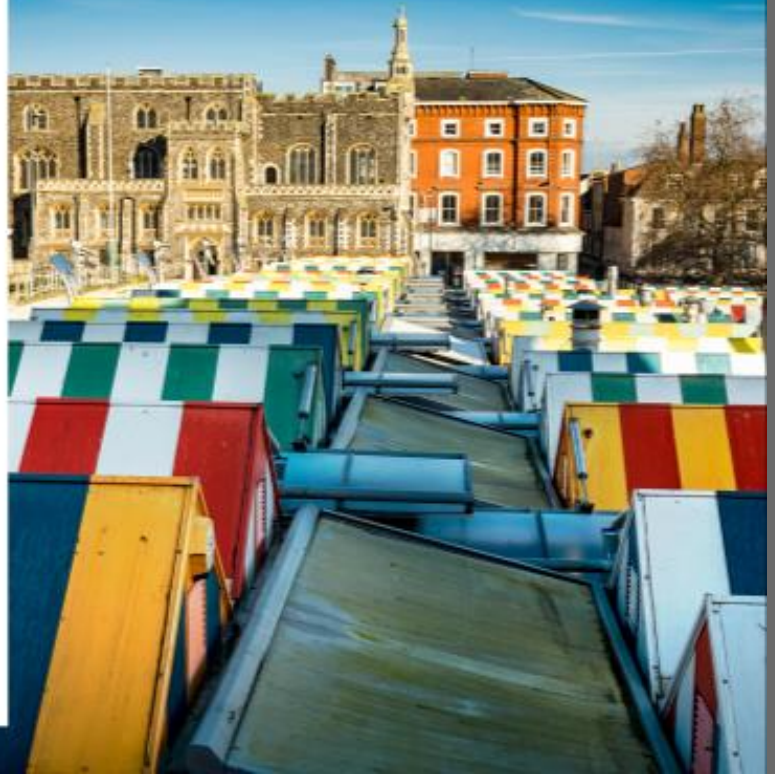


Next Gen GM

A KEY WORKERS PERSPECTIVE



Being classed as a key worker employed on the tills in a retail store, I have been working throughout the lockdown.

It has felt very strange walking to and from work without meeting hardly anyone else, except for the occasional jogger or a family out for a bike ride. I always have my authorisation letter with me advising I am permitted to be outside, although as of yet I have not been asked to produce it. I know I am incredibly lucky to still have a job but in the back of my mind there is a nervousness that I could be exposing myself to this devastating virus. Sometimes without thinking customers will lick their fingers to separate the banknotes they then give to me. Thankfully with the new measures in place at work this is not as problematic as many may think!

I am very fortunate to be able to work throughout this lockdown, it has enabled me to meet and chat with colleagues and customers whereas otherwise I would be at home by myself like so many others.

Each day as I arrive at work, I walk past a long queue of customers patiently waiting to gain entry to the store supervised by the door marshal. The customers remain in good spirits even though they can be waiting for as long as thirty minutes. The main difference from before lockdown is that customer numbers are restricted so there is much more space, which customers seem to prefer to the way they shopped before. On the tills, screens have been erected, gloves and hand sanitizer are provided, there are antibacterial wipes to clean the till area and card machines and all baskets are cleaned after each customer's use. I always wear my gloves, although by the end of my shift my hands are wet and my fingertips are all shrivelled



A regular sight of patiently queuing members of the public

Thank goodness for hand cream.

It has been very heart-warming to experience how wonderful the customers have been.

From telling me that they are thinking of me when they clap on a Thursday night to thanking me for working throughout lockdown. Some more mature customers tell me how much they enjoy the opportunity for a chat as I can be the only person they see from one week to the next. In general, from my personal experience, there seems to be a lot of appreciation and kindness towards each other at the moment.

Let us hope all this compassion and thoughtfulness will continue moving forward because at these very difficult times we all need to support each other. When lockdown ends, we must remember this and ensure we do not carry on as though nothing has happened!

Jill Creed
Key Worker
United Kingdom



There has been such appreciation and kindness which I hope will continue



Jill Creed, left, pictured alongside her daughter Holly