



Southfields Grid  
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

*Making a difference  
to life on the Grid*

# GRID NEWS

June 2020  
Coronavirus Edition



Never before, and hopefully never again, has Southfields been so quiet as it was during lockdown. As this amazing photo by Ann Kerr shows, the reduction in pollution made the sky seem bluer, the sun did nothing but shine, but there was no one to be seen.



REBECCA WATTS OF GRID ALLIANCE

## GRID ALLIANCE SUPPORTS 500 LOCAL RESIDENTS

We are fortunate in Southfields to have a great number of people who have demonstrated their ingenuity, generosity, and hard work, during the challenging times that Coronavirus has brought. One of these people is local resident Rebecca Watts. Despite having an 18 month old baby, Wilbur, to look after, having four grandparents ranging in age from 85 – 90, she was acutely aware of the need to support older and vulnerable residents who are self-isolating.

Having seen a message on Grid Mummies, calling for help with vulnerable people during the lock-down, Rebecca linked up with St Barnabas Church and the SGRA, to form the Grid Alliance. The group started by putting leaflets through doors and in the pharmacy windows and doctor's surgeries, offering help and asking for volunteers. It built up very quickly to have around 63 volunteers

and a list of over 500 people they were helping.

The main requests are for volunteers to pick up prescriptions and groceries, and walk dogs, but they have also been asked to collect things such as reading glasses and hearing aid batteries. The dog walking 'duty' has been so popular, that there is a group of volunteers who have a rota.

Whilst everyone hopes that the lock-down will eventually end and people can return to normal life, Rebecca commented: "I hope that in some shape or form the Grid Alliance will keep going. It seems that the benefits to the volunteers have been just as great as they have to those in need of help and support."

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered, and most importantly, thank you to Rebecca who made it all happen.

## EDITOR'S LETTER



© GERARD SEBASTIAN

*“When you look at the sky, what do you see? The clouds, or the sunshine?”*

That is the question I was recently asked and my resounding answer was “the sunshine”. Acts of kindness, generosity and community support, have become commonplace between neighbours who barely knew each other before this pandemic. This spirit has shone brightly on our fantastic little corner of SW London, despite the cloud of Covid-19 hanging over us.

However, I am acutely aware that some people have lost loved ones in very distressing circumstances. My heart goes out to you. I would also like to thank everyone in our community who has helped keep us all going: the NHS staff, the post and delivery workers, the milkman, the dustbin men, the staff in our supermarkets and all the amazing volunteers who have: collected prescriptions, walked dogs, done a stranger’s shopping, home schooled their children. And a thank you

to older residents and people with health issues, who have helped the NHS by self-isolating and not going out.

It’s been a tough couple of months which has left no one untouched and life will not be returning to ‘normal’ for a while. However, I hope that this time next year we will be in a very different situation, looking forward to another Wimbledon Championships and planning our summer holidays.

Until then... please stay safe.

*Philippa Haslegrave*

Editor

## LOCKDOWN REFLECTIONS

*By Rev Ian Tattum, Vicar of St Barnabas Church*

One of the saddest aspects of the lockdown is the silence in the church and the church halls. Since the middle of March there have been no hymns sung and no blasts of music from the organ. No Sunday evening concerts by the Ismena Collective, and no musical entertainment during the week for small children. Ballet and sports classes have had to be abandoned, along with congenial gatherings of senior citizens and toddler groups. Theatre companies have suspended practices and performances. It’s heart-breaking to realise many were run by self-employed people whose livelihood has also suffered.

I’m delighted people, particularly those with no outside space, have made use of

the nature garden. Silent contemplation, toddlers gathering daisies and puppy exercise ... all to a wren’s song backing track! Due to our established partnership with Riversdale School up to 10 food parcels have been provided daily to struggling families. I’m grateful to those who leave gifts of food and household items in the porch.

In my role as priest I’ve witnessed a lot of bereavement and fear in the last few weeks, but also much inspirational generosity and kindness.

[stbarnabas-southfields.org.uk](http://stbarnabas-southfields.org.uk)

## RAINBOWS IN WINDOWS

In addition to the regular Thursday night ‘Clap for our carers’, it has been wonderful to see the many supportive posters and drawings adorning Southfields windows, as well as teddy bears in the windows for the children to count.



## A SHOPKEEPER’S TALE



LUPO BROS STORE

*James Drago-Ferrante, of Lupo Brothers, Durnsford Road, tells the emotional story of how lockdown has changed his life.*

When lockdown came my world fell apart. I didn’t know if we would survive. After a week of being at home watching the queues of people at supermarkets panic buying, my wife Jade said, “you should do home deliveries of food boxes”. I’d never done this before,

but the more she suggested it the more I warmed to the idea.

We decided to re-open on Sunday 29th March as a “shop”, serving our usual food menu and coffees, but also stock fish produce from our suppliers to help ease supply to Southfields. We also started home deliveries for locals not able to leave home. We created a new business overnight, from cafe to shop/deli/cafe. I never imagined this in my wildest dreams, as people came to buy vegetables, fruit, flour, yeast, coffee, and milk, which we expanded by adding chocolates, snacks, shampoo, bread, pasta, jams, condiments, fizzy drinks and ready meals, all things people needed daily.

My brother and I worked 18 hours a day to get everything set. Some of our team volunteered to help, which I cannot thank them enough for.

Doing home deliveries is very rewarding – it does not feel like work. At the start of lockdown people were generally scared, and so grateful for the service we offered, with food arriving 24 hours after it was ordered.

I bought 50 regular Easter Eggs and one giant one (7.5kg!), the day before Good Friday. Children and adults walked in and their faces lit up. Amazingly, they sold out within 2 hours!

The response from the local community is truly amazing. I genuinely did not expect the support and love we have received. When people enter they seem on edge, but five minute’s chat inside Lupo and you can see the chains unwrap. It’s a joy to go into Lupo Bros and serve the community.

Finally, special thanks to my incredible wife Jade. She works full-time from home doing office work, popping to cash and carry, visiting the market and caring for Hugo while I’m in the café. Without her support this journey would not have happened, and I am so glad we got involved.

You can find out more at: [lupobros.co.uk](http://lupobros.co.uk)



AT LUPO BROS

## BUSINESS ISN’T USUAL IN LOCKDOWN SOUTHFIELDS

Apart from supermarkets, pharmacies and a few shops providing essentials, most retail businesses have closed their physical shops during the lockdown.

One such business is 243 Decorative Antiques, on Replingham Road. Owner Nicky Horstead has been taking some orders through her Facebook page since mid-March and has started a ‘market stall’ on the forecourt outside her shop when the weather is nice. However, by the time she re-opens in June, the shop will have been closed for three months. Nicky will be marking out a queue system on the pavement outside the shop and will always have wipes and hand sanitiser at the ready when customers enter the shop.

“As for the return of trade as we knew it - who knows?” said Nicky, “I hope people will be supportive, but only time will tell.”

Across the road, Sam Weston of SW Blooms has been operating behind closed doors with the younger members of his team, to provide an online and phone-based delivery only service. Although sadly he has been kept very busy with funeral flowers, he was also able to source plants to fill at least one Grid resident’s window boxes as well as some home deliveries. A delivery of flowers can do a lot to lift someone’s spirits.

Local gift shop, Chalk, has been helping where it can through its Facebook page. They have been putting children’s competitions in their

window, such as counting the animals in the window display. Parents have then got in touch to buy some of the toy animals. They’ve also been selling lots of ‘thank you’ cards, and have even had a teacher needing storage boxes for her school class, to enable her to disinfect or remove toys that will cause hygiene problems.

“We have been asked for some very unexpected things.” said Paulene. “We are going to re-open on 15 June, with social distancing measures. We will have lots of lovely presents and cards for Father’s Day on 21st June, and look forward to seeing everyone.” In the meantime, Paulene and Kay are busy redecorating and deep cleaning the shop.

## SOUTHFIELDS ANSWERS THE CALL FOR HELP



It seems that when there is a call for help, Southfields Grid is quick to answer.

A shout out on social media for books for prisoners at HMP Wandsworth, resulted in the donation of around 1,000 books.

**QUAKER CHAPLAIN FOR HMP WANDSWORTH, LIZ BRIDGE, LOADING UP SOME OF THE 1,000 BOOKS COLLECTED FOR PRISONERS. HELPING ARE (FROM LEFT) GRID ALLIANCE VOLUNTEER ANDREW DUNLEY, LIZ'S HUSBAND MICHAEL KAPPLER AND ANDREWS'S SON JED.**

## SEVEN UNEXPECTED SOURCES OF JOY DURING LOCKDOWN



**DOROTHY PARK WITH HER CUPCAKES**

*By Isabella Park*

Dozens of people in Southfields have lost loved-ones from coronavirus or had the worry of family members hospitalised at St George's Hospital.

But Southfields has maintained its usual polite

sense of community. In an attempt to look on the bright side, here are seven unexpected sources of joy about the COVID-19 situation that we'd love to maintain after lockdown ends:

**1. Gin by the bins:** From Pirbright to Pulborough, from Elborough to Elsenham, families are meeting every Friday at 5.30 for a socially-distanced cocktail and chat.

**2. Zoom branding:** We're all enjoying observing what you can see in the background of people's video conferences. If you're an MP, it's got to be books. If you're one of my colleagues on a meeting yesterday, it's two empty paint pots and a broken lampshade.

**3. Fighting fit:** Exercise is one of the few reasons we're allowed out - and if we're not on a 14-day quarantine, by gosh, we're going to take advantage of it. Everyone is cycling, running or going for walks. I predict that some fitter people will emerge after lockdown.

**4. The COVID-19 slalom:** But our exercise is socially distanced: look down from the sky over Church Road outside the All England Club, and you'll see an almost choreographed wave of movement as cyclists, runners and walkers veer in and out of the road and pavement - everyone good humoured and

well-mannered as they obey the new exercise etiquette.

**5. Neighbourhood watch:** People over 60 are feeling less isolated than ever before, as neighbours, family and colleagues check in on each other frequently. Clap for carers creates an amazing sense of community too.

**6. The Tesco backstep:** Have you noticed what happens when the person in front of you at Tesco's decides they do need butter after all? Instead of tutting that they should have picked it up when they passed the dairy section, everyone behind them dances back in unison.

**7. When it's gone, it's gone:** During lockdown, we've been variously short of eggs, milk, loo cleaner, butter and self-raising flour (this may have something to do with my daughter's baking habit). I'm loving the challenge and creativity of finding alternatives. And the staff at John Walker and Krystals have been very helpful!

## PLANTING JOY IN THE GRID



**PLANTING JOY IN THE GRID**

*By Nina Kowalska, Green the Grid*

Newly planted tree bases and greener front gardens appearing around the Grid are testament to people enjoying and feeling the benefits of gardening during lockdown.

Green the Grid launched "Time for Nature" online to share the everyday wonders of nature we can see from our windows or the street, as well as practical planting and wildlife activities the whole family can get involved in.

"It's been a joy to plant seeds with my young son and watch closely as the longer days and the warmth Spring brings turn the seeds to plants before our eyes", says Heather from Trentham Street. "Pottering about has also enabled what little social contact the pandemic allows. Smiles from passers-by and chats with neighbours have helped us all to feel more connected".

To get involved, take a look at @greenthegrid on Twitter and feel free to email us with gardening questions and we will try to answer as many as we can:

## PUTTING THE NEIGHBOUR INTO NEIGHBOURHOOD

*By Karen Gregory, SGRA street rep for Brookwood Road & Hanford Close*

The Coronavirus pandemic has been an experience no-one will forget, and has had a profound effect on our way of life. At the same time, it's exposed us to new experiences that will bring back happier memories; the sound of birdsong, less cars on the road, dusty bikes being lifted out of the shed and most importantly, the forging of new friendships with neighbours.

As SGRA street rep for Brookwood Road I'm part of the Grid Alliance, helping provide whatever support people need. One of the most rewarding things about this has been the opportunity to meet and chat to Grid neighbours whose path I might never have crossed. This is particularly true of some of the wonderful people I've met on Hanford Close, at the Merton end of Brookwood Road.

One of the requests for help I received was from Iris, a lively and energetic woman in her 90s, who wanted a daily newspaper

delivered along with milk at the weekends. I learnt she's one of a handful of people living in Hanford Close who moved in when the properties were first built in 1968. As someone who lets and manages properties for a career and sees the hugely transitory nature of London every day, it's been fascinating to meet someone who has called Southfields home for the length of my life.

Thinking about Hanford Close and its place in the Grid led me to see what I could find out about what was going on in Southfields in the late 60s. I came across this snippet from 'Roomy Villas - the story of Southfields Grid and its surroundings' by local historian Neil Robson.

**"Property values rose steadily in the sixties and houses on the Grid were being advertised in January 1968 at prices ranging from £5,650 to £5,950. Alert to the need to satisfy the ever-growing demand for modern housing, Wandsworth Borough Council cautiously agreed to the demolition of a row of hundred-year-old houses on Merton Road, replaced them**

**with the small estate called Hanford Close. Practically opposite that development, the new Southfields Comprehensive School was nearing completion, at a construction cost of about £800,000, and destined to include a 'furnished model flat' as part of its domestic training unit for senior girls."**

I walked round to the Close on VE day in glorious sunshine, to the sounds of Glen Miller's wartime music filling the air, and saw residents standing on their balconies enjoying a few rays. I met Audrey, who together with other neighbours has developed a beautiful garden to the rear of the flats.

Whilst the current pandemic crisis and its associated lockdown will one day end, I am sure my new friendships will continue well beyond it. These times have been strange and difficult for all of us in different ways but my experience has shown me that a sense of community still thrives in Southfields and that our care and compassion for each other will be one of the major reasons we come through the other side.

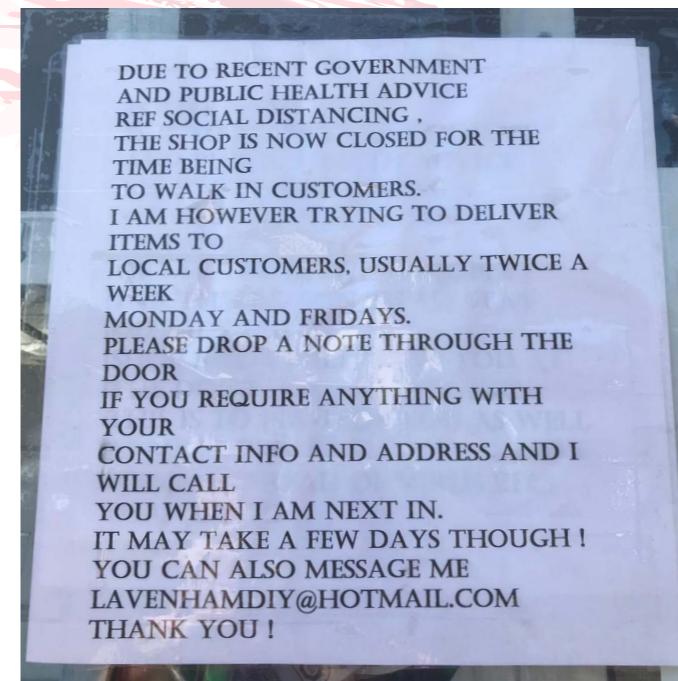
# LOCKDOWN IN SOUTHFIELDS: MARCH - JUNE 2020



KEEPING 2 METERS APART, PEOPLE QUEUEING FOR FOOD SHOPPING



CHILDREN DECORATED THEIR WINDOWS IN THANKS TO THE NHS



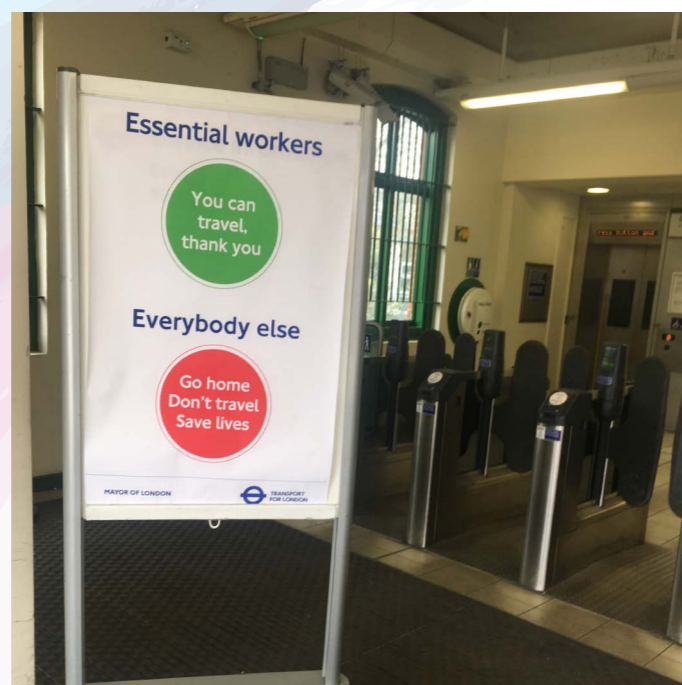
NOTES LIKE THIS BECAME COMMONPLACE AS SOUTHFIELDS BUSINESSES SHUT THEIR DOORS



SOUTHFIELDS REMEMBERS



CELEBRATIONS KEPT TO THE FRONT GARDENS



SOUTHFIELDS STATION



SOUTHFIELDS REMEMBERS



A BLOOMING LAVENHAM ROAD GARDEN

## SCHOOLING IN THE TIME OF CORONAVIRUS

Like the majority of parents, my children (one big and one even bigger!), have been at home since the lockdown. Having everyone at home at once is undeniably challenging. In our society, as children get older and become more independent, parents enjoy a second round of freedom, whilst their teenagers discover their first taste of it. Lockdown has turned this on its head, but I cannot deny that having my 19 year old home from university has been an unexpected joy. My stropky teenager has evolved into a really charming fellow adult. In the knowledge that he'd rather be with his friends, and that the lockdown won't last forever, I'm enjoying every moment.

Over the last weeks I have spoken (from a distance) to many parents (whilst on official dog walking duty!). I salute those parents who are both working from home, whilst simultaneously trying to home school. I know of a number of parents who have resorted to sitting in their car, to have an uninterrupted conference call. Those parents and the teachers who have gone into school, to teach

a small number of children whose parents are key workers or in need of support, deserve a huge collective 'thank you' from us all.

Without these teachers, key workers simply wouldn't be able to get to work to keep our country running.

Whilst on my official 'dog walking' duty, I have had my spirits lifted by the sound of children laughing and playing in the playground of Riversdale Primary School, one of the local schools providing support for children of key workers.

Ann Kerr, a Governor of Riversdale Primary School explains how it all works.

**Riversdale Primary School has been providing in school support for up to 50 children at any one time. Some are children of keyworkers, including the children of nurses and doctors, and some have additional needs that the school is best placed to support at this time.**

**The children practise social distancing and lots of hand washing and have plenty of**

**outdoor activities. You might have heard the music that accompanies their Salsa lessons if you have been in Coronation Gardens. They also have access to gardening activities and outdoor science opportunities. The school has also been able to continue its emotional support services as it is a stressful time for everyone, but particularly the families of NHS workers.**

**It is just one of the ways that pupils at Riversdale are being educated during lockdown. Other children are learning online through Google Classroom or are completing paperwork-packs that have been delivered to them. Staff have also delivered laptops and equipment and arranged free wifi access at home. They deliver food packages to homes thanks to the St Barnabas foodbank.**

**The school keeps in touch with families on the weduc app where children can see pictures from their friends and teachers and show the creative learning taking place at home and at school.**

## MASK MAKING IN SOUTHFIELDS

The ingenuity and generosity of our local community has shone out in so many ways over the last couple of months. Local resident Marylis Ramos, a local architect who is married to a scientist, is just one of these people.

In the run up to the lock down, she found it scary getting onto the tube without a face mask. She then read an article about people using 3D printers to help make them and having a 3D printer at home, she decided that this was something she could do to help.

With the help of Helpful Engineering UK, who are making and distributing various Personal Protective Equipment, she mastered the art of producing a mask on her printer. She ended up with two 3D printers at her house and a further one off-site, and set herself a target of 2,000 visors to make by the end of May.

When I spoke to her, she had already passed the 1,000 mark and had the first 1,000 shipped to various hospitals, GP surgeries and care homes in the area.

In its first month, Helpful Engineering UK delivered 15,000 visors to front line NHS staff at 18 London hospitals - all thanks to the help of volunteers such as Marylis.

If you would like to donate or help, please get in touch with Helpful Engineering UK on: [helpfulengineering.uk](http://helpfulengineering.uk)

## CONGRATULATIONS DR DAVEY!

On 14th May, local resident Ruth Davey became Dr Ruth Davey, after passing her PhD viva in Organic Geochemistry, at Imperial College London. With the lockdown making a celebration with friends and family impossible, her housemate and two local friends arranged a surprise party in the front garden.

Gifts of champagne, a tiara, tinsel and ice cream and the good wishes from

wonderful neighbours made it a day to remember. Very many congratulations, Dr Davey, on such an outstanding achievement.



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# FRONT GARDEN AWARDS 2020

## *An update from Amelia Obertelli-Moriarty*

Much has changed since the Spring newsletter. However, the Front Garden Awards event will take place (hooray!). Many of you have been enjoying your front gardens, new window boxes and

newly planted tree bases. Well done for making the Grid greener, more attractive and for lifting people's spirits. The judging dates have been changed to **Saturday, 27 June - Saturday, 11 July**. This will be for front gardens and planted tree bases. The 'Spectacular Sunflowers of Southfields' awards will take place in early August. So, please carry on gardening, keep safe,

happy and healthy - we will be in touch again soon.

In the meantime, please send photos of yours, or your neighbours' gardens in Southfields and we will include the best ones in the next issue of the Grid News in August.

## UK'S LARGEST REMOTE ENSEMBLE ORCHESTRA AND CHOIR PERFORM STEVIE WONDER'S ANOTHER STAR



PERFORMERS FROM WORLD HEART BEAT MUSIC ACADEMY

*Local charity, World Heart Beat Music Academy has launched #worldheartbeatathome, a music video to support young people during lockdown. The Academy's Global Giving BE THERE campaign provides free music lessons to young people living in challenging circumstances.*

More than one hundred young people (aged 5 - 25 years) from the award-winning charity World Heart Beat Music Academy have produced their own lockdown music video #worldheartbeatathome.

They chose Stevie Wonder's legendary and uplifting classic 'Another Star' for the #worldheartbeatathome performance, the first project of its kind for the academy.

Over a hundred young flute players, violinists, saxophone players, trumpets, trombones, cellos, entire rhythm sections including young tabla players and singers have come together remotely to make the video.

It has been arranged and mixed by A-lister Nick Cohen (top UK session bassist and songwriter whose credits includes Eurythmics, Roy Ayers, Massive Attack, Matt Bianco and Ivo Mendes) and edited by award winning composer Michael Csanyi-Wills.

The video raises awareness of World Heart Beat's Global Giving BE THERE campaign to support young people by providing music-making opportunities online. It is intended to help those who may be feeling heightened levels of loneliness and anxiety during the coronavirus crisis, particularly those living in challenging circumstances.

#worldheartbeatathome is the first of two special music productions from the academy. The second production will feature young jazz musicians performing We'll Be Together Again and One for Daddy O. It is supported by the academy's jazz talent development sponsorship from ZEDRA and expected to reach an international audience when shown later this month.

Find out more at: [worldheartbeat.org](http://worldheartbeat.org)

Or if you'd like to make a donation, visit: [globalgiving.org/projects/be-there-support-young-people-during-coronavirus](http://globalgiving.org/projects/be-there-support-young-people-during-coronavirus)

### ARE YOU A SMALL BUSINESS OWNER BASED IN THE GRID?

We want to do all we can to help ALL local businesses survive these difficult times. We can promote your business to local residents via our website which has seen a considerable increase in visitors during the lockdown. We publish daily updates on what's happening locally on [www.southfieldsgrid.org.uk](http://www.southfieldsgrid.org.uk)

Whatever your business creates or delivers, if you would like to be listed on our website then the SGRA would like to hear from you.

Please send the following to: [info@southfieldsgrid.org.uk](mailto:info@southfieldsgrid.org.uk)

- Business name (e.g. ABC Ltd.)
- Business description (e.g. garden landscaping, wine distributor, bespoke tailoring, soft toy maker, cabinet maker, graphic designer)
- Address: (must be in the Southfields Grid)
- Business owner(s): (Name(s) of business owner(s))
- Website URL: (or Facebook page/Instagram/handle)
- Contact details: (telephone and email address)

We will get in touch with you to finalise your listing on the website.

*SGRA Executive Committee*

### *SGRA Executive Committee*

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**WITH THANKS TO THE SGRA AND OUR CONTRIBUTORS FOR PRODUCING THIS 'LOCK DOWN' ISSUE**