes. Many have been baking or cooking meals and delivering their goodies to neighbours or family. Many families have pets but cannot walk them so friends and neighbours have kindly offered to walk them. Also, people have been writing letters, facetimeing and phoning people to have a nice chat and check if they're ok or need anything. We hope lockdown ends soon but the kindness carries on.

From Olivia (age 9)



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry hill house  
Twickenham

Friday 26th June 2020

Dear Horace,

My name is Oscar, I am 12 years old and I have done many things in lockdown, some things I have done more than others for example, I have done much more drawing and more observation of my surrounding area. Speaking of which, I have realised that with time I now have on my hands, I have much more time to observe my surroundings, and I realised that without any (or little) human interaction. The outside is much more peaceful, the sun is shining down at plants which are fluttering in the wind with bright colours, flourishing without human ~~interactions~~ intervention. The outside is very quiet, there is little to no noise from humans, except from the foliage fluttering and flourishing. I have noticed many people coming out and praising the NHS staff who are working around the clock to try and find a cure for the disease, and I have also participated



Monday Dec 22 10 30

Red hair



H. L. P. H.  
Village  
Stations with Pencil  
T. H. H. H.

From  
Aber

17. 6. 2020

Dear Horace,

When We go on walks now, since there are not as many people around, there is some wildlife. Lots of deer,

and I once saw a ~~big~~ hedgehog hiding in the bushes!!

We sometimes see lots of birds. The rivers also seem to be cleaner because not as many people are throwing their rubbish in the seas, or rivers. We also face time my family, to check if they are ok, I facetime my friends as well because I like seeing them. My backgarden roses have bloomed finally, and they look very pretty and pink. We also have lavender, that are spectacular in purple.



From Otilie

aged 10



Dear M<sup>r</sup> Walpole

I cannot express to

Mr & M<sup>r</sup> Conway; hearing from you

in your last filled me with many

making; it appears very strange to

on the 20<sup>th</sup> or even on the 23. We sh

gress, or Retreat, as I shou'd ima

liberation, without they had chang

What I dread is, that the Minestr

Tuesday 16 June

Dear Horace,

What a strange time it has been! I have never seen, heard or experienced this lockdown. Time is just so much quieter and the day goes so much slower. The birds have gone louder, we can hear the dogs bark and the cars finally come out. I feel bored and wish the day would pass and it would be the beginning of a fresh day.

During lockdown I have noticed that everybody asks some-one every week if they are okay which gave me a smile on my face. My family have donated some food to food banks and so many people that drew rainbows for small children to notice. I help my mum when she's tired and I come with my grandma to the walk so she doesn't feel lonely.

Another thing that I have noticed is that the birds in my back garden. There are some that I've never seen and some that just tweet. Some of the birds are louder. I have also noticed is that the noise. I hear more noise in homes that



I have never heard of!

As well as that I have also noticed the world around me because I never had the time! I noticed that my front neighbours got a very cute kitten. The neighbours have a car that I no idea of! Lastly our grass sadly did not grow at all.

Best wishes

Peterrose (9 years old)

~~Peter~~ Peter 51

Dear Horace,

I would like to tell you about my garden in Bulgaria.

In our garden we ~~have~~ have a lot of grass and trees. The grass is big and from different kinds of wild flowers and small green ~~leaves~~ leaves plants. we grow lettuce, strawberries, cucumbers, berries and cherry ~~trees~~ trees. we also have pets.

I am very happy to stay there during my summer holiday. While I am there I can hear all day long the song of swallows. They live in our eaves ~~and~~ and let them make a nest and return of a mess we are very happy to see the new birds. I am to fly out of it in the autumn.



Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June

Dear Horace,

What a bizarre time this has been! As time has gone by, I have been living in boredom. This lockdown life is much more quiet and weirder it's like the world has turned upside down. ~~Waking up in the morning~~ ~~I still hear the birds tweeting~~ ~~until sleeping in the morning~~, the birds ~~tweet~~ tweet loudly just begging me to wake up.

During the lockdown, I've realised how much people care for the local community. I have seen and heard people blowing up greetings after they saw key workers, for they appreciate the help from hospitals all over the world. Strolling down the road, it put a smile on my face when I saw rainbow drawings against the windows to lift people's spirits up. In addition, this lockdown has connected me and my family even closer as we've been talking and walked around the area together. This lockdown may be like a prison but it might be a blessing in disguise.

Another thing I have noticed is that it's been more noisy as I could hear people from their houses than in the streets. As I walk down the streets, I ~~so~~ hear the whistling wind whilst ~~at~~ I felt it whisk past me. For weeks, I have not seen much aeroplanes in the sky, nor a car in the road.

Lastly, the most different thing that has ever happened in my neighbourhood was that newspapers got delivered early in the morning and more animals eat rubbish from the bins. Also, people who are outside their household eat dinner outside.

After the quarantine has concluded, I need to remember that there are good things to appreciate and that people have a heart for the local community ~~and~~ so they can help people in need.

Best wishes

Phillipa



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

26 June 2020

Dear Horace,

Life in lockdown has been very opposed to regular life for many various reasons. lockdown has affected various people in various ways and is viewed upon in alternate ways by different people. lockdown has helped many people reflect on themselves, as well as their daily lifestyles and good preferences. When staying home all day, it grants people the ability to reflect on how they took the potential to go outside for granted.

At the start of lockdown, the streets were almost completely deserted and empty. However, as it continued on, more and more people have come outside. Despite this, our natural environment has drastically changed for the better and the outside is more peaceful rather than filled with noise cars polluting the atmosphere. In that sense lockdown is almost a positive thing.

There is a large variety of things that I haven't noticed before, that I am beginning to now understand and notice. In addition, I have gotten to acknowledge more about our neighbours and people in our area, which we had no idea of



before.

In addition, lockdown has been a remarkable experience. It has taught a lot of people things we didn't know. Furthermore, it has helped our family get in time for exercise to keep us in shape despite not going outside and doing basic everyday things like walking. Also, we have been a lot more active and do much more sports than before.

To conclude, our experience in lockdown has been fantastic and has done many favours for us. However, this is not something that we wish would last forever. It has taught everyone a valuable lesson.

Prathoshan

11

Dear M<sup>r</sup>: Walpole

I cannot express to

Mr. & M<sup>r</sup>: Conway; hearing from you

in your last filled me with many

making; it appears very strange to

on the 20<sup>th</sup> or even on the 23. We sh

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30 June 2020

Dear Morace,

I am writing to you today about the recent events that have changed the world on a massive scale. This recent event is called Covid 19 and it is a virus, but not any virus, it could be a world ending one. However in all the darkness and death there is some hope and happiness.

The world has grown slowly closer to care for each other if help is needed. Neighbouring countries have given their sickly to the other if they do not have the medical resources to help. An example of this is France whose hospitals was overrun with patients and so the French government decided to fly the patient over to Germany hospital for full treatment.

Similarly the small things like a street in west London coming closer together to clap at 20:00 every thursday night keeps morale going. This weekly routine helps fight the thought of having to stay in your house and not getting comforts like going to the cinema or eating out at a restaurant.

However, things may not ~~always~~ turn out the way you may want it to because if you lose someone you love or a friend or a friend's loved one, you mourn and think why is my life like this?

And the things like laying down for a lost ~~one~~ friend is a way of saying I am sorry and that is how you could bring people closer together.

I hope you took something from these unusual times.

Yours sincerely,

Quinn



Dear M<sup>r</sup>: Walpole

I cannot express to

Mr. & M<sup>r</sup>: Conway; hearing from you

in your last filled me with many

making; it appears very strange to

on the 20<sup>th</sup> or even on the 23. We sh

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Dear Horace,

Over this lockdown period, I think me and my community have started to care for each other more and look after more. As we have started to look out for each other more, me and my family have been taking care of both of my elderly neighbours, who live by themselves. To make them feel less lonely, sometimes we have chats over the fence in our gardens and usually say hello when they are outside. As a result of being more helpful and more kind our relationships with the people in my village has improved by a lot. By doing this, I feel quite proud of myself for helping the people that need more help.

Also, I am going on a lot more walks and while I am doing this, I realised that it is a lot more quiet meaning it is more helping the environment more from pollution. I have also realised how lucky I am to have a garden as others do not have the same amount of space to play in, so it is important help those people out.

In conclusion I have realised how lucky I am to have a great community. Rejoice 12



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June

Dear Horace,

How are you? I hope you are well. I am writing to you to tell you about ~~what~~ what life has been like in lockdown.

The streets have been very quiet and it feels really strange without the noise of the cars. It also feels quite odd to be completing schoolwork at home because we are used to completing schoolwork at school and doing homework at home.

People are being really kind to each other during this strange time. I have seen people stopping by to check on family members at a safe distance. As well as this, I have seen some people helping others with their shopping and any important medicines that they need. As I walk down the eerily quiet streets, I can see people hanging up signs saying "Thank you NHS" whilst others are drawing murals on the shutter of shops. On one of my walks, my Dad showed me a mural on the shutter of a tyre shop. Someone had complained to about it to take it down and it was on the news but I am glad to see that it is still there.

I have been really bored at home but I have done many things apart from staring at the TV screen all day. On the floor of

of my front garden, my sister and I have drawn a rainbow to thank the NHS for all their hard work. When we go shopping we also shop for others to help them. To keep in touch with family and friends, we face time them frequently to check if their okay. My Dad has signed up as a NHS volunteer to help people who are isolating with their shopping. Sadly not all people have food at this time so many people including myself have been donating food to food banks.

As we are stuck at home and are really <sup>bored</sup>, my family and I go for daily walks to get some fresh air. Furthermore it is much more calmer as you can't hear many sounds of car engines and lorries. Also when you look up to the sky you can't see any of the smoke that comes out of ~~ex~~ aeroplanes. If you go outside you can hear the trees rustle and the birds chirping louder or maybe it was because of all the traffic noises that you couldn't hear them before.

As we have all been busy before lockdown we didn't notice many things but now that we are not doing much at home we have noticed things that we thought were never there before. At the beginning of lockdown me and my family went down a route that we then realised it leads to the park where my grandma goes for morning runs. I have also noticed that I have new neighbours who moved in whilst lockdown.

I think that my local community are being really careful trying not to spread germs and are washing their hands often too. During lockdown my local ~~commu~~ community have been really kind and helping them when they are in need. After lockdown everything will not be the same but we should appreciate all the wonderful people around us. There are many people we need to thank.  
Yours sincerely,

Reva (age 9)



Horace Walpole

Strawberry Hill house  
Twickenham

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June

Dear Horace,

When the lockdown started I was happy because I didn't have to go to school and work for six hours a day. I have missed my friends though.

I've been nice to hear everyone in their gardens and having fun.

My nextdoor neighbour Joe calls my name from his bedroom window and we chat about everything.

At the beginning of lockdown  
we planted some cucumber and  
and courgette seeds and grew  
them in our little greenhouse.  
We gave some plants to our  
neighbours and last week I ate  
my first home grown cucumber  
and it was delish!

Every Saturday we play a game  
with Granny, Grandad and Annie  
nib. It is really sunny and last week  
we played who am I and I was a  
koala bear. Grandad took a really long  
to guess he was an otter. I'm  
really excited because this week we  
are going to play Bingo!



I have noticed lots of birds  
singing loudly. one day when  
we were having lunch I heard  
a light tap and was surprised to  
see a wood pecker in the tree.  
Perhaps he was looking for lunch too.

From Rex

(Cage 7)

Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill house  
Twickenham

Friday 19 June,

Dear Horace,

At the beginning of lockdown, I felt worried and confused of what will happen, I didn't know when I will see my friends again or when I go back to school. Now we know I won't be going back to school, my mum's not at work yet because she works at a secondary school, so my parents thought it would be best to continue homeschooling plus we live far away and my mum will have to drive a long way.

During this time in lockdown people in the different communities around the country have been helping each other, for example people paying for other people's stuff in supermarkets and shops like food and essentials, some people did shopping for those who are isolating that means they can't leave their houses, we also know someone with a dog so someone came round and walked their dog, because they were isolating too.



continued...

When we were reading newspapers a few weeks ago, we saw that wild animals have been roaming into villages and towns, animals that would usually that would avoid busy places like deer and goats in the UK, raccoons in New York, Seolions in Argentina, wild dogs india and many more around the world.

We have noticed that the roads are quieter because there are not that many people on the roads we have noticed this because we live near a busy road, so the air pollution has been reduced so has the noise.

People in the community have been kinder and more helpful even towards strangers. The park near us has been much less busy when we want to go and exercise, we mainly see people walking dogs.

After lockdown I hope people will continue being kinder and more helpful to others, even strangers, I hope I can keep in contact with friends because we'll be going to different Secondary schools in September.

best wishes  
Riley



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill house  
Twickenham

Dear Horace Walpole,

I hope you are well and are staying safe.  
Right now here, and probably most the  
world, are in lockdown because of a  
new virus called COVID-19 which means  
that every now and then there will  
just be quiet spots, quite often, where  
it will just be sounds of nature for  
example the birds singing or the wind  
blowing. But quite recently our prime minister  
told us that we could start going back  
to less essential shops but we  
still have to keep two metres apart  
so as not to spread the virus. Anyway  
how are you? And how is your family  
I hope that they are well? and just  
out of interest have you written  
any more letters if so then who to?  
Best as luck

ROCCO



Horace Wallpole  
Strawberryhill House  
Twickenham

16.6.20

Dear Horace,

It was very satisfying helping the environment  
by clearing the beach of foreign granite stones.

It made me happy helping my community by giving out  
Easter eggs.

I felt excited when my family were chosen to  
test an information trail for a nature walk.

yours Sincerely  
Rose.





Letter to Horace

18<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Horace,

I am Rose. I am 7 years old and I live in Twickenham. I am writing to you about covid 19 and about how we communicate at the moment. We do that by clapping for our NHS, hanging rainbows on your windows and phoning people you know. All the shops are closed and people have to stay two metres away from each other in case we catch the bug. Nobody is allowed to go to school and that makes me feel lonely and this is because I miss my friends. Sometimes when it is people's birthday, people come to each other's houses and sing happy birthday because they can't have a real <sup>birthday</sup> one. We did it for my friend across the road. I felt very happy.

But the up side about covid 19 is that we get to spend more time together and we can see more nature and there's more time for bikerides and football.

From Rose, Twickenham ♥



Rose

Dear Horace,

I have noticed that people in my community have been helping people to do their shopping. Others have been getting old people their medicine if they can't get them. Social distancing is a cause and people have been volunteering for the NHS which is amazing. Me and my family have been seeing each other to check if their ok with there always are. Then one day I met my friend at a bushy park. To just save a few lives what can you do to prevent people from dying more. Thank you.



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June

Dear Horace,

Lockdown honestly hasn't been that bad since we were still allowed to go to parks and shops. Sadly there were some shops that I couldn't go to as they were closed and so were some parks.

Recently I have noticed that people are doing many acts of kindness during this lockdown. For example, I saw ~~at~~ a lonely man sit by himself and another man came to him and spoke to him. ~~FA~~ Another example is that ~~is~~ there was a long queue for a shop and an elderly lady was in a rush so a man let her take his place in line. Also a woman helped an elderly carry her groceries. I helped a lady lift her trolley onto the pavement. I also speak to my family every day to make sure that they are doing fine.

I've also realised more things in <sup>the</sup> natural environment. Nearly everyday, I go to this park that is close to my house. One day I decided to explore and found a forest




next to the bushes. I ~~exp~~ walked through  
-h the forest until I reached this  
really big place that was just filled  
with rocks. Also, recently, everything has  
been so quiet in the morning and  
because of that, I am hearing the  
birds sing louder.


There are only two things that I ~~new~~  
never knew about my area. One, I didn't  
know that there are loads of kids who  
are my age, and two, that there are a  
lot of foxes in the area.

from



Roya



brave. I think they wondered  
where everyone had gone. I think  
they like having more space.




When we were allowed out, we  
went to Bushy Park. I saw  
birds and a slow worm. Seeing  
everything green and growing made  
me feel much happier and I forgot  
about the virus. I still miss my friends  
and family, who I've only seen on  
a screen for months now. It feels  
strange to stay two metres away  
from everyone. I'm glad I can  
still hug my Mum, Dad and my  
brother, I suppose.



Yours sincerely

Ruby, 8 Age eight.





Dear Horace,

I Have observed a lot of new different aspects in life especially in these circumstances.

One of the main things I have noticed is much more DIY and people fixing their houses and they now have the time and chance.

The second thing I have noticed is that more families are being repaired or getting stronger and having quality time together.

~~And last~~

But there is also a down side to this although things are getting done and families are getting stronger some people in this world are at risk and people are dying ~~are~~ and being put in danger by the color of their skin and ~~the~~ to really the whole world really wants these circumstances to be over.

Kind regards

Ruby age 12

Dear M<sup>r</sup>: Walpole

I cannot express to

Mr. & M<sup>r</sup>: Conway; hearing from you

in your last filled me with many

making; it appears very strange to

on the 20<sup>th</sup> or even on the 23. We sh

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Tuesday <sup>16<sup>th</sup></sup> June

Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill house  
Twickenham

Dear Horace,

The coronavirus <sup>has</sup> taken me by surprise. I have never experienced anything like a lockdown before because I feel the entire world had turned upside down. I felt sad, worried, and really bored.

during lockdown I have noticed my community coming together in groups to offer support to the elderly or vulnerable like collecting groceries, medicine or calling for a chat. As weeks passed it was great to see people clapping for the NHS, because it showed how proud of them and thankful we are to them for saving lives. I would help with a household chores at home and tell my family members how much I love and appreciate them for keeping me safe. I noticed my dad had



made 200 meals in full well and donated to the bus garage. It was really kind, generous and wonderful to see.

another things I have really noticed is the world has become calm, quiet and peaceful because the planes in the sky and the cars on the road have stopped travelling.

finally the most amazing thing's I have realised is my neighbours and friends have been more closer during these odd times and the parks and opened fields have been litter-free, these open spaces looked really clean.

After coronavirus I need to appreciate the things around me and the great local community I have.

Best wishes

Saajid



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

22nd June 2020

Dear Mr Walpole,

I have noticed that before lock-down, my Family were all doing their own thing, and we barely spent time together. Lockdown has been a bit boring for some people as they live alone, or their really old. Some people are actually having fun in lockdown, like: exploring new places, exercising, spending time together etc. For example, me and my family are spending a lot of time together as now we all live in the same environment.

Also, while I was out on a morning jog with my Mum, we saw loads of cats and butterflies, and even a black cat sat on my arm (sadly I had to say goodbye to the poor fella)! We noticed that the streets were more quieter and cleaner as now people are taking littering seriously. Whilst my parents went to exercise, me and my sister were planting beautiful roses and flowers outside so 6 tons of insects could come visit.

Me and my Dad has a neighbour who has a heart-disease, so my Dad drove him to the hospital. I've also kept a diary during lockdown so I can keep in track of what I've been doing.



I've enjoyed having a laugh with my family  
and playing games with them too. I've enjoyed  
lockdown a lot, and I hope others have too!

Kind regards,

Sabah (age 11)



Dear Horace,

This has been a strange time in the world. Because of coronavirus Everybody had to stay at home. I was spending time with my family. People in our community were very kind to each other. They were supporting older people by helping with shopping and medicine collection. I was calling my friends and my grandparents because I miss them. I saw children rainbows on the windows. My brother painted one as well. I was reading books a lot. We made cookies and gingerbread man. We discovered a beautiful park nearby and went there a lot. I noticed there were only few planes in the sky it was nice and quiet. I was watching birds tweeting. There is an old big oak tree near our block of flats where birds were nesting. I liked seeing rabbits in our local park. Finally, after lockdown I appreciate my family and friends as well as local community and I love nature even more.

Kind wishes  
Safra

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June

Dear Horace,

What a strange time this has been! With everything going on there hasn't been much going on. There ~~hasn't~~ definitely been more wild life for example birds are free.

As usually, there is lots of traffic but to my surprise there isn't. During this time, you miss your close school friends a lot more as the weeks pass.

After lockdown I'm going to appreciate everything in our wonderful world.

(I wouldn't like mine letter displayed) Thank you

Stay Safe

best wishes

Salma



***Horace Walpole***

***Strawberry Hill House***

***Twickenham***

***Dear Horace***

***Hello my name is Sam. Just like you I love looking at plants. I have visited the gardens at Busby Park this spring during lockdown. My favourite flowers have been the Rhododendrons, roses, tulips and the blossom. I have also loved seeing the baby swans.***

***I'm sorry that I can't see you opening this letter. I have read a lot of your letters, they are very good and I am amazed that you wrote 7000 of them and you turned 2 cottages in to a castle!***

***I have a lovely family and dog. I am missing them as I cross the sea to Canada.***

***I hope your family is well.***

***Best wishes***

***From Sam***

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June

Dear Horace,

I hope you are doing well.

Recently, I've went for a lot of walks with my family to places like Crane park, Dukes bridge, the lower Crane Valley and River Thames. Each look like they have increased (or looks like they have) by their Beauty lots. I've heard you have a great view from Strawberry House. Well so it must be twice as good.

I know you like books a lot and I do too. I've liked it more and more its now a great hobby. I've read about 5½ books during lockdown the first one is Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince. I'm on the seventh one. I'm also reading a series of books called Fork Diaries by Rachel Beate Russell. I've read 7 of them out of the 10 I have (My sister owns two of the ones I said so I only have 8).

You like art and design and so do I. I have done loads of arts and crafts over lockdown.

Yours Faithfully  
Sioirse



16.6.20

Dear Horace

I hope you are well.

Life has been different as I am a person that loves going out and seeing alot\* of people outside.

Every Thursday at 8PM Our whole family used to come outside and clap for the NHS ~~with~~ which our \* saviors. After we clap we wave and smile at our community and neighbors.

☆ We always kept Social distancing in mind. ☆

I've seen one thing that makes me happy and that is there is no littering and it is because everyone is at home and there is a dust bin or they just litter at home I don't know.

The lockdown is making people responsible and when we come out believe me life is going to be different

I know it can be boring but we have to stay at home,

Stay Safe

Sarvam

age 8



Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June

Dear Horace Walpole

Life in Lockdown takes its toll on you: from isolation to lack of sports, I struggle to find the good in this crisis, but we push through. At first a buzz of excitement filled the air as everyone chattered about school closing. 3 months in I dare say this wasn't what we had pictured in our minds.

The first step was taken on a Monday in late March when lockdown began but by early June with the summer came a list of restrictions. Finally after a bit more than a month I could see some friends, socially distanced, of course. Deep down I knew that I needed school as I grappled with quarantine for sanity; despite the freedom of ~~your~~<sup>my</sup> own clothes and sleeping in late I feel I need to ~~be~~ be bossed around fixed with a schedule and that is what school does.

I do hope this will end soon as I am not the only one missing proper gate to gate education. Keep a socially distanced summer!

Yours truthfully,

Sasha



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

17.6.2020

Dear Horace,

I have noticed during this strange time our Earth and its nature has been less polluted and people have spent more time looking after greenery. I think it is spectacular for the Earth and people's mindset and wellbeing to not be breathing fumes from cars and vehicles.

I myself have definitely gone in our car a lot less and spent more valued time in my garden and have enjoyed it very much. I have lots of beautiful long green bamboo at the back of my garden and luscious red and green leaved bushes around the side and a palm tree to the bottom left.

Have you been going into your massive garden yourself?





Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup>  
June

Dear Horace

Lockdown makes me feel uncomfortable and a bit sad, because I'm missing everyone so much and it feels like time has stopped for me. I do like that ~~it~~ we can spend more time with my dad though, because normally he is out working.

Our lovely neighbours are bringing shopping and getting stuff from the ~~to~~ chemist for us, because we're shielding. My cousin Maisie sent me a wonderful post card that reminded me of Cornwall, where we went last year. Also my granny and granma gave me and my sister some great presents. We put rainbow bunting on our windows and hearts on our front front doors. We sent some cards to Fort Lodge which is a care home, to cheer them up.

I have noticed more ducklings and all sorts of other animals which are being born. More and more secretive animals are coming out it makes me a bit ~~exc~~ excited.

We have explored new places like Hemmelslow heath there used to be an old iron age village <sup>here</sup> the sun rabbits are were trying to find some Adder which is the only venomous snake in this country.

Best Wishes from Susan



The bestest thing I have noticed so far is the fact that I never noticed such wonderful things before. Life in total has just become quiet. I had not even realised my neighbours made vegetables in their garden! I have seen more local things opening up.

When ~~the~~ lockdown ends I really must appreciate the things around me. There is an amazing supportive community out there with kind friends and family and pure nature I have just never admired before.

Best wishes

&  
Shannon.



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

26/6/20

Dear Horace,

I am writing to you to tell you all about my experience during these unprecedented times. Lockdown was so sudden and even though the current period is time as very frightening, I think that a lot of good has come out of it and many people as a community have together to overcome the year together.

I have observed many things in this lockdown especially regarding nature. On my evening walks, I have noticed that the pollution in the air is significantly less and due to the lack of cars, the nature around us has a perfect to thrive. The air is fresh and the obnoxious sounds of human activity that once filled the air has been replaced with the calm and relaxing sounds of the many wonderful creatures around us. I have also discovered many new trails and areas in the park which are filled with masses of trees and birds.

During this lockdown, the community has come

together and there are many acts of kindness towards people in need. Many people are donating to food banks to help the unfortunate get through the lockdown. Those that are ill or unwell have also been receiving a lot of help from their neighbours.

Thanks you for taking time to read through this and it really does show that there is always good when you most need it.

Yours sincerely

Shawna

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June

Dear Horace,

What strange time this has been! I have never experienced such a cruel thing called lockdown before. Life is so much slow-going and soundless. But the birds are so noisy at the moment.

During lockdown I have noticed so many things that have me smile and appreciate my local community. I have seen my kind neighbours look aftering themselves and others.

Another thing I have really noticed is how natural world has gotten noisier as most people have been inside. I have ~~noticed~~ seen so much more wild life in local parks and even my back garden!

After lockdown I really must appreciate the things around me.

Best wishes  
Shokria



Dear Harold

How are you?

Hope you enjoying the lovely weather

My family and myself are doing well

I have been enjoying the sunny weather with  
my family doing garden work in the evening  
I hope you are well with my family

I hope to see different birds feeding and  
drinking water in the garden this year

I enjoy my work. I hope you too can enjoy  
your work.

Take care  
Sincerely

22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020  
My brother who is 3 and is learning to walk in a walker  
goes with me and my dad for a walk every day and the neighbours  
cheer him up, praise and applaud him from the windows.  
Some of the neighbours said very nice things to him like: My  
brother has encourage them to stay home and  
stay safe and that he motivates them through  
these difficult times.

S O F I A 8



The Lockdown Garden

*By Sophie, aged 7*

The sounds of the lockdown garden  
Are much clearer than before  
No planes roar over rooftops  
No cars outside the door

The tweeting of the birds  
The rustling of the leaves  
The whistling of the wind  
And the humming of the bees

The whoop of children playing  
The squeaking of the swings  
The splashing of the sprinkler  
And the neighbour's doorbell dings

The boinging of the trampoline  
The creaking of a chair  
Music singing from the radio  
Special moments we can share

How I love the lockdown garden  
The sounds are oh so clear  
But the chatter of my classmates  
Is a sound I want to hear

Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill house  
Twickenham

Tuesday 16th June

Dear Horace,

What a strange time it has been! I have never experienced anything like this before. It has been a bit more quieter now. Since there is no airplanes I can hear the birds singing.

During lockdown I have noticed that a lot of people have been talking to their neighbours at a safe distance after clapping for the NHS. I have helped my mum carry up the shopping for my sister and my nephews. When walking down the road I noticed people haven't been out to the park that often. ~~to see~~ We have talked to family and friends every week. I have noticed that more people are delivering more packages.

Yours Stephanie



9th day of June

To mine dearest Freynd Horrace.

I hopest with all trust that  
thif Plague hath not touched  
thyne healthe and happyneth  
nor dulled thyne fwiftness of  
Brayne.

We live withoute Carriage or  
Hoftelreyf and feek pleasure in  
ones own howse with close Familie.  
By the Grafe of Our Lourde we still have  
the Mail Coache to share messages of  
Cheer!

Best wifhes to thine house-  
keeper Miftress Hill and yourself.

Till we meete, God Bless  
Stewart



Creative English

Horace Worpole  
Strawberry hillhouse  
T Wiltonem

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June

Dear Horace,

When lockdown started I was devastated because I couldn't see my friends. It has also got quite quieter so I can hear the birds singing it's nice to not have as many planes distracting you when you're trying to do your work.

I have seen the kind neighbours buying stuff for each other. People have been clapping for NHS and key workers to support them. People have been doing a drawing for NHS and putting them in their windows. This lockdown has shown us how important it is to be caring and kind.

There's another thing I have noticed is there has been more wildlife in our garden, we saw a parakeet on our pear tree and more butterflies and bees.

Finally I have noticed planes are so empty and there are no people in aircrafts or buses or rollercoasters. Also I have been

I have enjoyed picking and sharing cherries from our cherry tree with our neighbours.

Lockdown has made me realise that I should appreciate school more and spending time with friends.

Best wishes

Suzanna



Dear M<sup>r</sup> Walpole

I cannot express to

Mr & M<sup>r</sup> Conway; hearing from you

in your last letter with many

making; it appears very strange to

on the 20<sup>th</sup> or even on the 23. We sh

gress, or Retreat, as I shou'd ima

liberation, without they had chang

What I dread is, that the Minestr

Dear Home

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> Jan

I have never seen him in lock down before and also it feels strange. Sometimes I don't see people which is a bit better as they cross the road.

During lockdown I have noticed people stop shopping for things which are opening now and people are going out more often. People are making it for a while I have got the Green Vines.

We have done some painting on the wall which is looking nice. We have also talked to our neighbours every day to see if they are OK. We are in a better place than we were.

When I was walking I saw many things and notes.

I noticed that I spent more time in the garden and spent more time with my brother and sister.

I painted a large fish on the wall in the night which is white.

Happy wishes

Love from Mum and Dad



Horace Wapole  
Strawberry Hill House

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup>  
June

Dear Horace,

What a strange time it has been! I have never been in a situation like this, lockdown is slower and quieter. Also the birds here louder.

During lockdown

During lockdown so many things made me smile I have seen people helping others with food shopping and other stuff. I love seeing all the pictures that people have made. every week. We call our family to see if there ok.

I noticed The days are more slower since there is no school also I saw everyone social distancing from the park, my house and the supermarket.

After lockdown I should appreciate my supportive neighbours.

Best wishes

Tameema  
age: 8

Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June

Dear Horace,

During this pandemic in lockdown, I have felt very bored. It's as if there's nothing to do, but to talk to my Sam's. There's things I have noticed. Like people.

I have seen that many more people are kinder in my neighbourhood. They help elderly buy medicines & shops for them. I've also realised that everyone comes outside to clap for those who are helping us to survive this outbreak. They even use pots & pans. Some people draw pictures and stick them on the windows for people to see outside.

I've also noticed that things have gotten → less quieter not many people are on the streets.



I can't have any traffic or aeroplanes anymore & rarely see any cars on the streets. I have also seen that nearly all of the shops are closed. Also not many people are working now. But most of all, I've realised that everyone is kind and appreciative.

---

When lockdown ends, I really must take notice of everything even if it's just something small.

Best wishes,

Tanya.



Horace Walope  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

22nd June 2020

Dear Mr Walope,

I have come to write a letter about my experience of a lockdown. At first I didn't really like it but I started to see lots of things outside. Around my garden, there were lots more flowers and I have seen more creatures frequently outside. I have seen creatures ~~is~~: bees, butterflies, birds etc. I have not seen any litter because others are being open minded and thinking about this planet, not leaving litter everywhere.

In my house, me and my siblings help more with putting things away after my mum has gone shopping. My ~~se~~ sister and mum have helped me with my homework. Normally, my brother and I would fight over small things but now we get along and <sup>we</sup> don't fight as often as we used to. My dad came home <sup>so</sup> and when he came, he offered me to come at his house ~~and~~ I did and it was very good.

Outside of the house, I see my neighbours more; they take their dogs out for a walk and they are really ~~and~~ friendly. Also, I see ~~at~~ ~~the~~ people chatting outside and mucking around. I also see others helping each other when they are needed for ~~help~~ help.

Kind Regards

Tejsi (Age 11)

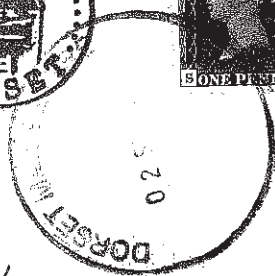


find out about you. Letters really do reveal a side to us not seen I think. Or give us a deeper insight and understanding I care them! Hence why I set up The Handwritten Letter Appreciation Society! Yesterday we were looking through some old papers of my Gran's who died in November and there was a letter written in July of 1944 by her Gran. NO that's wrong. My Mum's Great Gran on her Grandad's side. It was the first writing I'd seen of an ancestor I'd never known and it was a profound feeling seeing her words on the page written 76 years ago like it was yesterday. I think it was to her son, no maybe Grandson who was serving in the RAF it looks. She describes a bomb that dropped and took out all the windows with their's landing down the road by the Post Office. Miraculously no-one was injured. It was

"A quiet revelation in the art of intimacy"  
Dinah Johnson

Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
268 Waldegrave Road  
Twickenham  
TW1 4ST

The Handwritten Letter  
Appreciation Society



kept and treasured and now I have it. Amazing. Letters were their only means of staying connected back then but it's been fascinating to see people turning to them again when feeling isolated. I think you would be very impressed with the postal service now. We'd started a "handwritten letter revival" BC (Before Coronavirus) so it feels different that a pandemic has brought letter writing back to the fore, but perhaps it's a silver lining amongst all the sadness. I know <sup>it's best</sup> especially being <sup>it's best</sup> escaping from everything we have to my letter writing shed. I even have Horatio Nelson to keep me company (see "Letter to my shed" or "Horatio and me") How interesting to see there is a connection! Horatio is a fine Confession! Anyway a usual in about to run out of space. So lovely to write to you. Very warm wishes Dinah Johnson

3 o'clock  
Up the shed

Swanage  
Corset

30th August 2020



Dear Horace,

Thank you so much for waiting on my letter as part of your project at Strawberry Hill House and Garden. I hope it arrives with you on time but even if not I have had the loveliest time sending these to big ol' houses around the country. And to interesting people who might appreciate them. Yours is being written with a Herring gull feather we found on Swanage Beach but the one to Sir Ranulph Fiennes was with a Buzzard's. I think it rather impressed him because he replied which was wonderful. I must research you more, Horace. You sound a fascinating chap and someone after my own heart in terms of the love of letter writing. I wonder what you would make of the internet. It's quite easy to use but I have to admit to not really understanding the science behind it. I mostly think it's magic! Have you been watching the BBC Comedy "Ghosts"? It's so clever and I think you would enjoy it. Another beautiful historic house owned in fact by Bamber Gascoigne. I wrote to him too. I think the silly romantic in me loved the idea of one of these wax-sealed, written with a quill on parchment paper, letter plopping on the doormat of an old house like in years gone by. If you have a look under "Blogs" on the website of The Handwritten Letter Appreciation Society you'll find one about how all this started! But I'm rather hooked now and there's real pleasure from writing with a quill (when it works! Frustrating is the opposite emotion!).

Anyway, this frankly awful period of time the world is going through. Any words of wisdom? I want coronavirus to disappear now. I appreciate it's really a long haul but living with constant worry and "Agh, don't touch me/them/it/that!" is horrible and exhausting. 😊 I hadn't realised how much I would miss hugging my friends. Did you hug your friends and family much? I'd love a time-machine, wouldn't you? Maybe that could only go back in time and then back to the present (rather than into future). The future is probably best left unknown. I wonder what your life was like. In this moment, very like mine, in the sitting at a writing desk with quill and ink, absorbed in corresponding to someone. Probably not up your garden shed though. Stately room perhaps?

But perhaps you went out into the countryside and picked letters to people too. I hope so. Horace... I wonder what your world was about? What sort of men were you? It's good that you wrote letters because men people can really



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

30<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Horace,

Having spent much of your life pondering and writing about the Supernatural and bizarre happenings, what I am about to explain to you may be reminiscent of the many stories you have told over your lifetime.

During the cold month of December 2019, a strange disease ran rife through China, and seemingly out of nowhere claimed the lives of many people. Silently, the disease continued to spread, infecting thousands of unsuspecting civilians without warning or trace. On January 1st, this disease was identified by the World Health Organisation as a novel coronavirus, an animal-borne disease which targets the human respiratory system. Precautions were placed in China, with cities of ten million people forced to completely shut their borders from any form of human passage.

Whilst this disease raged through South-East Asia, those in the West continued to onlook cautiously, leading completely unchanged lives whilst unaware of what was to come. February came very slowly, and with it came swathes of ski tourists, who flocked to the ski resorts of Europe, seeking relaxation and enjoyment. But with these tourists too followed this disease, somehow pervading the strict lockdown much of Asia had adopted to be present. It was at this point this mere continental



epidemic threatened the entire world. It continued to spread ruthlessly throughout populations, its flu-like symptoms becoming the worst nightmare of many, many citizens, whose livelihoods were soon to be defined by this great force.

With the month of March came the Lockdowns. In the wake of European viral epicentres, like Turin in Italy, European nations were forced to impose lockdown measures onto their populations. The strictness of the said lockdowns varied, yet all of these consisted of restricted movement outside of homes, the shutting of businesses and places of importance and absolute bans from meeting those not in your household. And though initially these lockdowns seemed exciting, otherworldly to some, these rules were soon to become the bane of everybody's existence.

And though the Lockdown has evolved into something rather spiteful over the last couple of months, this opinion is certainly not shared by all.

Our story now moves to the rolling fields of Richmond Park, which I am sure you are familiar with. Having lived near this park all my life, I have seized this lockdown to explore this beautiful nature reserve in great depth. One thing that I have noticed is a stark change in the behaviour of the park's Deer population, which I will address.

In wake of the lockdowns, Richmond Park decided to ban all traffic from traversing its roads, discouraging travel in the process of doing so. Because of this traffic ban, seeing Deer anywhere these roads is a rather rare sight. Catching sight of these majestic animals so close to the heart of London on any day is a real spectacle, yet seeing them so close to



busy roads was always an odd, unnatural experience. During my daily walks in the park, however, the sighting of deer population became somewhat of a daily experience. Young deer <sup>would</sup> race after their parents, exploring the fields both sides of roads, living a life free of the risk of cars. Seeing deer able to be so free was an incredibly rewarding experience, especially when I was able to almost identify the movement of certain groups I had seen previously, and the fact that roads will soon open again does upset me.

Horace, I will tell you that living under such unnatural circumstances is not something I could have ever predicted, or will ~~re~~ ever enjoy. The inability to socialize, see loved ones or even carry out basic tasks with ease is enough to send grown men slightly insane (I have too seen my parents descend into bad wifi induced madness at times!). Yet this lockdown has too opened the door for new experiences, adventures. I do wonder what you would have seized the lockdown to achieve, what new sights you would have seen.

Kind regards,

Thomas

Dear Horace Walpole

I've been studying nature  
a lot more recently.

So I thought I might

share this drawing

of a mother goose and her goslings.

I saw it when I was walking through

bushy park and the goose stood up

and started to quack at me.

Here's the picture.

Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

17, 06, 20

From Thomas age 10





Tuesday - 23rd Jan

Dear Horace

What a boring time it has been in the  
last few months I hope that this will  
end soon so I can get back to school  
to see all my friends  
we have had some fun during our break  
I have been drawing pictures of vases  
and flowers and putting them on the  
window I also put small shells  
on a table and put that in the  
window as well. I have been making  
other things by getting a piece  
of paper and people we have made  
to stay in touch with school  
by using video calls. This  
has been quite fun with them lots

I hope we can get back to school soon

Thomas

Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

Tuesday 30 June

Dear Horace,

During lockdown, my neighbourhood has been supporting each other and helping out. We have thought about others and are always ready to give a hand. For example, by our house, my Rugby Club was collecting a food bank. My family collected large amounts of food from our community and donated it. I hope the food was put to good use.

My family go on walks everyday with our dog and make sure to be outside and stay active. I also play rugby and cricket with my clubs because they are doing training.

Over this lockdown period, my community has strived to care for each other to make this bearable for us and also others in need.

Thomas



Tia

Heathfield Jr school

Horace Walpole

23.6.20

Strawberry Hill house

Twickenham

Hey Horace,

Tia here. What a strange time it has been. Lockdown has been boring because we can't go out much, but I've been enjoying all the time I've spending with my family. How have you found it? everyone around us has been kind, isn't the clapping for the keyworkers so cheerful? I really brings the communtiy together. Lots of children have drawn rainbows and displayed them in their windows to create a sense of happiness to our neighbours.

Many people have been helping the elderly and venerable with their shopping and collecting their medicines which is so kind. I've met neighbours I hadn't know before and we've had a lot more time to talk to each other from a distance of courses. Since lockdown began, I've noticed lots more birds. I even made a birdbox with my Grandad which a little blue tit nested in and laid eggs. There has been a lot less car and aeroplane noise which helped me notice the sound of the birds singing beautifully and trees rustling wildly. I have been going on bike rides with my mum and Dad and guess what! We found a new secret path that we didn't know were there. We even found a place nearby that is covered in cool graffiti.



We have been growing so many more plants, fruits and vegetables. We have planted:

- Wild flowers - poppies My favourite
- Green beans - Great
- Strawberries - delicious
- Raspberries - yum
- Lettuces - for my mum
- Apples - for apple pie
- Pears - for crumble
- Cherries - the birds love them
- Spring onions - mmm
- Carrots - nice
- Radishes - yuck
- Potatoes - amazing
- Tomatoes - only in ketchup
- Cucumbers - my fave
- Peppers - for our fajitas
- Herbs - for pizza and pasta

It has been a difficult and scary time for everyone but hopefully things will change. one thing I hope dose not change is how our community has come together. Hopefully soon the park will re-open for us children to play in with our friends again, I have learnt to treasure them more after not being able to see them for so many weeks. I also can't wait pizza express to re-open!

best wishes,

Tia

Age 8



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

17/06/2020

Dear Horace,

I hope this letter finds you well in such unprecedented times. I am writing to tell you about the most wonderful discovery I made while out and about last week.

I have often been walking down by Crane River and have noticed how much clearer the water is becoming day by day. The fish and ducks are obviously thriving with many new ducklings to be seen everyday. The flowers are all blossoming; the gorgeous colours seem so much brighter against the green background of the trees in full bloom and although I come across few people, the ones I meet always give me a smile.

Last Wednesday as the sun was shimmering through the trees and there was little breeze I walked that bit further which is why I made my discovery, less than 5 miles from my house is an old Shot Tower. It is thought that it was established as long ago as the early 14<sup>th</sup> Century under the reign of Henry VII. I realise that a number of years ago at the end of the 1700's, you complained about an explosion in the shot tower which resulted in the windows in Strawberry Hill house

being blown out, I found this fascinating.

I wish you to come and see it for your own eyes as its surroundings of forest and river are like nothing else around and the tower itself is such an undiscovered gem in our local area. Please let me know when it may suit you to visit.

Yours sincerely,

Tikai

aged 10



16.6.20

Horace Walpole Strawberry Hill House

Dear Horace,

These are some strange times, we're living through a pandemic! Lockdown has not been that bad overall, we have had time to do a lot of things we haven't had time for. I like it!

Whilst in lockdown I have noticed a few things about my community. More people are talking to each other when they are walking. When I go for walks I like seeing the colourful rainbows that make me smile.

As for my part of it I have noticed a lot about it. Cause of lock down not ~~many~~ <sup>so</sup> many people have gone their so the animals have come out to play, yesterday I saw a Heron drinking and then eating a mouse.

In the world around me one thing changed. ~~more~~ More people are playing sport as the play grounds are closed which is great because you can play a big match with any one.

When lockdown ends I hope the community is still nice.  
best wishes

Toby, 9



Dear Horace,

Due to Coronavirus, most of the UK, including myself, have spent the last 3 months in their houses unable to see friends or go to work or school physically. These regulations, which are now being gradually lifted, have been for most people, at times, a frustration, and for those living alone, it has been hard for many to get through without interaction with anyone else, and these people have felt a ~~sense~~ sense of loneliness thrust upon them. Throughout these difficult times, I have witnessed many acts of kindness as communities banded together and people treated each other <sup>with</sup> kindness.

Thursday evenings at 8pm <sup>were</sup> spent clapping for the NHS, the people working so hard to protect us from this virus, before making polite conversation with the neighbours for half an hour or so.

'When will it end do you think? when will we be out?' was followed by 'oh oh' I don't know, but we've just got to soldier on and get through it. - My grandmother had her 90th

birthday recently, and per the new regulations, my aunt, who lives alone, was allowed to join our 'bubble' and we travelled together to Oxfordshire to visit my grandparents and celebrate. Their neighbours had waited for them to go to bed the previous night before putting up balloons, which was very kind. We spent the day there in socially distant celebration, acknowledging a landmark, although not in the fashion we would've liked, while still so grateful that the rules had



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House

Twickenham

Tuesday 16 June

Dear Horace,

I can't believe this has happened on earth. We all know how much it has effected our society and on our lives. Being stressfull for our lives but also for animals at zoo's.

This period of time it has been especially bad for zoo animals because of the lack of treatment they are having. We understand it is hard but our population of animals are going down so when ever you have a free day please go to work but if we are talking about wild animals liking it then thats a whole another story.

Wild animals like being left alone and this Pandemic allows that and we have to respect that they are happy then.

Best wishes

Tomas

Dear Horace,

your garden center is a fabulous place and us your ~~best~~ customers love that place to. We think it is a brilliant creation and there might not be one better. The flowers are a ~~best~~ beauty to see and the water fountain are brilliant. It is one of the most impressive garden ~~centre~~ centers in London. There is only one a couple of concerns. My first one is I think you should made it bigger so you could of jitted more flowers in. Another is I think you should of added other kinds of flowers. My final request is you should of added ~~a~~ souvenirs for ever different kind of flowers. Anyway you did a great job.

By Tyler James



Dear M<sup>r</sup>: Walpole

I cannot express to

Mr. & M<sup>r</sup>: Conway; hearing from you

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Horace Walpole  
Strawberry hill house  
Twickenham

Tuesday 16th June,

Dear Horace,

Whata bizzarre time it has been! I've never experienced such a hazardous pandemic. Life is so much more boring and slower in lockdown. ~~The~~ The birds in my back yard are very noisy in the past 3 months or maybe it's because I don't pay much attention to them.

During the lockdown, I noticed many wonderful things, which makes ~~me~~ me smile, and now appreciate the community. I've seen some of my neighbours helping with food and important medication. Talking ~~on~~ on phones is a common habit to get ~~use~~ used to & since you can't talk, ~~is~~ is. Walking on the road, I have seen NHS posters and met some neighbors at a safe distance and clapping for the brave key workers. These acts of kindness help fight the difficult days we've experienced.

Another thing I have noticed is that nature is more than it seems because i've went to ~~see~~ the park and mostly my garden. It's wonderful to see birds nesting in trees and creatures in gardens and parks. Now there are no aeroplanes and road are much more quieter.

Finally, the most ~~main~~ <sup>main</sup> things i've noticed during lockdown are ~~the~~ quite personal. ~~the~~ ~~thing~~ A very sad thing that happend during lockdown is that my grandma died and then my Auntie ~~who~~ was 37 years old, died too 40 days after my grandma. ~~And~~ Another interesting thing is that a ambulance came 3 times to my next door neighbours house, which ~~can~~ caught my attention, and was worried for my neighbors because I'm not sure what happend to them.

In lockdown, I truly <sup>now</sup> understand the amazing things that people in the community do to one and another. After lockdown, I will appreciate all the people and creatures around me and enjoy nature.

Best wishes

Waleed age: 10



Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June

Dear Horace,

I'm writing to tell you about my ~~ex experiences~~ experiences during this Woegull time of lockdown.

We're only allowed to go out for 1 peice of exercise or to get essentials like food or medicine. Every morning we eagerly watch the ~~ex~~ news for more insomation about ~~the~~ the ~~ex~~ virus.

It's not all bad though, I've seen lots of ~~of~~ other people being kind like when I was ~~then~~ cleaning the car a man gave me his nose. I <sup>didn't</sup> know him before but we see each other every thursday whilst clapping for the NHS.

Me And my family are helping by delivering food for ~~over~~ the rest of our family and friends that are in quarentine or unable to do it them selvs. We are also helping by staying two metres away from other people to ~~pro~~ protect them and us.

During my daily walks, I have seen lots of wildlife including birds, squirrels and bumble bees. In my garden I am seeing lots of parakeets because I'm there for a lot longer than usual. One comes so often that I've actually named him and his name is ~~Custard~~<sup>Custard</sup> because of his yellow tail. The coronavirus rules mean you can't travel so there are no aeroplanes in the sky to scare the parakeets away meaning I can look at them for longer.

Best wishes from Will (Aged 9)



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

26<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Horace,

During the lockdown I have made various observations about the environment and nature around me. For example, I have been using my telescope at night a lot more to see planets and especially the Moon even clearer, due to the skies having a lot less pollution. Every time I go out to Bushy Park on the weekends, I have always noticed that there has been a greater abundance of deer and also that it has been much easier to make out the singing of the birds and the sounds of the grasshoppers. An object that has become even more important to me is my phone because in lockdown, I have used social media a lot more than I have in the past to keep in contact with my friends from England and from abroad. I feel like I have had a greater reliance on social media than ever before and I'm sure that a lot of people will agree with me. Also during lockdown, my family has spent much less money than they normally would and this has made me realise even more so that you don't need much to be content and I have become much more content with what I have now.

My whole community has also been supportive, whether it be checking on neighbours or clapping for the NHS. I have also been keeping in contact with family a lot and for example, I have done Zoom calls with my grandma, where we have done quizzes and various other games. I think it is really important, especially in these times, to keep in contact with friends and family because otherwise you will feel quite lonely and bored. Birds have now been moving into my garden after quite a long time, which is nice because sometimes I like to get a bird encyclopaedia out and try and figure what birds are in my garden.

During lockdown, I have also been trying to go out for more runs because there is a park near my house that measures almost exactly 750 metres around its perimeter and I find that the path is very good. I try to go for a run every week, if possible. Overall, I am really looking forward to the summer holidays, even though we still are in lockdown because I will be able to spend more time doing what I enjoy.

William, age 14

Master Herace Walpole

Strawberry Hill House

Twickenham

1<sup>st</sup> July 2020

Dear Mr Walpole,

I know that you are indeed the "Man of Letters" and will surely be interested in the comings and goings of the last few months.

We have all been careful and safely residing in our homes during the lockdown. However, nature has been busying herself intending to her world garden. The world seems to have been elongated somewhat; roots of an army of plants have taken hold in our modest garden, while the north facing neighbours passiflora has stretched out boldly trailing a majestic viridian curtain tinged with hues of painterly magenta.

Likewise, grey squirrels which we fed with avocado seeds grew more retund and loitered on the fence in greedy expectation. This friendly exchange continued until they decided to move into our attic, and we discovered their palatial penthouse complete with a double sized mossy bed. My father stuffed a tea towel into their entry point to thwart their entry. Father came down somewhat amused as he had met with resistance – the squirrel engaged my father in a "tug of war" with the said towel and father was met with a pair of indignant pupils staring back! My goodness they were bold.

It seemed as if as the footfall on the pavement quietened, the traffic along our fence became more like a bustling motorway; the large russet tail of a fox – sleek as it sniffed the air. We feared for the nest of robins at number 20. Their juvenile offspring would have made a tasty morsel. Various felines sat sunning and biding time along the tops of the fence, one was rewarded with a mouse stuffed into its jaws.

A melodious impromptu choir is often heard, no longer drowned by the metal birds of the skies. The bassline of the woodpigeon, the piccolo of the nut-brown wrens and the baroque motif of the robin were proud in their daily performance. I must declare that I am quite content, and my senses have become more acute in listening and watching the wildlife in my garden which has defied lockdown and thrived. It has become a welcome addition between my on-line lessons to stare out and contemplate our forever changed world.

Please do write back and tell me what you have observed in your garden. I am sure you have much to tell.

Yours sincerely,

Master Xander



Dear M<sup>r</sup>: Walpole

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Mr. & M<sup>r</sup>: Conway; hearing from you

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Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham



Dear Horace,

During lockdown one of the things I have done is baked brownie cupcakes for my friends and then delivered them. While walking I took some pictures of nature (flowers, leafs, trees, animal and birds) and noticed how the roads were quiet as well as how friendly people were. I also went Tesco shopping with my mother sometimes an it was unusual how things changed, it was a one way system and we couldn't move freely and everyone had to be 2metres apart and we had to wait in a long queue to get inside. It was a bit stressful not being able to touch things and kept our hands clean and sanitized. Moreover, I would prepare my grandmothers shopping and my mother and I would drop it off but sadly I had to wait outside. I also went to my favourite coffee shop and ordered Frappuccino's from the window.

Your sincerely Yara

Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June

Dear Horace,

I hope you are doing well and thank you for making us  
stay in lockdown, less people have died than the usual  
~~which~~ which is amazing and I admire your work 😊 Thank you again  
also I think it was really smart to make a house with your  
friends and I hope you are doing ok!

Best wishes gram; Yasmin Age 9.



Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June

Dear Horace,

What a confusing times this has been! I have never experienced anything like a lockdown before. Life is so much slower and quieter. Except for the birds, they are so noisy at the moment, I can't stop hearing them.

During lockdown I have noticed so many things from small to big. Every hour something new happened in our street. One day you are at school the next day you're biking.

Another thing I have seen is the world as it is now. The nature has grown since it has been raining a lot. I have seen that the roads are becoming more quiet than ever.

Finally, the most amazing thing is that our neighbourhood always gives stuff like food to others. My neighbour helped me to ride a bike. I must really thank her as it helps a lot. She also encourages me to do other stuff.

Best Wishes,

Yours (Age: 10)

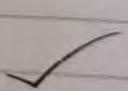


Day 2 letter writing Dear Horace

Since lockdown happened everyone has worn masks if they need to do emergency shopping and they have been keeping 2 metres away. Now none touches anything except if they have gloves on. and now people are washing their hands on youtube there is a lot of news of covid 19. The birds are singing louder now and my sister thinks it is because no humans are out to scare them

Everyone helps some people and people stream "thank you NHS" 5 6 and we play a lot with my aunts because aunts live the opposite side of us

Our mom goes work daily and my dad stays with us at home and when my mom comes back we do not make contact with her unless she washes her hand





Dear M<sup>r</sup>: Walpole

I cannot express to

Mr. & M<sup>r</sup>: Conway; hearing from you

in your last letter with many

making; it appears very strange to

on the 20<sup>th</sup> or even on the 23. We sh

gress, or Retreat, as I shou'd ima

liberation, without they had chang

What I dread is, that the Minestr

Dear home  
are you an engineer because you made the  
Castle. Did you have good education to build  
the castle. How old were you when you built  
it? I would love to live in a castle  
that must've taken years.  
well how good was your childhood did you struggle  
well got to go from

Zahra



Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

Tuesday 16th June

Dear Horace,

This lockdown has been strange for me as I have never experienced anything like this in my life.

I am writing this letter to you because I want to tell you how my community has come together during lockdown. My community have been riding bicycle's instead of cars which helps stop pollution and is good exercise. Furthermore they have been picking up trash from the parks which is wonderful.

When I go on my daily walks, I noticed my neighbours were gardening. They had some beautiful colourful flowers. My grandad was also gardening and was growing a small palm tree. Also, on my daily walks I went for a walk down to River Crane I saw amazing terrapins and frogs. I only noticed the ducks and fish before lockdown. In the woods near River Crane I just noticed my community has a lot of cute fluffy dogs. I want a dog now.

In the afternoon, the kids in my neighbourhood kindly invited me to play water fight with them which I never done previously. I took my awesome Supersoaker with me. There I found out my neighbours have been giving supportive messages to people with mental health issues. Which is great.

A few weeks ago the drains in our street flooded from the rain so my dad called Thames Water for everyone. We also brought our elderly neighbour a shiny new silver microwave as there is was broken and they could not go to the shops to buy another one.

I was studying my cat one day and I have noticed my cat likes to spend time one the roof top of the house. When all of my clothes got small for me, I gave some clothes to my cousin and donated some to charity.

At my local corner shop a guy graffitied the shops front shutters in support of the NHS. He wrote NHS, the S was the logo of superman. Everyone told him he done a good job. He said he will spray my bike in cool colours too.

**Best wishes**

**Zak age 9**

Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

16<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Horace,

I hope you are well.

What a crazy time this has been!!! People seem to have been lost lately and a lot of people have been panic shopping to buy stuff like lots of food, cleaning accessories, toiletries and especially buying lots of toilet roll. But at least people have been talking to friends, neighbours and family more than ever. I don't think I've ever used skype and zoom so much! Sometimes even random people that live down my road buy shopping for the old lady across the street and they even walk her dog.

People have been rather nice to others during these hard times they have been shopping for others, walking dogs for people who can't go out, collecting medicine for others and people have been entertaining others by doing Quizzes, or doing online challenges or doing online workouts for others to join in like Joe Wicks. I myself have been shopping for family, ordering things for family, speaking to friends and family, I have put a rainbow and teddy bear in my window, I have drawn/wrote nice things on stones.

I have noticed that the birds have been singing louder, there have been fewer airplanes in the sky, there is a lot more rubbish on the floor in parks and there are fewer cars on the road.

The world around me has changed there are a lot more places to explore I have discovered a few things but my best thing that I have discovered are four giant graffiti circles where police allow graffiti artists to show their skills.

Best wishes

Zak (age 9)



eat horse

My name is  
Zack. I am 5 years old  
from Ashford  
Laurel MS DAD  
has watered our

new plants in  
the garden.

WE have  
walked to the  
nature trail

Horace Walpole  
Strawberry Hill House  
Twickenham

26/06/20

Dear Horace, over lockdown my community has been helpful and in these difficult circumstances extra kind towards one and other. Although it is hard to meet up with friends and see family often, it is starting to relax and seeing everybody will be great fun when the opportunity arrives. However in the mean time my small community has been helping each other especially with shopping. Myself and neighbours have been taking turns going to our local supermarket and getting essentials for neighbours. In return we obviously give the money for however much we needed, but also have been baking cakes and sharing them out with the community which has brought us together in ways which we probably wouldn't of if lockdown wasn't apparent. As well as this my family and I have seen each other a lot more as after work, we are all in the house. Although there aren't many places to go we have enjoyed going to the park on our bikes after work which has become a good routine. Overall lockdown has been different and in areas restricting but my family and community have been joined together more than usual which is a positive thing to take out of lockdown.

Kind regards  
Zaki..





STRAWBERRY HILL  
House & Garden

# Thank You

To all our letter writers

Volunteer Project Assistant, Avji Delega

The Lewis Walpole Library, Yale University

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ENGLAND**