

## **Lockdown times and tales**

**I walked warily along familiar quiet corridors of learning  
Peculiar pattern of hand sanitisers pinned outside classrooms  
One long month of optimism, the calm before the storm.  
Silence.**

**I regurgitated new procedures, walked the safety route.  
I knew the rules – fearless.**

**Youths bumbling tumbling and falling into each other's arms  
Social distancing forgotten, no slither of daylight between them  
Six long months of boredom, on remand from computer screens  
Stridence.**

**Adults do the distance dance at each encounter.  
We know the rules – foolhardy.**

**Teachers Redress expectations, soon undone once out of earshot  
Elders scuttle away for cover, peel their wits off the floor  
The indestructible youths reinstate the 'old normal'.  
Sufferance.**

**Promised tests long in the offering. Tick tock!  
They make the rules – feverishly.**

**Devotees of news bulletins gawp as a familiar cycle begins  
Spain, France, colourful climbing graphs, busy ambulances  
September is March on repeat. Hope says no.  
Sapience.**

**Kingdoms pull up drawbridges. Take cover.  
We broke the rules – finance.**

**May I have a fortress against the onslaught of the tidal wave**

**Sentence me behind a screen once more. Oh, to be zoom fatigued.**

**Tears for the soldiers of medicine, ready for battle.**

**Suppliance.**

**'Fear we go again'. Makeshift hospitals dusted.**

**Rules for the 'new normal' – faithless.**