



MARKS'S QUARANTINE DIARY

MARK HEYCOCK - FRANCHISE DIRECTOR

Age - 57

Place of birth - Daventry

Worked in the team at Campbells - since 2006

Currently lives in - Daventry



My role as an associate in the team is to value, list and get our properties sold.



I am also the Showroom Director and my main responsibilities within the title are to “take the piss and keep the peace”, help with difficult sales and/or customers, office manning and generally helping to maintain a fair and happy office environment for everyone to enjoy working in.

How are you dealing with being confined to your home?

I think I'm fairly adaptable and take most things in my stride with a smile. Lockdown has been a bit like being reserve company on an operational tour, but with no chance of any real excitement, just waiting around.

Running and core strength are some good things to concentrate on.

This has been a bit different as I miss the social interaction as well as having a laugh and some good old-fashioned banter. I enjoy having a structure and a routine in my life so the first thing I said to Mel - my partner, after the lockdown was announced was “I need a routine and a focus”.

I suppose it's a bit of a throwback to my previous life in the army, where there was a huge need to keep motivated. As you probably know, I'm a keen runner so that's been my focus and I am really enjoying the family morning personal training sessions with Mel and my two dogs Boris and Billy Bob.

I would've been climbing the walls if they outlawed the daily physical activities.





If the weather gets wet it seems to affect my approach for the day, but I found a few things to do inside even though being outside is much more up my street.

The house is still busy with Shannon working for the East Midlands Ambulance service and Tom, a key engineer at Heygates Flour Mill - they are both on shift work, so there's plenty of barking from the boys as they come home from work.

Without a doubt, the two dogs make us laugh every day without fail. They are really funny and great to have around.

I think that getting most of my outside jobs done in the first week wasn't the best idea, but I am still managing to find a few more to keep me busy, if not, I have plenty of flour to test my baking skills... Which are poor at the best of times.



By the looks of it, the jobs will eventually be reduced to 2 options: completing my end of year books and cleaning out the attic both of which are the last ones on my list.

I am far happier doing something outside, I even made a bird box and I'm planning on making some planting troughs from some old decking planks and have them on casters if possible, then growing something in them.

Not earning is my main worry, so are the buyers, sellers and lenders withdrawing from ongoing and well progressed sales. That has been a constant concern, we are all frustrated with the situation but 'throwing teddies out of the pram' won't help. I have been contacting them via WhatsApp, emails and texts but nothing beats a phone call to let them know you're here to help.





The sellers have been really good and the majority of them have sent me new garden pictures and videos.

I have been in touch with all of them as communication is the key and also kept them up-to-date with property performance statistics.

I can safely say that my eating habits are fairly good - until I sit down in the evening. After 7, the crisps get a right hammering and so do the dark chocolate Easter eggs.



However, I don't eat chocolate very often. I use MyFitness app as a reminder not to over indulge the food and have the physical activities during the day completely wasted because of that.

I think that seeing other members of your team or family on FaceTime or Zoom is a great morale booster as you can get some interaction and have a laugh, it's always great to see that everyone is well.

The jokes going around on the various social media platforms are also very entertaining.

Speaking with friends from years ago, who I lost contact with was a good laugh, definitely recommend it.



What do you think you will be doing differently after lockdown?



One thing the lockdown has made me think about was the fact that this might be a practice-run for my retirement?

My conclusion is that I need more than just running as a hobby! I need about 5 hobbies!



Without a doubt, it is going to take some time for everyone to get back to some kind of normality, whilst many people might like working from home in a quiet environment, it is not for me.

I like being out and about, meeting clients face-to-face, helping them and genuinely enjoying what I do for living.

What am I looking forward to the most after lockdown?



When I'm out in the public, it would be great not to be avoided as if I have the black plague.



Not going shopping! I go shopping now purely because it's another hour out of the house, but I used to drop Mel - my partner at Tesco and take the dogs for another walk while she's busy.



Visiting friends and family and going out for a meal.



Getting back to my 2020 challenge which was 12 marathons and 12 half-marathons in 12 months, we had completed 3 of each before lockdown.

The marathons will be the main issue as they have been either cancelled completely or moved to October but we'll see what we can rescue.

I would have done some of the virtual runs to make sure we hit the 12 and 12 but the Long Haired General (Mel) said they must be organised events or we're cheating and who am I to argue?



Running for more than an hour!

How will you be helping your clients after we are released from the lockdown?

I am hoping to resume normal business as soon as physically possible, starting with a visit to each seller to make sure they are still keen to move and discuss the way ahead.

I do think that the market will stall for a while but as long as the lenders keep lending and unemployment does not start raising its ugly head, I would hope that we recover reasonably quickly.

