

Lockdown United

Photography by Dean Belcher



Nice one Cyril

Nice one son

Nice one Cyril

Let's have another one

Adopted by Spurs fans

around 1972

Recorded By

Cockerel Chorus 1973

March 2020 Covid -19 hits the UK amongst the plethora of lockdown measures the football season is abruptly ended, work or rather paid work is halted, like never before we have time on our hands, for some, apart from Two weeks holiday a year this has not happened since those long school holidays. Will we ever go back !

As part of the concessions we are allowed to exercise once a day, I am so unfit. I get my bike out, determined I set off.....if I do not set myself a goal I won't do it more than a few times so I'm off to the nearest pro football teams stadium, I've decided to cycle to all of them in London, one at a time, like a football fan who collects stats (not me) or Esso coins of the 1974 World cup (me) I have to collect them all.

Time to stop eating and start getting fighting fit ...I stole this idea off my mate @tkeen0 Cheers Tim! I'm planning on cycling to each pro London football ground starting with the nearest obviously ! Spent many a disappointing Saturday afternoon here at Brisbane Rd. Although I did once get to say hello to Gazza when walking past the dugout,when he was player manager at I think Boston... anyway he was very nice and he replied in that lovely upbeat Geordie lilt just what a Spurs fan expected !!

Instagram entry 30/4/2020

Mileage 7.8 miles

Just remembered a mate once asked what sort of meat is in the pies ?

Meat meat ! was the reply



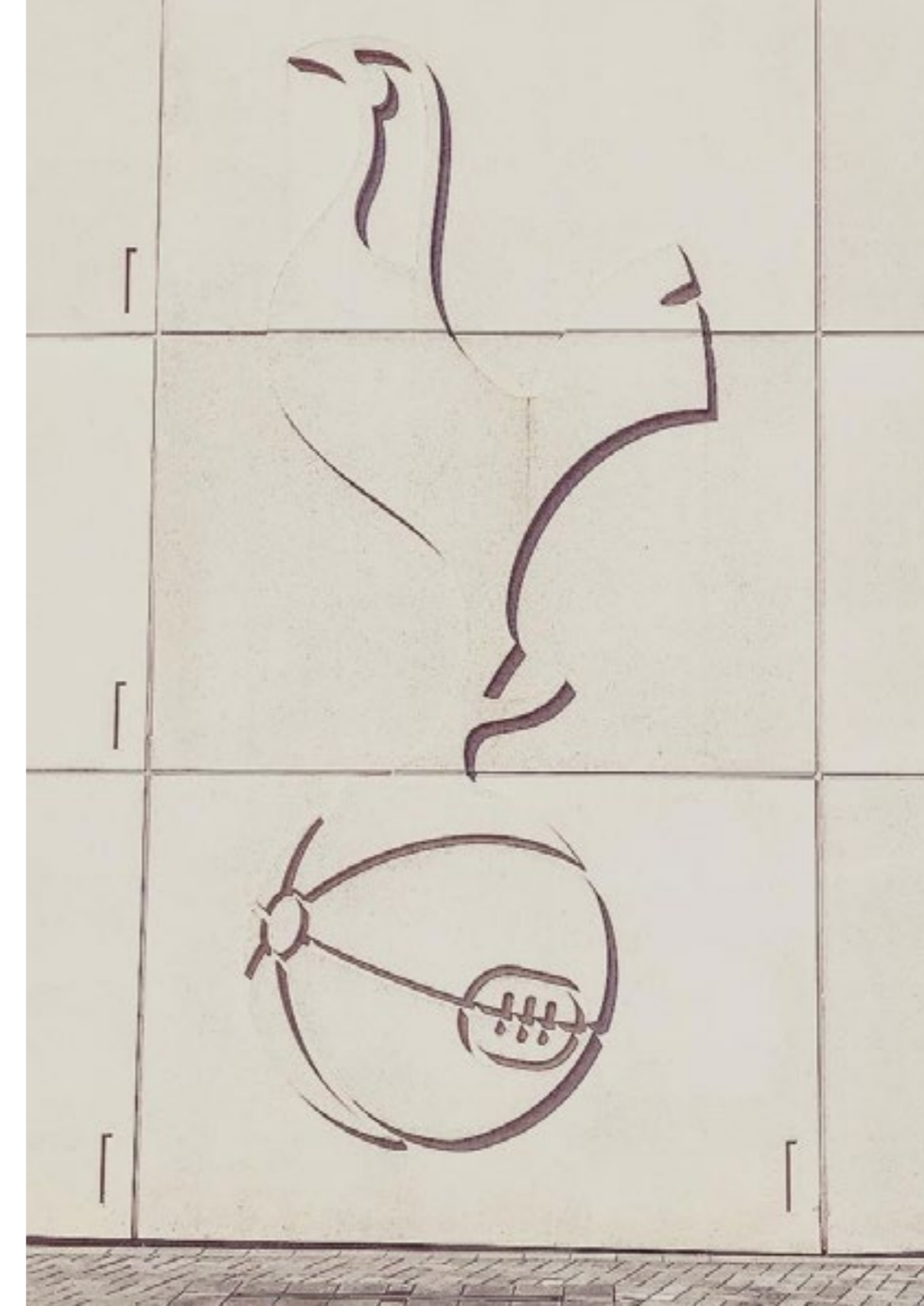




Carrying on in my pursuit of fitness this morning's cycle was to the home of @westham .Both Orient and Tottenham were in the running for taking it over after the Olympics, think we may have had a lucky escape from what I've heard from West Ham mates... looks good though ! Here are some of the stadium followed by a portrait I took of Warren Mitchell best known as West Ham fan Alf Garnett. It also brought to mind the Olympics and how exciting that time was I'd wanted to go since I was a boy and managed to get tickets, absolutely brilliant and not only that I was commissioned to shoot 12 portraits for the official programme ... something to show the grandkids. As a lad I dreamt of competing but alas this will have to do.

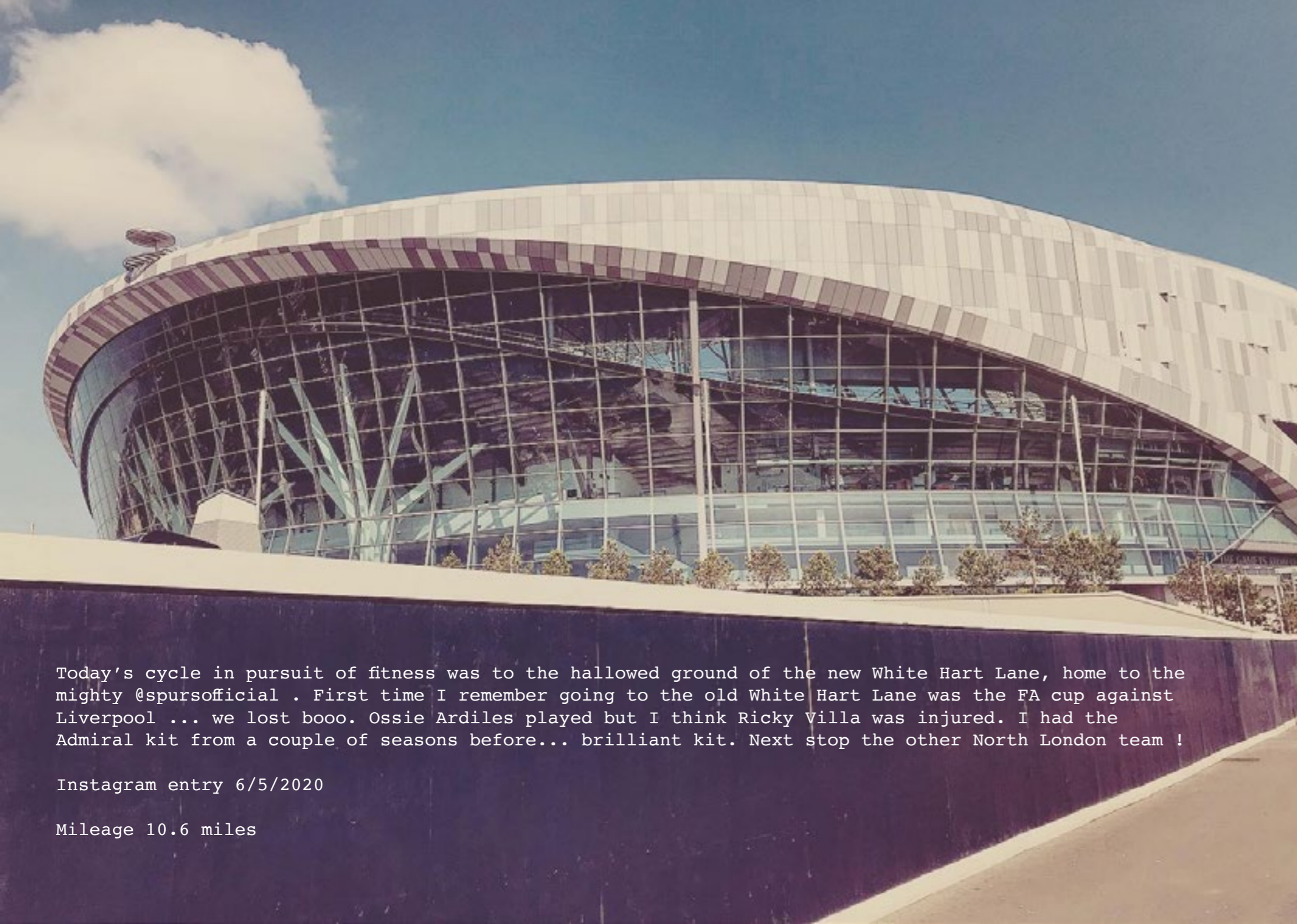
Instagram entry 2/5/2020

Mileage 10.4 miles









Today's cycle in pursuit of fitness was to the hallowed ground of the new White Hart Lane, home to the mighty @spursofficial . First time I remember going to the old White Hart Lane was the FA cup against Liverpool ... we lost boo. Ossie Ardiles played but I think Ricky Villa was injured. I had the Admiral kit from a couple of seasons before... brilliant kit. Next stop the other North London team !

Instagram entry 6/5/2020

Mileage 10.6 miles

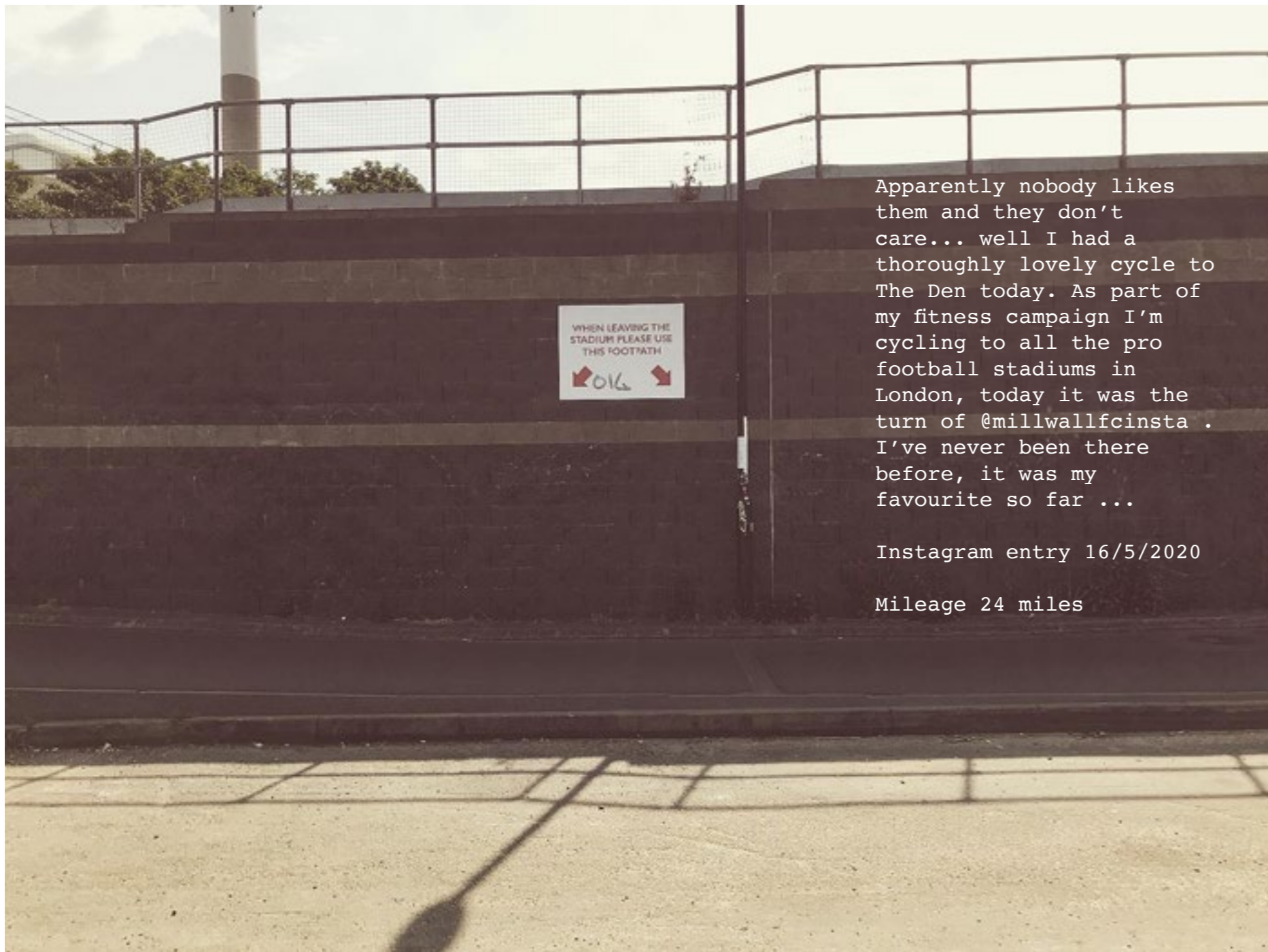




It had to be done at some point and today was that day, as part of the fitness regime I cycled to that other lot's ground....do you know what, I can remember when it was all black cab repairs and the council tip around here.... Instagram entry 9/5/2020

Mileage 16.4 miles





Apparently nobody likes them and they don't care... well I had a thoroughly lovely cycle to The Den today. As part of my fitness campaign I'm cycling to all the pro football stadiums in London, today it was the turn of @millwallfcinsta . I've never been there before, it was my favourite so far ...

Instagram entry 16/5/2020

Mileage 24 miles







You know sometimes you see joggers/ cyclists who look like they could do with a hug, like really struggling, nearly going in reverse it's such an effort. Today that was me. I nearly gave up on project #athleticlockdown but here I am recovered and thinking about the next one ! Today was the turn of @cafcofficial pleasantly situated in some lovely streets. I like stadiums like that, often on the original land the local workers teams played slowly added to with seating and floodlights over the years. I also got to go under the Thames via the Woolwich foot tunnel for the first time. It's nice around there. Thought of a new project too it's good to get out. Thanks to the lovely woman in Percy Ingles who refilled my water bottle ... honestly I think you may have saved my life

Instagram entry 21/5/2020

Mileage 26 miles (hot)







#athleticlockdown continues. I was planning on going earlier in the week but had to build up to this one and get up early to miss some of the heat.

Mad riding almost deserted streets in daylight. Today it was the turn of @officialqpr . I can't say it blew me away but I did like the fact it's surrounded by people's houses and flats, you can see it creeping in between the gaps and like lots of areas in London the council flat sits side by side with the multi million pound family homes in what looks like harmony ... nice. I like it around there. Got a bit lost en route and ended up in Kensal Rise Cemetery , I quite like a cemetery but it'll have to wait for another visit..

Today's mission was to beat the heat. Mission Accomplished

Instagram entry 31/5/2020

Mileage 32 miles





#athleticlockdown continues. I realised on my last journey to QPR I needed a bit more training so before I head West to Chelsea I went a bit local 20 miles round trip to Dagenham and Redbridge's ground. The difference between Conference teams and Premier is apparent ! However you can tell it's deeply rooted in the community. I rarely visit Dagenham, built after WW2 to house the bombed out Londoners it became the biggest concentration of social housing in the country, what an amazing achievement at the beginning of the Welfare State . I cycled past some amazing examples of Mid Century municipal buildings.If you are a fan you must check out Dagenham Town Hall...

Instagram entry 7/6/2020

Mileage 20 miles







