

Issue #1

THE FERNELEY VOICE



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Welcome to The Ferneley Voice



Whether it's in digital or paper form, you have in front of you the first ever edition of The Ferneley Voice. Our vision was to create a newspaper with inclusivity at its heart; we wanted to create space for a wide range of voices and subjects to inform, inspire and entertain.

None of this would have been possible without the hard work of my newspaper team – thank you for giving your time to this project and making it what it is.

We all hope you enjoy it – happy reading!

Miss Whitmore

Editorial Team

Lottie Clifton – Co-Editor
Lily Elsome – Co-Editor
Maisie Funnell – Co-Designer
Abigail Cannon – Co-Designer
Adi Pradeep Kumar – Photography and Images

News team

Lead
Emily Walkling

Rylee Nickols
Caitlyn Barker-Evans
Hannah Potter

Culture Team

Lead
Donna Stephen

Grace Gilbert
Abigail Cannon

School Team

Lead
Miss Whitmore

Oliver Worthington-Clarke
Maja Richards

Sports Team

Lead
Libby Hill

Maja Richards
Emily Csizmazia
Hollie Longley-Wilford

New Discoveries Team

Lead
Lois Hilton

Olivia Sharpe

Entertainment Team

Lead
Isobel Foulds

Layla Dugmore
Nate Lygo

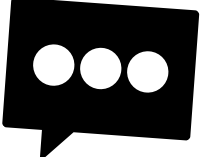
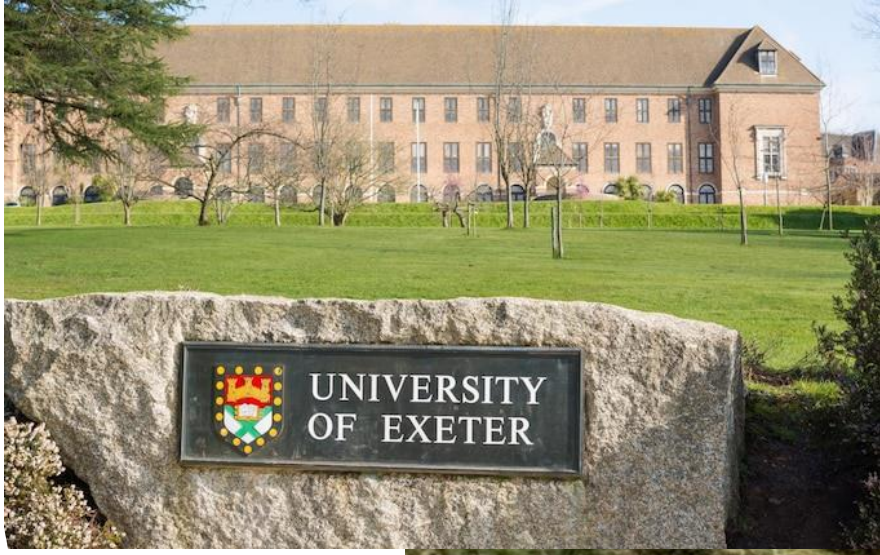
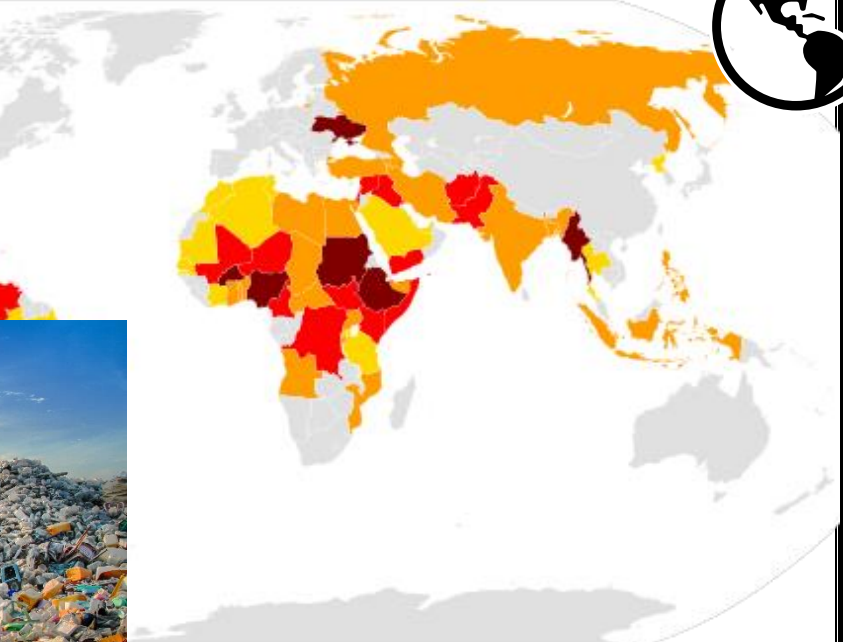
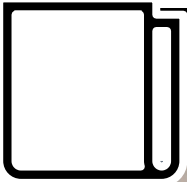
Creative Writing Team

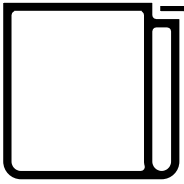
Lead
Myles Mulholland

Maisie Funnell
Lily Elsome

With special thanks to...

Mrs Stansfield
Mrs Guy
Mrs Oxborough
Mrs Stanley
Mrs Geraghty
Mrs Rogers





News

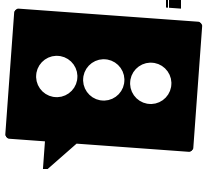
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The Tasmanian Tiger is Back!



The once carnivorous marsupial was native to the South Coast of Australia, Tasmania. It was widely known for its black stripes and long tail. It was first discovered in 1808 and only had a short existence, which ended in 1936. It turns out the locals were not fond of the animal due to the belief that they were eating and killing a large amount of their livestock. In the early 19th century, there was a worldwide bounty for them from the government, which was the main cause of their extinction.

The RNA (ribonucleic acid) was extracted from a 130-year-old Tasmanian tiger specimen from a Swedish museum of natural history in Stockholm. There were initial concerns that the RNA would not survive in the conditions that it was found in, but surprisingly it did.

The discovery of this RNA is so significant as it gives hope for future discoveries of other extinct animals. Emilio Mármol Sánchez, a senior bioinformatician, says, "The RNA offers insight into the biology and metabolism of the once apex predator." The RNA can not only give us this information, but also a new view into the life the tiger lead before its extinction (e.g. diet).

"Rna gives you the chance to go through the cell, the tissues and find the real biology that has been preserved in time for that animal, the thylacide species, right before they died" says Emilio Marmol Sanchez. Therefore, they are not able to re-create the animal, but they are able to understand the animal's behaviours and help prevent extinction for future animals. Aswell as this, we are now able to compare the way of living between the Tasmanian tiger and other species such as by looking at the Rna structure and seeing how its evolved to fight of diseases and even able to see how they have evolved through looking at bone structure.



Emily Walkling

Real Life Hogwarts!

A muggle's opportunity to enter the world of magic.

The University of Exeter, located in Devon, is offering students a post-graduate Masters in magic. The programme is a year-long and it starts in September 2024. The course will be called *MA in Magic and Occult Science*. Students will be offered the opportunity to learn about the history and impact of witchcraft and magic around the world, in society and science.



The course could prepare students for careers in teaching, counselling, mentoring and many more. One of the professors of the course said, "A recent surge in interest in magic and the occult inside and outside of academia lies at the heart of the most urgent questions of our society. Decolonisation, the exploration of alternative epistemologies, feminism and anti-racism are at the core of the post-graduate Masters." The *MA Magic and Occult Science* is unique as it allows you to tailor a programme to your own interests by choosing a range of modules within humanities and social sciences or by specialising in a certain area. This master would help develop skills to prepare you for a wide range of professions, or further study into PHD level. Another professor said, "This MA will allow people to re-examine the assumption that the West is the place of rationalism and science, while the rest of the world is a place of magic and superstition."

I do not know about you, but I would love to study a course like that!



Rylee Nickols

The World is at Stake!



The global fight against climate change and what you can do to help.

At JFC we do quite a lot to try and help the environment, but what about the bigger picture? It is estimated that our oceans have 5.2 trillion pieces of plastic in them. Just by putting your crisp packets in the recycling bins or reusing a plastic bottle, you could be helping the environment.

Landfills are also a problem. After our rubbish gets thrown in the non-recycling bin, 50% gets put in a landfill and eventually ends up in the sea, making all the aquatic creatures suffer more than you can imagine. Many animals are already endangered because of sea pollution, like the Hawaiian Monk Seals and Pacific Longhead Sea Turtles. So, after you have a slice of pizza or a cookie from the canteen, make sure you recycle your rubbish. I have been noticing teachers picking up rubbish. Yes, that is good, but it is our responsibility to recycle our own rubbish.

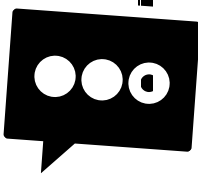
65 billion sheets of paper are used a day, all coming from trees in the wild. Approximately 42 million trees are being cut down per day, most coming from the Amazon Rainforests, and a portion of the paper made from those trees is used to make our books. No, I am not suggesting we stop using our books, but maybe next year the school could order a different material than paper, such as: bamboo, cotton and kenaf. Many companies around the world use these as a substitute for paper. So, the next time you pick up a piece of paper to draw, doodle, or write, if you have used a whole page or maybe messed up, flip the piece of paper over and avoid using more paper than you need.

Finally, climate change is potentially our biggest problem. Many animals are endangered due to this. This includes Polar Bears, Ring Seals (the Polar Bear's favourite prey), Monarch Butterflies, and Atlantic Cods. Some causes of climate change are greenhouse gasses and human activity. What small changes can you make to have a positive impact on the environment?

So, I hope after reading this article, you become more aware of your surrounding and just do little things, like putting your rubbish in the recycle bin, to save our planet and the animals living on it.



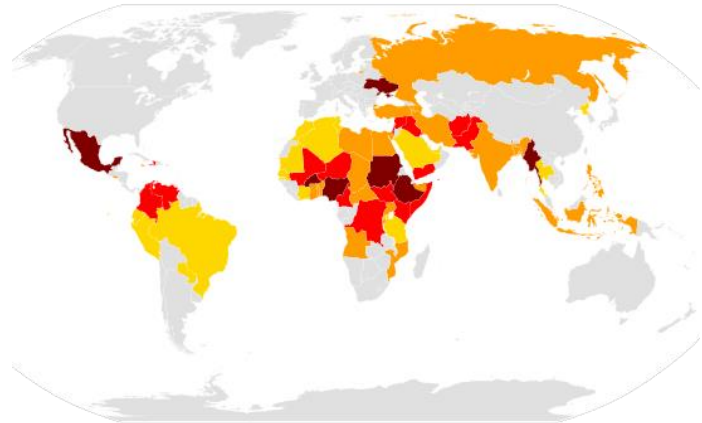
Caitlyn Barker-Evans



Current World Conflicts



According to this map, the conflicts that have the biggest impact on the world right now are:



- The internal conflict in Myanmar, which started in 1948.
- The Israeli Palestinian conflict, which started in 1948.
- Insurgency in the Maghreb, which started in 2002.
- The Mexican drug war, which started in 2006.
- The Russia Ukraine war, which started in 2014.
- The Ethiopian civil conflict, which started in 2018.
- The war in Sudan, which started in 2023.

Now, these are just the conflicts that cause the most deaths. There are several other wars that are also happening on our planet.

Conflict is something that has always existed, but over time it has changed in the impact it causes. Some of these impacts: Death, injury, sexual violence, malnutrition, illness, and disability.

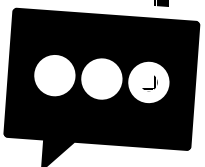
Recently, we have celebrated remembrance, where we honour all the lives lost in the battles of the first world war. This is important to recognise because it shows us people are willing to serve their country, but shouldn't it also remind us to be kind and respectful to one another on a day-to-day basis?

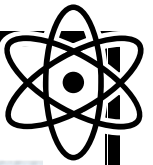
Some of the most peaceful countries on earth are:

- Iceland
- Denmark
- Ireland
- New Zealand
- Austria

Studying what the most peaceful countries have in common will potentially help other countries to understand the most effective ways to reduce conflict and improve their peaceful status. For example, Iceland, Denmark, and Ireland have developed good relations with neighbours and assured equitable distribution of resources. Iceland has also remained the most peaceful country in the world since the creation of the Global Peace Index 17 years ago. All promote free flow of information and the acceptance of the rights of others.

Hannah Potter





MELTON BOROUGH AREA PROFILE

Average wage
across advertised
job vacancies **£28,500**

TOTAL POPULATION: 51,400

30,400 | 59.1%
WORKING AGE POPULATION

- NOMIS 2020 data



Employers who advertise the most: Samworth Brothers, NHS, Mars, Cera Care, Priory Group, SMB Group and Tesco. The majority of companies in this area are small or micro, so do look at smaller companies around you! Many vacancies are advertised by recruitment agencies, so we cannot always see who the employer is.

- Last 12 months, Labour Insight Jobs (Burning Glass Technologies)

KEY SECTORS

Manufacturing
 **4,500** Jobs | **21.4%** of workforce

Wholesale and retail
 **3,000** Jobs | **14.3%** of workforce

Professional, scientific & technical
 **2,000** Jobs | **9.5%** of workforce

Education
 **2,000** Jobs | **9.5%** of workforce

Accommodation and Food
 **1,500** Jobs | **7.1%** of workforce

Health and social care (1,250) and business administration and support services (1,250) are also significant sectors of employment.

- BRES, 2019 data

SKILLS MOST MENTIONED ACROSS ADVERTISED ROLES, MELTON AREA 2021

- Communication skills
- Organisational skills
- Attention to detail
- Microsoft EXCEL
- Planning skills
- English
- Problem solving skills
- Leadership



- Last 12 months, Labour Insight Jobs (Burning Glass Technologies)

MOST ADVERTISED JOBS

- Nurses and care workers
- Science, engineering and production technicians
- Sales, customer service and administration roles
- Warehouse and driving roles
- Managers across all sectors



- Last 12 months, Labour Insight Jobs (Burning Glass Technologies)

LOCAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS & COLLEGES



- Birch Wood Special School
- John Ferneley College
- Long Field Academy
- The Priory Belvoir Academy
- Melton Vale Sixth Form College
- Brooksby Melton College (SMB Group)
 - Melton Campus
 - Brooksby Campus

THERE ARE:

2,530 **BUSINESSES*** in the Melton Area

99.8% of which are **MICRO**, **SMALL** or **MEDIUM** sized

- UK Business Count 2020

NVQ
LEVELS 
77.7%
level 2 & above

38.6%
level 4 & above
(both above East
Midlands average levels)

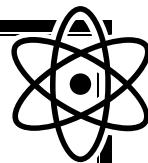
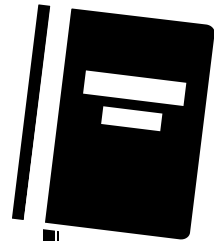
AVERAGE EARNINGS
2020 (per week)
£526
MELTON

£561.00 | **£587.00**
EAST MIDLANDS | GREAT BRITAIN



- ASHE data 2020 resident

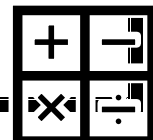


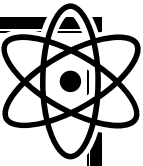


JFC and the Community

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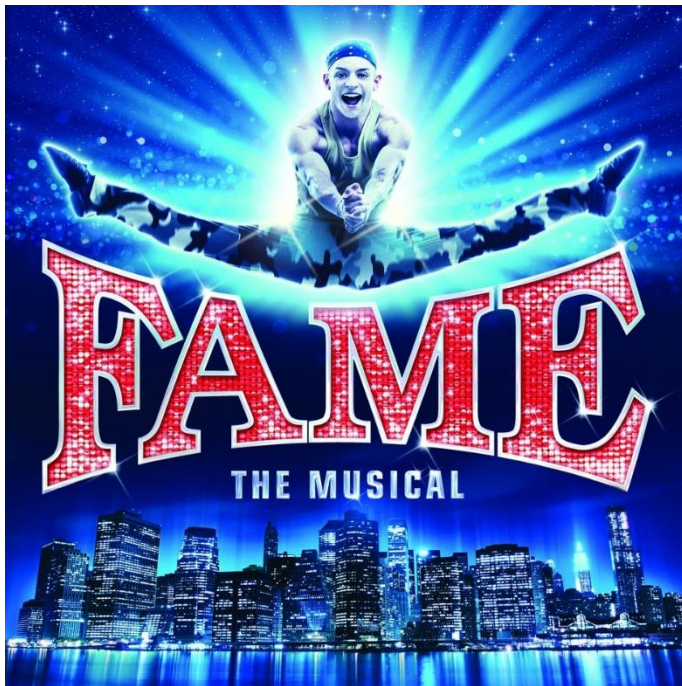
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What's on – JFC Performances

For the past decade, John Ferneley College has released two musicals yearly. The school show which has students from all years and "one night only" which happens over two nights and is only performed by year 10 and 11 students. The school show has brought together many different students and has helped form a bond between pupils and the dramatic arts. The school shows have created bonding experiences between pupils and students and have helped develop a passion for being on stage and expressing themselves freely.



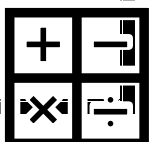
This year the school musical, which has been selected by Mrs Mitcham (the music teacher) and Mrs Richards (the drama teacher), is 'Fame', a musical which highlights the highs and lows of the final class of New York City's illustrious High School for the Performing Arts from their first year in 1980 to their graduation in 1984. It tells the story of several of the students, depicting their struggles, triumphs and tempestuous relationships with sincerity and dramatic effect. We see their struggles with ambition, fame,

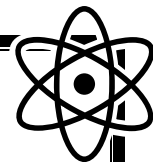
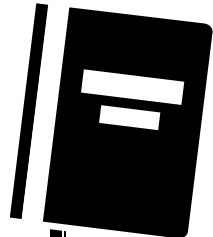
and self-confidence through the eyes of students such as Carmen, the ambitious dancer obsessed with fame, serious actor Nick, overweight dancer Mabel, and the talented dancer Tyrone, who struggles desperately with dyslexia. The show does not shy away from complex issues, such as racial prejudice, and drug abuse, as the young performers explore the realities of striving for a career in showbusiness.

This year the show takes place in January 2024 from Wednesday 24th to Saturday 27th and the cost of the tickets are £7 for adults and £6 for children under 16 and senior citizens.

Later in the year, you will also have the opportunity to come and watch 'One night only' which is held over two nights, and they are skits and songs from loads of different musicals and plays and it is worth coming to watch.

Maja Richards





Year 9 Options Timeline – The Term Ahead

Wednesday 10th January 2024: Y9 Options assembly

Students will have an assembly that outlines the options process to them, in preparation for the options marketplace even the following week.

Wednesday 17th January 2024: Options Marketplace evening, 5pm – 7pm

Students and parents can gather information about all the different subjects that are available and have conversations with subject teachers. Students and parents will also receive clear information on how the options process works, alongside the options booklet.

Wednesday 31st January 2024: Year 9 Parents evening (virtual), 4pm – 7pm

This is a chance to talk to your child's teachers and find out how well they are progressing in their subjects. For subjects that are options, it will be useful to think about the teacher's comments in relation to studying that subject in Year 10 and 11.

1st February to 16th February 2024: Students picking their options.

Deadline for submitting options: Friday 16th February

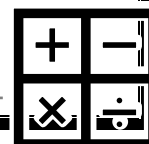
More information about how to submit options will be given by your form tutors.

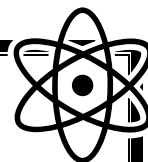
17th February to 30th April 2024: Options for next year being finalised.

The school data team will collate all the student option choices, working out the classes for the following year. During this stage student /parents may be contacted if courses are oversubscribed or do not have enough students selecting them to be able to run. Reserve subjects will be discussed at this stage, please prepare your child for this eventuality.

May 2024: Option confirmation

Parents will receive a letter confirming their child's option subjects.





Year 10 Post 16 Options – The Term Ahead

This is the time to start to research different colleges and post 16 options. Begin to look at the local college websites there is course information and online prospectuses there:

Melton Vale: <https://www.mv16.org.uk/>

SMB: <https://www.smbcollegigroup.ac.uk/>

Loughborough College: <https://www.loucoll.ac.uk/>

Grantham College: <https://www.grantham.ac.uk/>

Harington School: <https://www.haringtonschool.com/>

There will be some open events in the summer term along with our marketplace event in June with post 16 providers – all information will be on student messages and the newsletter.

Year 11 Post 16 Options – The Term Ahead

Post 16 applications are open for all colleges. You need to apply to them all separately and remember you can apply to more than one college or to a college and an apprenticeship.

Details of local colleges:

Melton Vale: <https://www.mv16.org.uk/> - **deadline 31st January 2024**

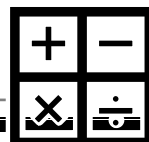
SMB: <https://www.smbcollegigroup.ac.uk/> remember to look carefully at where the course is – for example Stephenson campus is at Coalville so make sure if you apply for a course there you can get there.

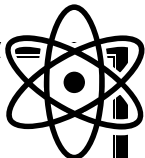
Loughborough college: <https://www.loucoll.ac.uk/>

Grantham college: <https://www.grantham.ac.uk/>

Harington School: <https://www.haringtonschool.com/> - **deadline 12th February 2024**

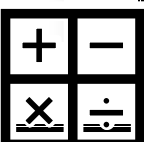
Open events will be on student messages and in the newsletter – there will be some in the spring term.



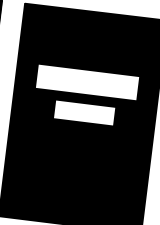


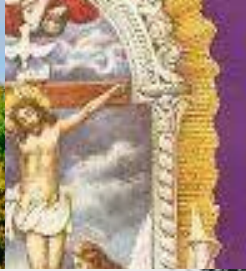
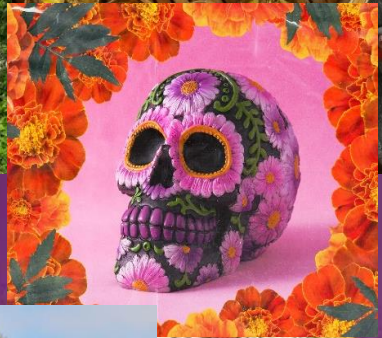
KEY EMPLOYERS

In the MELTON Borough



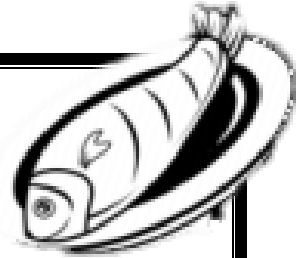
Company Name	Major Sector	Company Name	Major Sector	Company Name	Major Sector
Company name	Major sector	Company name	Major sector	Company name	Major sector
Samworth Brothers Ltd	Food production	Twinklakes	Amusement park	Dickinson & Morris	Retail food sales
Mars UK Ltd	Manufacture of pet foods	Stapleford Park Hotel	Hotel and leisure facility	MBS Lending Ltd	Mortgage services
Mexichem Speciality Compounds	Polymer compound manufacturer	Ragdale Hall	Fitness and leisure facility	Fuzzy Frog Ltd	Computer games
Belvoir Fruit Farms Ltd	Fruit based drink production	Tarnac (Lalange)	Mining and quarrying	Charles Brown & Sons (Haulage) Ltd	Transport services
Gibbs Croft Ltd	Food production	Scalford Hall Hotel	Hotel and events facility	Payne Walker Ltd	Accounting services
Hawthorn Theatrical Ltd	Theatre and event equipment	Long Clawson Dairy	Butter and cheese production	Websters Dairy Ltd	Milk and cream production
Melton Borough Council	Wide range of borough services, variety of job roles	Pera International	Technology, business and training Services	NFU Mutual	Insurance
Tesco	Retail	Bagforce Aggregates	Aggregate supplies	Browning Suzuki	Motor dealer
Truframe Trade Frames Ltd	uPVC windows and doors	Crouch Recovery	Vehicle recovery services	Belvoir Castle	Historical site
So-Mix Nutrition Ltd	Production of bodybuilding supplements	O J Hallam & Son (Melton Mowbray) Ltd	Construction of commercial buildings	Select Plants Ltd	Wholesale of flowers and plants
Waterfield Leisure Centre	Operation of sports facilities	Front Row Construction Ltd	Residential and commercial construction	Melton Meat Ltd	Processing and preserving of meat
Melton Building Society	Building society	Sainsburys	Retail	RBC Group	Range of innovative services for retail, manufacturing and logistics
Jaid Wen UK Ltd	Joinery/carpentry manufacture	Midland Tail Lift Ltd	Manufacture of lifting and handling equipment	R T Dairy Services Ltd	Food processing machinery
Elster Instrument (Honeywell)	Manufacture of gas service measuring instruments	John Hillis Coach Sale and Services	Coach sales	Regal Cinema Ltd	Motion picture projection
Oil NRG (was Brobot Fuels Ltd)	Wholesale of fuels	B&Q	DIY retail	Sandicraft Motor Group Ltd	Sale of cars
Anglo Adhesives & Services Ltd	Manufacture of glues	William Hercock Ltd	Sale of timber/building materials	S & J European Haulage	Transportation services
Melton Mowbray Market	Retail sales	Hodgson Acoustics Ltd	Noise control engineering services	Aston (Melton) Ltd	Motor vehicle retail and repair
Mowbray Education Trust Ltd	Education services	K S Composites	Composite innovation and Manufacturing	Asfordby Storage and Haulage Ltd	Transport, freight and storage
Brooksbys Melton College	Further education	Hallmark Consumer Services Ltd	Fulfillment services	Toyota Material Handling UK	Forklift dealer
Melton Mowbray Hospital	Health services	Nupsala	Medical and veterinary wholesale supplies	Latham House Medical Practice	Health services
CE Turner	Manufacture of precision machined components	Gates Garden Centre	Garden centre	Premier Inn	Hotel and hospitality services
GI Group	Recruitment services	Morrisons	Retail	The Defence Animal Centre	Military training centre for animals
Army	Range of military services	QD Stores	Retail outlet	Amwell Care Home	Residential care services





CELEBRATING
BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH

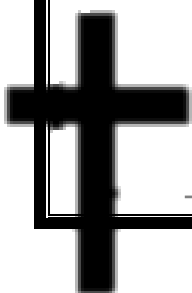


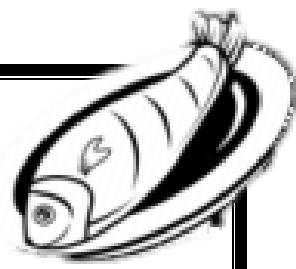


Culture

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Your Guide to This Term's Cultural Events Around the World

September 16th – October 3rd:

Oktoberfest, which is the largest Volksfest in the world, has more than six million domestic and foreign participants every single year. It takes place in Munich, Bavaria, from mid to late September to the first Sunday in October, which features a beer festival and a travelling carnival.

October 13th-22nd:

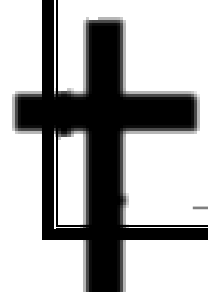
Phuket, a vegetarian festival, originates from Thailand. It's not just a simple celebration of everything vegetarian, but an extravagant event. Another name for it is "The Nine Emperor Gods Festival", and it's one of Thailand's busiest festivals. It's energetic, crowded and somewhat 'out there' for a spiritual celebration. To symbolize their purity, they wear white clothing, commit to strict diets, give up things like alcohol, and fast for the duration of the event. Then it all begins, with firecrackers, shouts, and some performance stunts. You often see them fire walking or even piercing themselves in the face.

October 18th:

Lord of Miracles, where Peru residents of Lima celebrate Señor de los Milagros, or Lord of the Miracles, by parading across the capital. Everyone wears purple, to show their loyalty to the Lord (some wear it throughout the entire month of October). The parade, which follows the image of Jesus Christ on an enormous float, usually gathers thousands of participants who sing religious songs and offer prayers. It's without a doubt one of the largest festivals throughout South America.

October 1-31st:

Black History Month, where the full length of October is dedicated to educating people on the history of black people and celebrating their contributions to the country.





October 15th:

Sharad Navratri (in Hinduism) is one of the biggest and most important festivals celebrated in India. It's also known as Navaratri or 'nine nights', beginning near the autumn equinox and culminating nine days. It's held in many open areas all over the world, where everyone comes together and dances for hours to celebrate the festival, like in London, which has around 400,000 Hindus.

November 2nd:

Día de los Muertos, also known as Day of the Dead in English, is celebrated on November 2 in Mexico as a way of honouring, commemorating, and greeting the spirits of the deceased. While there are celebrations all through Mexico, there are a few locations where both natives and tourists can truly get into the spirit of the occasion. For those who want to get the whole experience, Michoacán, Oaxaca, and Mexico City are three places you simply must visit.

November 11th:

Every year, Gangtey Gonpa, which is located in Bhutan's Wangdurphodrang District's Gangteng-Phobji Valley, celebrates the Annual, Black-necked Crane Festival. The Black-necked crane is considered a symbol of longevity in Bhutan and is the only species of alpine crane on the planet. The festivities typically involve cultural events such as mask dances, folk songs, and environmental songs performed by villagers, schoolchildren, and monks. Typically, the festival's high point is the schoolchildren's regionally choreographed crane dance. Not only can tourists take part in one of Bhutan's most well-known celebrations, but they can also honour this revered bird and help a society that is fighting to preserve it.

1st to 10th December:

Hornbill Festival, in India, is one of Nagaland's most well-known celebrations, as it honours many of their tribes. A sizable crowd usually gathers to celebrate with food, drink, singing, and dancing.

December to January:

The Bahamas' national celebration is known as Junkanoo. The celebration is said to have originated in West Africa. The event is a cavalcade of sound and colour nowadays. It includes a wild celebration, with both locals and guests dressed in vibrant, eye-catching costumes. Drums, whistles, and brass instruments are played by musicians. Performers create groups in anticipation of the opportunity to compete for cash prizes during the grand parade.

Donna Stephen

Country Spotlight – Zimbabwe

These past few months have been a remarkably busy time for Zimbabwe. From foreign traditions to record breaking headlines, Zimbabwe is known for its cultural diversity and unique tastes. This makes it a very welcoming country, but what happens in Zimbabwe?

There is a strong tradition in Zimbabwe to have gatherings and eat tasteful food, which is particularly common in tribes formed in small Zimbabwean villages. These traditions will be celebrated with folklore, Zim-style music, dancing, and colourful clothing. Take the Shona people, for example. The Shona consists of Christian beliefs and a passion for enticing celebrations. They are the most common native ethnic group to Zimbabwe. Although Zimbabwe is known for these thrilling traditions and compelling activities, the challenges this beloved country faces are not talked about enough.

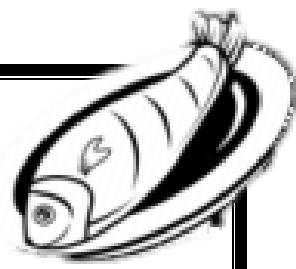


Currently, Zimbabwe is facing an unexpected arise in cholera, causing an outbreak in the heart of it, Harare, populated with nearly 2 million citizens. This bacterial disease is killing the young and old, with health authorities reporting over 150 suspected deaths and an estimate of 8000 cases! During these crucial times citizens of Harare are scared, yet their positive attitude and high spirits keep them fighting on.

To conclude the beauty and wonders of Zimbabwe, this country is one of the many wonders across the world that is widely unappreciated, making striking headlines with its unique traditions! From beautiful valleys to exotic animals, Zimbabwe has it all! Zimbabwe has prolonging cultures and traditions that have existed for hundreds of years all based on their main religion Christianity. Due to popular beliefs, citizens of Zimbabwe always strive to stick to their morals and strong passion for family, making a wonderful, striking community.



Abigail Cannon



Equality on the Global Stage

Equality has been a prominent topic throughout recent years. In a world that increasingly recognises the importance of gender equality, efforts to empower women and create inclusive societies vary across countries. A comprehensive look at women's equality reveals a mixed landscape of progress and challenges.

Nordic countries lead the way. Scandinavian nations continue to set the standard for gender equality. Countries like Iceland, Norway, and Sweden consistently top all global rankings in areas such as equal pay, representation in leadership roles, and women's access to education and healthcare.

While this is great for Scandinavia, challenges continue to persist in the middle east. While strides have been made in some middle eastern countries, many still grapple with deeply ingrained cultural and legal barriers that limit women's rights. Initiatives promoting education and workforce participation are making headway, but there's a long way ahead for achieving parity.

Asia however showcases a spectrum of progress in women's equality. Countries like Japan and South Korea are making efforts to address gender disparities in the workplace, while others, like India, are actively working towards improving women's safety and dismantling traditional roles. However, there are improvements to be made in areas such as body positivity.

In several Latin American countries, we have witnessed significant advancements in recent years. Nations like Argentina and Uruguay are implementing policies to close gender gaps, increase political representation, and combat violence against women. However, challenges persist, especially in rural areas.

In the continent of Africa there is a diverse picture of women's rights. While some countries, such as Rwanda, have achieved notable progress in political representation, others face challenges related to cultural norms, access to education as well as healthcare differences.

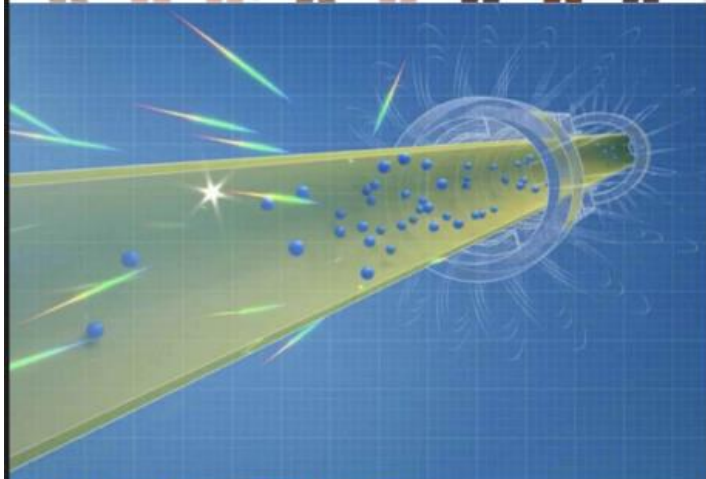
Within the European union efforts to promote women's equality is evident. The EU has implemented policies to address the gender pay gap, increase female representation in corporate boardrooms, and combat violence against women. However, differences continue to persist among member states.

Now we have come to the part where we have to discuss everyone's favourite country North America. The states and Canada continue to address inequality issues-but somehow never solve them- particularly in terms of workplace representation and discrimination.

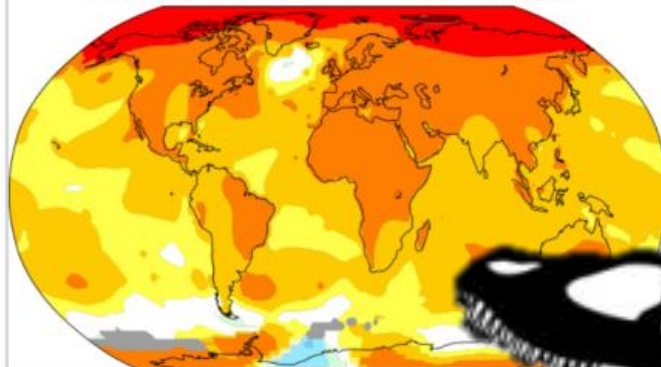
As a global community continues to emphasise the importance of women's equality, it's also clear progress is uneven. Each country faces unique challenges shaped by its cultural, historical, and political context. Ongoing efforts, advocacy and international collaboration are essential to create a world where women can enjoy equal rights and opportunities in all aspects of life.

Grace Gilbert





Temperature change in the last 50 years





New Discoveries

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Leicester's History Uncovered – Archaeological Findings in the City.

Over 1100 bodies excavated at Leicester Cathedral.

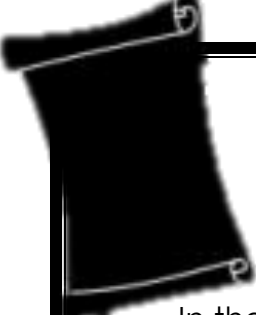


In

October 2021, ULAS (University of Leicester Archaeological Services) began digging at Leicester Cathedral, due to the upcoming opening of the Cathedral's heritage centre and the recent installation of underfloor heating.

The dig was operated by the same team that discovered Richard the Third back in 2012 and have so far discovered some rare evidence from the Anglo-Saxon period including a potential building and an Anglo-Saxon coin which is the first of its kind to be found in the Leicester area. The excavations have also revealed a cellar within a Roman building with the base of an altar stone inside of it. The discovery of the altar stone has put forward the idea that the room could have been used as a shrine or a cult room. But this was not the only discovery made at the cathedral...

1,100 bodies were also discovered ranging from the 11th century to the mid-19th century. Once the excavations are complete the bodies will be reinterred with care and sensitivity by the Cathedral. They have also discovered evidence from the Anglo-Saxon period, the discoveries include a potential building and the first Anglo-Saxon coin found in Leicester in nearly 20 years.



In the final stages of the excavations when the archaeologists were approximately 3 metres into the ground, they discovered well-made semi-subterranean infrastructure, with painted stone walls and a concrete floor. The decorative paintwork discovered in the room suggests it was used as a reception room instead of for storage. Though it has never been confirmed they believe it was within a townhouse. The room is believed to have been built in 2 AD and then deliberately dismantled and then rebuilt in the 3rd or 4th century.

Within the room they discovered the base of an altar stone carved from local Dane Hills sandstone and stands at 25cm by 15cm and has decorative mouldings on three sides. The discovery of a Roman altar in Leicester Cathedral is the first of its kind to be discovered in Leicester.

For centuries, there has been a folk tale about a Roman temple once standing on the grounds of Leicester Cathedral and the recent discovery of the potential shrine links back to the potential factuality of the folk tale.

John Thomas, Deputy Director at ULAS, said: "This excavation has produced a remarkable amount of archaeological evidence from a modestly sized area. The project allowed us to venture into an area of Leicester that we rarely have the opportunity to investigate, and it certainly did not disappoint". Simon Bentley, Project Director for Leicester Cathedral Revealed said: "The archaeological excavations at Leicester Cathedral are an integral part of the project and we are grateful to ULAS for their expertise and professionalism in carrying out the works and to National Lottery players and The National Lottery Heritage Fund for making the project possible."



Olivia Sharpe

This Term's Newest Discoveries

28 Aug – 10 Sep

Unprecedented Decrease in Human Population 930,000 Years Ago.

A newspaper has been released showing that almost 99% of all human ancestors may have been wiped out around 930,000 years ago. The paper estimates that as few as 1,300 humans were left for a period of around 120,000 years. Such a low population size would have caused many problems for humans, making it easier to be wiped out completely and become extinct. If the research behind the discovery of this bottleneck is confirmed, it will help us understand human evolution and how we got to where we are today. Following the origins of *Homo erectus* about two million years ago, a variety of other species evolved. The time in which the bottleneck has been proposed lies right in the middle of the period when these human species are thought to have first appeared. While the exact causes are difficult to confirm, the near extinction has been blamed on Africa's climate becoming much colder and drier. However, there are several uncertainties surrounding this new theory. Because of this, the need for more fossils from this point in time in human evolution has become much more prevalent.


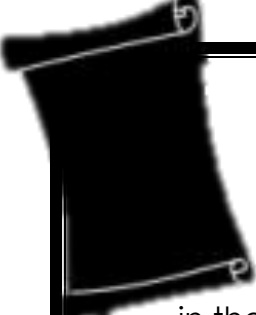


11 Sep – 24 Sep

Palm Oil Alternative Discovered



Palm oil is in most products we use daily. It is estimated that almost half of all food and cosmetic products on supermarket shelves contain palm oil. However, we have constantly been warned of the dangers of this substance. The main disadvantage of palm oil being in such high demand is that it results



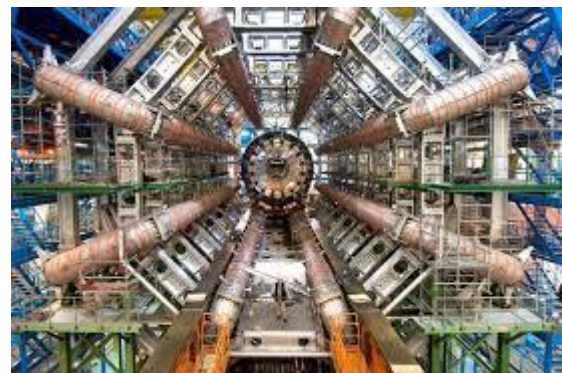
in the mass deforestation of areas where oil palm trees can grow. This is typically near the equator.

A team of scientists in Scotland's Queen Margaret University of Edinburgh have created an improved alternative of palm oil called PALM-ALT. It is composed of 100% plant-based ingredients and is 70% better for the environment based on carbon emissions when compared to traditional palm oil. The oil is palm and coconut-free and has no added flavourings, sugar, sweeteners, preservatives, or colourings. Additionally, it is made from a by-product produced in the linseed industry, plus natural fibre, and rapeseed oil. All this means it has 80% less saturated fat and 30% fewer calories, making it significantly healthier than palm oil.

25 Sep - 8 Oct

Antimatter's Reaction to Gravity


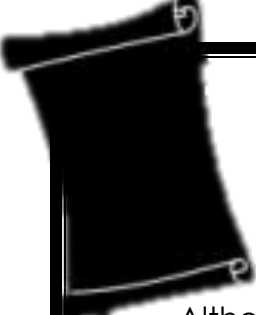
Antimatter particles are identical to the matter particles which make up the world around us, however they have the opposite electrical charge. Any particle inside the atoms we are familiar with has an opposite in an antimatter atom. For example, an electron with a negative charge would become a positron with a positive charge, but these particles would take the same position within the atom. An experiment at CERN has shown for the first time that antimatter responds to gravity in the same way as matter. This is the first experiment to observe the motion of antimatter being changed by gravity. During the experiment, atoms of antihydrogen were shown to fall to Earth in the same way as hydrogen atoms would. This discovery has been described as a major 'milestone' on the way to better understanding the universe around us.



9 Oct – 22 Oct

Extinct Species in the US Announced

In the US, 21 species have been declared extinct. This includes species of bird, bat, and several mussels. This follows some of these species not having been sighted since as early as 1899 and as late as 2004.



Although there are no definitive criteria for a species to be declared extinct, researchers must be convinced that the last surviving member of the species has died, and all previously collected data has been reviewed. Incorrectly labelling a species as extinct has profound consequences. Over a million species of animals and plants are also now at risk of extinction.

Species are also dying out 1000 times more frequently than in the 60 million years before the arrival of humans. Some ways to support these species include eating less meat and making more sustainable food choices. Travelling less and using greener forms of energy can also help, as it decreases the rate of climate change.



23 Oct – 5 Nov

Plasma Created in Japanese Reactor

Plasma is often considered the fourth state of matter and is made of free electrons with positively charged ions, typically formed when a gas is heated to extreme temperature. Plasma can be found in the sun, lightning, fire, and static electricity. In Japan, the new fusion reactor, JT-60SA, has been activated after more than 15 years of construction. It is the largest and most advanced nuclear reactor in the world. It uses superconducting magnets to confine a hot plasma in a doughnut-shaped chamber that can hold 135 cubic meters and is designed to heat the plasma to 200 million degrees Celsius. It maintains this temperature for about 100 seconds to investigate how fusion power can be achieved. If nuclear fusion can be successfully recreated on Earth, it holds the potential to create massive outputs of energy



in a short amount of time using a similar method to the sun. Nuclear fusion does not produce carbon dioxide and is not radioactive. In addition to this, a successful reactor would produce more energy than is needed to run. All this makes it an extremely sustainable energy source.

6 Nov – 19 Nov

Global temperature increases past 2°C

Based on scientist's best estimates, Friday the 17th of November was the first day when global temperature was more than 2°C above pre-industrial (1850-1900) levels, at 2.06°C. The temperature was also on average 1.17 degrees above 1991-2020 levels. The Paris Climate Agreement pledge aimed to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels, as it was predicted that beyond this threshold, humans as well as ecosystems worldwide will struggle to adapt. A UN report found that according to countries' climate plans, pollution contributing to global warming in 2030 will still be 9% higher than it was in 2010, which hugely contrasts with the agreed target for countries to decrease their emission by 45%.

The best ways to decrease carbon emissions:

- Reducing meat consumption
- Avoiding car journeys where possible
- Flying less and not as far
- Using energy from renewable sources
- Using public transport
- Switching to electric battery cars
- Improving house insulation



Lois Hilton





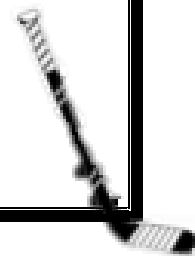
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Men's Vs Women's Sports

There's a large difference between men's and women's sport. This is especially noticeable in sports that are stereotyped as "male" (like rugby) and "women's" (like gymnastics).

The media portrays rugby as a male sport that is dominated by men. This gives young girls the wrong impression of the sport and could deter them from wanting to participate. Drawing girls away from this sport is a massive step back for women and equality. As a community, we should be working together to encourage as many people as possible into sports whatever their gender.

Pay

Despite record-breaking crowds during the 2022 Women's Six Nations, the RFU continues to pay the team unfairly. Players now receive between £26,000 and £33,000 per year for their England involvement. This is a massive drop from the men's salary. Handré Pollard (Leicester Tigers & South Africa) earns \$1,800,000 per season. In Premiership Rugby, the top tier of the English club game, the average salary of a senior player is £171,187.





For females looking to make a living out of the sport this number can seem unfair and intimidating. Males may look at this number and think it's just the average salary. As a rugby player, you are physically and mentally putting yourself under strain and in danger. Why should males get more than double a female's salary when they are doing the same thing? The pay gap is much bigger than a "normal" job, I do not see the reason for this.

Exposure



Just over 10% of televised sports coverage is dedicated to women's sports. This consists of 2% of national newspaper sports coverage, 5% of radio sports coverage, and 4% of online sports coverage.





UK research by YouGov, found that 78% of respondents watch more men's sports, and the same study showed that 31% of respondents said they don't engage with women's sport at all as they struggle to find coverage. 95% of all TV sports coverage within the US was men's sport, meanwhile, only 5% represented female athletes.

This is a very big difference in the advertising of men's and women's sport and is the main reason why women get paid less than men. Sponsorships and TV contracts are where men earn a large amount of their money. Women aren't given the same media exposure, and this is a big cause of the gender pay gap amongst professional athletes. Many female athletes would give the world to get the contracts and exposure that males do so why should we keep this opportunity from them? Personally, I want to go pro in my sport and to do so I must go to the same extent any male would have to as well for the same opportunity and it is frustrating to me that in the long run, I will still earn a lot less than them.



Popularity

With 58,498 fans in the stadium on Saturday, the fixture smashed the world record for attendance at a women's rugby game which was previously 42,579 at last year's World Cup final at Eden Park when New Zealand beat England.

The largest crowd for a rugby union match was the 109,874 who watched New Zealand win 39-35 at Sydney's Stadium Australia.

As we can clearly see this is a big difference in publicity and does affect the pay. But the question is why? Many people say it's due to the "quality" of the game but personally I think they can be just as good as each other. I understand that traditionally it was not a sport women succeeded in, but we are now in the 2000s and times have changed.





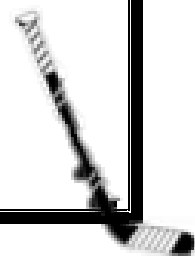
The money that goes into women's rugby is significantly less than of which goes into men's rugby and this effects people of all ages including younger girls who cannot see a career in sports the same way men do.

In conclusion, women's rugby should be more advertised to girls like it is to boys at an early age. Why should women and girls be told to stick to sports like gymnastics and dance when we can advance and strive in other sports like rugby and football?

In my opinion, there is too big of a difference between men's and women's sports. Sports is known for being the job with the biggest pay gap even though this is known by most people, many are still in a delusion that gender in sports does not make a difference. It clearly does and can servery effect girly opinion on sports at a young age especially if they were brought up in a community where predominately boys play sports. The misconception of girls' sports is never ending and has been passed down through generations. It's time for this to change.



Libby Hill





Should Football Ticket Prices be Lower?

Many people have been questioning why prices are so high to go and watch professional football. Some are even saying it's a form of "price discrimination". For example, tickets in Liverpool's main stand tickets average at £77 per ticket. The average price for the cheapest match day ticket from the premier league to league 2 is approximately £21.49. Tickets have increased 13% since 2011. As we all know football has become a massive part of British culture during the past 10+ years and with growing popularity comes growing ticket prices. Though football matches almost always sell out it is still very unfair to some people of a lower income that simply can't afford to go out and watch something that they enjoy because prices are out the roof. With the growing cost of living, it is becoming evidently harder for people to be able to do these things. Why should it have to be like this?

Back in history

Season	Ticket Price	Increase	Comp Increase	Since 1992/3
1980-81	£ 3.00	-	-	
1981-82	£ 3.00	0%	0%	
1982-83	£ 3.00	0%	0%	
1983-84	£ 3.50	17%	17%	
1984-85	£ 4.00	14%	33%	
1985-86	£ 4.50	13%	50%	
1986-87	£ 4.50	0%	50%	
1987-88	£ 5.25	17%	75%	
1988-89	£ 5.76	10%	92%	
1989-90	£ 6.26	9%	109%	
1990-91	£ 7.26	16%	142%	
1991-92	£ 10.00	38%	233%	
1992-93	£ 10.50	5%	250%	
1993-94	£ 11.00	5%	267%	5%
1994-95	£ 11.00	0%	267%	5%
1995-96	£ 12.50	14%	317%	19%
1996-97	£ 14.50	16%	383%	38%
1997-98	£ 16.00	10%	433%	52%
1998-99	£ 17.50	9%	483%	67%
1999-00	£ 19.00	9%	533%	81%
2000-01	£ 21.00	11%	600%	100%
2001-02	£ 26.00	24%	767%	148%
2002-03	£ 29.00	12%	867%	176%
2003-04	£ 33.00	14%	1000%	214%
2004-05	£ 36.00	9%	1100%	243%
2005-06	£ 39.00	8%	1200%	271%
2006-07	£ 39.21	1%	1207%	273%
2007-08	£ 39.21	0%	1207%	273%
2008-09	£ 40.47	3%	1249%	285%
2009-10	£ 40.47	0%	1249%	285%
2010-11	£ 40.47	0%	1249%	285%
2011-12	£ 42.74	6%	1325%	307%
2012-13	£ 44.36	4%	1379%	322%
2013-14	£ 44.36	0%	1379%	322%
2014-15	£ 45.69	3%	1423%	335%
2015-16	£ 45.69	0%	1423%	335%

If we go back in time and look at the prices over the years, we can see that there is a massive increase if we look at this table of prices, we can see the massive difference from just £3 to £45 in 2015/16 is a massive increase and this needs to change because it is not fair to all the people on lower incomes. Back in the 80s you could go out watch the football every week have fun meet people follow your team for £3 now in the 21st century we have to pay £45 to do that and you do it less because people cannot afford it. This also is the prices not even including the actual membership prices, so you would have to pay another 30/40 pound on top of the price of tickets.

Public opinion

This bar chart below shows us the public's opinion on ticket prices it suggests to us what percentage of people think of the topic! Just over 35% of people think that ticket prices are too expensive and just over 1% of people think there not at all expensive this shows us that something needs to change it cannot carry on like this!



Emily Csizmazia



Formula One – A Guide

How does it work?

The formula one weekend take place on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Two practices on Friday, one practice on Saturday along with qualifiers, which determines who starts in which position on the Sunday race. These races are held all over the world with the most races happening in USA.

Teams

In formula one there are 10 teams with two drivers driving for each team:

- Red bull – Max Verstappen and Checo Perez
- Mercedes – Lewis Hamilton and George Russel
- Ferrari – Charles Leclerc and Carlos Sainz
- McLaren – Lando Norris and Oscar Piastri
- Alpine – Pierre Gasly and Esteban Ocon
- Aston Martin – Fernando Alonso and Lance Stroll
- Williams – Alexander Albon and Logan Seargent
- Alfa Romeo – Zhou Guanyu and Valtteri Bottas
- Alpha Tauri – Yuki Tsunoda and Nick De Vries
- Haas – Kevin Magnussen and Nico Hulkenberg

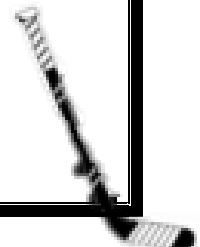
Points Scoring System

The winner of each race gets 25 points, with 18 for second place and 15 for third. An extra 1 point is awarded to the driver and team who recorded the fastest lap (if they finished inside the top 10 points scoring positions).

Position	Points
1 st	25
2 nd	18
3 rd	15
4 th	12
5 th	10
6 th	8
7 th	6
8 th	4
9 th	2
10 th	1

Who to follow?

Everyone who watches formula one has a different driver they like to follow and watch. Some are liked because of their style, their looks, their personality, and some just based off their driving. Frankly, I would say that the one driver that everybody should be watching out for right now is Lando Norris because he is an amazing driver with an up-and-coming team, with a great personality and the right amount of determination. This could possibly lead to a world championship for him in the next few years.





Who has won/Dominated previously?

In 2023, Max Verstappen dominated F1. He won 19 out of 22 races. But who has been dominating in previous year? Well, Lewis Hamilton is a name that most people recognise. He has won the World Championship 7 times. Another recognisable name from F1 is Michael Shumacher. He also won 7 World Championships.



Who should I support and why?

If you want to support a rising newcomer, Oscar Piastri would be our personal pick. He won the sprint race in Qatar which was a challenging race even for people who have been in the sport for a while, such as Lewis Hamilton or Fernando Alonso.

If you want to support someone that is experienced, we suggest supporting someone such as Lewis Hamilton, Max Verstappen, or Fernando Alonso.

If you want to support someone that has been in the sport for some time but is working their way up and has done incredibly well, we suggest supporting Lando Norris.

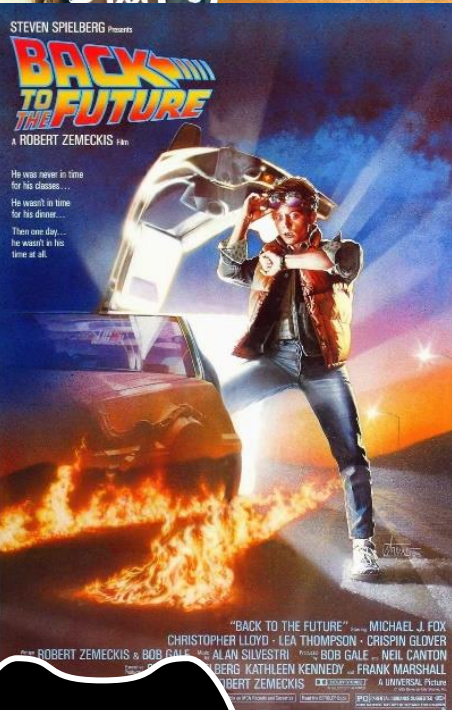
Why should I watch F1?

F1 is a great sport and there are lots of people and teams to support. We think you should watch it because it is an enjoyable way to spend on your Sunday afternoons and you can take part as well! Every race, there is a vote for driver of the day where you can pick who you think did the best. Also, you can see the greatly made cars being shown off to the world and it goes all around the world.

Watch F1 in 2024 and get to experience proper racing...



Maja Richards
and Hollie
Longley-Wilford





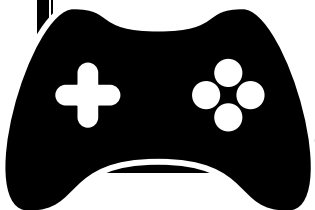
Entertainment

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Film in Review

Barbie



This film certainly made a massive splash in the cinemas over the summer and there are many reasons why; one attribute being the movie stars featured. The very successful Margot Robbie is a famous actress of today and her charisma makes the film easy-going.

I interviewed people who had just watched the Barbie movie and the following positives were remarked upon: "It takes older women back to their childhood" as many girls played with Barbie dolls in the 1970s, 80s and 90s, mainly. "The accuracy is very good", for example: the fashion the actors/actresses are wearing, and the cardboard cut outs used for the background in Barbieland.

However, some negatives can be addressed; "not suitable for any specific age group". Younger children cannot watch because of subject matters and older people (in their 60s onwards) may not take an interest as they didn't grow up with Barbie dolls or they do not know the stars of the modern cast. It also may not appeal to younger audiences as the more recent generations didn't grow up with the Barbie references in the movie like previous generations. One member of the audience said, "It could have fit into a shorter run time" and "It may not appeal to male audiences" because initially you would think that the Barbie movie is aimed at girls, but you would have to watch the film to know that the film is actually targeted towards everyone.

But, if you are looking for a bit of good quality entertainment that would be fun for anyone (even if you watch it with no prior information), then this is an excellent film to watch.



Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny

This 5th instalment follows the previous success of the 4 other films: Raiders of the lost ark, the Temple of Doom, the Last Crusade and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull.

However, the film is about retrieving a dial that claims to take you to different periods of time. Indiana Jones ends up going on an adventure with Helena Shaw, who was his colleague's/ friend's daughter) and Teddy Kumar helps Helena in her ordeals.

In this adventure, the three protagonists brought together by the dial, attempt to retrieve the dial before Jurgen Voller, who is the antagonist. He wishes to use the dial to further Nazi ideas and ensure their success of the second world war as he was a Nazi scientist. Helena wants to sell the dial to her highest bidder whereas Indiana wants to keep the dial in a museum.

As well as epic action in this film, there are also call back characters who make appearances throughout the film; some of these characters include: Marion and Sallah from Raiders of the lost ark. You may even notice a few famous faces, for instance: Toby Jones, Mads Mikkelsen and, of course, Harrison Ford.

This new blockbuster explores key areas of history as well as teamwork and realising what is truly important in life.



Marilyn Monroe

This is how a poor orphan became one of the most sought after and highly paid actresses in Hollywood in cinematic history.



Marilyn Monroe was one of the biggest hits in America to ever grace our screens. However, the start of her short life was not pleasant...

Raised in orphanages and a range of foster homes, Norma Jean Baker became a photographer's model and a few months later, she was given the chance to have a screen test with 20th Century Fox and she took it. Even though this was a big opportunity, her career didn't start successfully. She played the second leading role in an unsuccessful film: Ladies of the Chorus which followed other small roles; it was not stardom.

After this, fame hit. Her major role in the hit film Niagara propelled her career as she would go

on to star in more brilliant productions, for example: the famous picture, The Seven Year Itch.

Her husband (one of America's leading intellectuals) helped in the creation of Marilyn Monroe's last film which was unfortunately not a hit picture.

The famed actress was born on the 1st of June 1926 and died on the 6th of August 1962, aged 36. Little did she know, she would still be as renowned to this day.



Iron Man 3

Following the two other Iron Man cinematic hits emerges Iron Man 3 which concludes the stand-alone Iron Man films... for now.

The storyline of this film reflects on how Tony Stark is coping after the events in the Avengers (where he barely makes it out of the battle alive) and now he is realising that he has severe anxiety. As well as this sub-plot, the Mandarin displays his threat to the world and causes mass panic throughout America, and the world.

This main antagonist causes Tony to have to save Pepper Potts (his assistant) from immediate threat whilst facing people from his past, like Aldrich Killian and Mia, who actually work for the Mandarin. Rhodey (Tony's best friend and a soldier) saves the president of America from harm whilst Tony saves Pepper.



Throughout this adventure, we meet new characters, such as Harley who is a young genius, and he is vital as he helps rebuild Iron Man's suit, Mark 42. The audience meet this interesting new character because the world believes that Tony is dead from one of the Mandarin's attacks.

This blockbuster certainly deserves to be remembered as one of the Marvel Cinematic Universe's best productions and certainly should be watched as this film celebrates its 10 years since it was first released.



Pirates of the Caribbean: Curse of the Black Pearl

This masterpiece secured the places many hit films to follow in the footsteps of, in one of the most well-known film series in cinematic history.

This film writes the mould for Jack Sparrow as he is a pirate, and he is to be hanged for his crimes. He wishes for a crew and the Black Pearl; the Black Pearl is a legendary ship that curses its crew with the captain being an enemy of Jack Sparrow, Blackbeard.

Blackbeard wishes for a treasured medallion that of which Elizabeth Swan (a higher-class young lady) took from Will Turner (a childhood friend of hers because they met when he was saved by the crew of the ship she was on).

Swan and Turner do have a notable class difference, but this does not stop them being good friends.

After Will Turner goes with Jack Sparrow to save Miss Swan and save the medallion, he becomes a pirate and this leaves more opportunities for adventures across the seas.

With thrilling action and plenty of comedic moments, this cinematic classic is worth a re-watch for its 20th anniversary since release... even if it is just for the epic soundtrack!



Isobel Foulds

Spotify Joins the World of AI

Music based on user's requirements.

Spotify is known for creating playlists for whatever your heart desires. This might even expand to AI made music. This widely used streaming service is reported of using artificial intelligence to create music-making and song-writing easier than ever. It has been described as a possibility for the 'blend' feature.

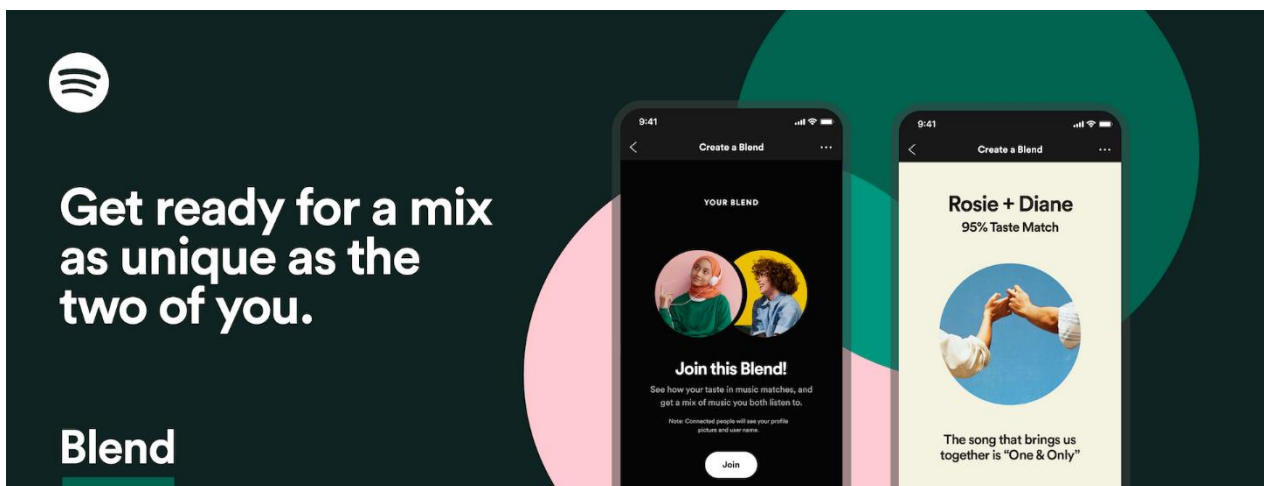
For those who are unsure what this is, Spotify Blend are songs and recommendations that are from your friend's music preferences. This is updated with songs daily based on your listening activity. According to the Spotify website, "you can invite up to 10 friends", and you can, "blend with your favourite artist and see how your music taste match.

If you would like to do this, follow these instructions for mobile:

- Open the Spotify app,
- Go to your Library,
- Tap, " +",
- Choose Blend,
- Tap Invite and send the link to your friends.

There will also be a contribution from Google's AI to improve organisation in the sector. Finding 'detrimental' content is another reason for this collaboration. It currently uses a mix of machines and humans to improve accuracy before the release to the public.

Overall, there might be more AI copies of your favourite artists. For example, 77% of artists are using this growing phenomenon. There is also Kanye West, also known as Ye, creating a country song called, "the AI solopreneur. " This proves that artificial intelligence is coming sooner than you think.



Layla Dugmore



The Ferneley Chef

Brownies

Ingredients

- 200g of dark chocolate
- 200g of milk chocolate
- 275g of golden caster sugar
- 3 eggs
- 40g of cocoa powder
- 85g of flour
- 185g of butter

Method

1. Pre heat oven to 180 degrees Celsius
 2. Take a saucepan and add the butter and dark chocolate. Melt them into a silky mixture and keep on a low heat to prevent solidification.
 3. In a large mixing bowl add the flour and cocoa powder (sieve for best results)
 4. In another large bowl add the eggs and sugar. Use an electric whisk and beat until smooth and light.
 5. Carefully, pour the mixture from the saucepan into the eggs and sugar. Gently fold until mixed.
 6. Once mixed pour the mixture into the flour and cocoa powder. Fold until incorporated
 7. Chop the milk chocolate into chunks separate them in to two piles. Put one pile into the brownie batter and mix.
 8. Grease a tray with butter and put in the greaseproof paper. Once papered, pour in the brownie mixture, and smooth it across the tray so its covered. Top with the remaining chocolate chunks.
 9. Bake for roughly 20 minutes but can vary depending on your oven. To see if its cooked get a small skewer and pierce the centre, if its clean then its cooked.
 10. Once cooked leave to cool. Once cooled cut into squares and enjoy!
- (Served best with double cream and strawberries)



Oreo ice cream

Ingredients

- 14 Oreos
- 14 oz can of sweetened condensed milk
- Heavy cream

Method

1. Crush your Oreos in to crumbs in Ziploc bag to prevent excess mess.
2. Add heavy cream and condensed milk into a large mixing bowl and whisk well (electric whisk recommended) until incorporated.
3. Add Oreo crumbs and gently fold in.
4. Pour the mixture into a tin of your choice. Add optional garnish and freeze until solid.
5. Serve cold with sauce and enjoy.

Macaroni and cheese

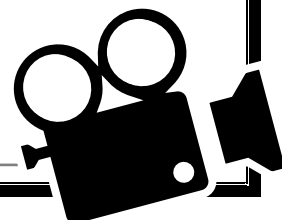
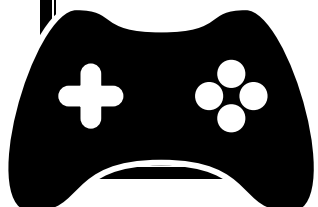
Ingredients

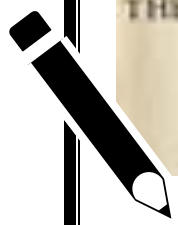
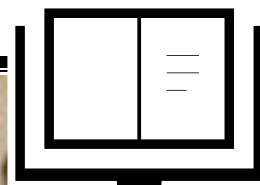
- 1,250ml of milk
- 455g of elbow macaroni
- 200g of grated cheddar cheese

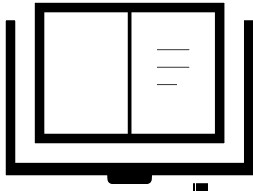
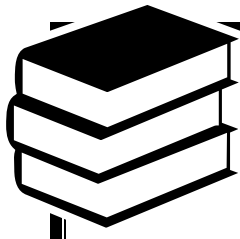
Method

1. In a large pot pour in milk and bring it to a boil
2. Add in the pasta and stir constantly for roughly ten minutes
3. Turn off the heat and add in the cheese
4. Stir in the cheese until it is melted all the pasta together
5. Serve hot and enjoy

Nate Lygo







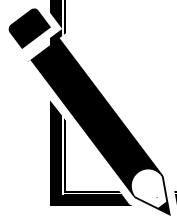
Creative Writing

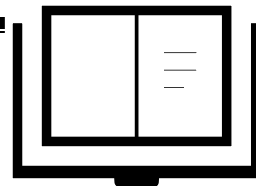
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Rustheart

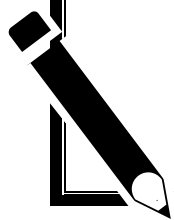
Episode One

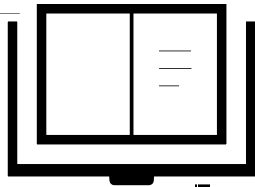
The acrid smoke burned Scorch's nose; the filter of his mask was clogged with choking smog as he ventured further through the ashen abyss of the uninhabited city. His goggles were clamped against his face, yet he still used his hands to shield his eyes from the onslaught of windswept powder. The blinding grey squall gave him trouble determining his path in the destruction, unable to distinguish the blinding storm from the reality of terra firma.

He stumbled and straggled his way to a solid wall, moving into the wreckage of one of the upstanding skeletal buildings to shelter from the debris and ash that seemingly consumed the landscape. Pulling the soot-choked filter from his face, he took a breath, coughing dryly and shifting chunks of grey matter from his thick strands of blue hair. The air was rough, hot, and dry, but he still took massive gulps of it. It was better in here than out there where he would choke and gag on burning ash and smoke.

Looking out, he watched the storm as it passed through the decimated city, the ruined buildings, and alcoves barely distinguishable through the monochrome dust. The world had not always been this way. It was maybe 250 years ago that the world had been gripped by its doomsday when the sun had reached out its hand and claimed Earth. Since then, everything changed. Those who survived now lived in a deserted, empty shroud of what was once civilization, the plains now a burnt, charred desert wasteland. Remnants of society were split into warring factions battling for scarce resources. Rustlords, Scrappers, Hazmats, Mutes, and Ravagers were just some of the factions and groups that wander the entrenched dunes.

Rustlords were one of the most ruthless factions, ruling the wastes, taking territory and valuables to attain their needs and wants. Scrappers were scavengers, much like Scorch, wandering loners who traded scraps and supplies for their own survival. Hazmats hoped to one day restore society to its former premise, to form some sort of stable community. They experimented with the limited technology and equipment they had, attempting to engineer a sustainable future in the post-apocalyptic landscape. Mutes and Ravagers were the outcasts of the factions; Mutes were disfigured and distorted in their appearance by the apparent toxic radiation that left most of the land uninhabitable. And the Ravagers did anything to ensure their own survival, stealing, pillaging, killing, and cannibalizing other survivors for the assurance of their own skin. This was the world that Scorch lived in and endured.





The storm was passing, the grey cloud had subsided, still painting the buildings and land with charcoal and ash, but now the air was not as thick with the swirling powder. Refitting his mask, Scorch exited his temporary shelter, walking back out into the grey-coated city. His feet crunched against the floor as he journeyed through empty hollow streets, born with sand ash and fire. He stopped on occasion to fit and cram some scrap or item into his makeshift backpack. Everything was quiet, dead and silent, only the sound of the wind and the ragged hissing of his breathing mask audible in the vast expanse.

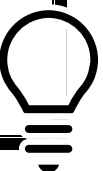
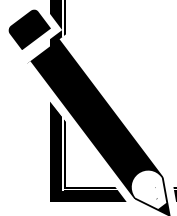
Scorch hadn't noticed the signs; the storm had hidden them from him. The signs that told him to beware, told him this was the wrong territory, told him that actually, he wasn't alone.

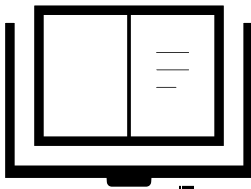
As Scorch traversed the desolate cityscape, his senses heightened by the recent storm, he suddenly became aware of an eerie stillness that hung in the air. The wind carried not only the remnants of ash but also a sense of foreboding. The hairs on the back of his neck stood on end, and he instinctively gripped the hilt of the scavenged blade at his side. In the distance, the skeletal remains of buildings loomed like silent sentinels, their broken windows and charred frames telling tales of a bygone era. Scorch moved cautiously, blue eyes scanning the surroundings for any signs of movement or danger. The city seemed devoid of life, but in this world, emptiness did not necessarily equate to safety.

As he continued his solitary trek, the ruined buildings began to take on new shapes, shadows morphing into potential threats. A creak echoed through the desolation, and Scorch spun around, hand on the worn handle of his makeshift weapon. From the shadows emerged figures clad in makeshift armour, their faces obscured by gas masks and goggles. The tell-tale signs he had missed earlier, warning him of the wrong territory, were now apparent on the walls—graffiti symbols marking the territory of the infamous Rustlords. Scorch's heart quickened as the realization hit him. He had stumbled into the heart of Rustlord territory, a perilous place where scavengers like him were considered intruders and threats. The group of Rustlords approached him with deliberate steps, their eyes gleaming through the goggles with a mix of hostility and curiosity.

A gruff voice echoed from the leader of the group, a figure adorned in rusted metal plates and tattered leather.

"Well, well, what do we have here? A lone Scrapper, wandering where he shouldn't be."





Scorch's mind raced. He had to think quickly, navigate the delicate balance between survival and diplomacy in this ruthless world.

"I mean no harm," he replied, his voice muffled by the breathing mask.

"Just passing through, looking for supplies."

Laughter erupted from the Rustlords, a harsh and mocking sound.

"Supplies, you say? In our territory?" The leader stepped forward; a wicked-looking blade unsheathed in his hand.

"I think you owe us something for trespassing, Scrapper."

The tension in the air thickened as Scorch weighed his options. He could try to fight his way out, but the odds were against him. Alternatively, he could attempt to negotiate, bartering with whatever meagre possessions he had gathered. The world had become a place where survival required more than just physical strength—it demanded adaptability, cunning, and sometimes a bit of luck.

As the Rustlords closed in, Scorch prepared himself for the unpredictable dance of negotiations in the wasteland.

Scorch held up his hands in a gesture of surrender, his eyes darting between the Rustlords, assessing their expressions for any signs of mercy.

"Look, I get it," he began, his voice steady despite the adrenaline coursing through his veins.

"I didn't mean to cross into your territory. I'm just trying to survive, like everyone else in this wasteland. We can work something out."

The leader of the Rustlords, a menacing figure with a scarred face visible through the gaps in his gas mask, sneered.

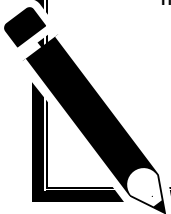
"Survival means different things to different people, Scrapper. And in our world, it often means taking what you need."

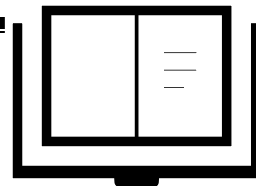
Scorch's gaze flickered to the makeshift blade in the leader's hand, and he swallowed hard.

"I've got supplies—scraps, some spare parts. It's not much, but it's all I've got. You can take it, just let me go."

The Rustlord leader chuckled, the sound sending shivers down Scorch's spine.

"Generous offer, Scrapper, but we need more than your scraps. You see, intruders in our territory pay a toll. And that toll is often paid in blood."





As the tension escalated, a low growl emanated from the group, their weapons at the ready. Scorch's mind raced, desperately searching for a way out of this perilous situation. A sudden gust of wind swept through the desolate streets, carrying with it the acrid scent of the aftermath of the storm.

"Come on, we can find a way to settle this without bloodshed," Scorch pleaded, his gaze flicking between the Rustlords.

"I've got skills—mechanical skills. Maybe I can fix something for you, make myself useful."

The Rustlord leader raised an eyebrow, considering the offer.

"Fix something, huh? We could use a decent mechanic." He grinned, the scar on his face twisting with the expression.

"But you're not leaving empty-handed. Hand over your gear, and you can stay with us, at least for now."

Reluctantly, Scorch began unloading his meagre possessions—tools, scraps, a worn-out map. The Rustlords inspected each item with a mix of amusement and disdain. But as Scorch started to hand over his prized possession, the scavenged blade, he hesitated.

"That's my only means of defence," Scorch protested, his hand clutching the hilt.

"I won't survive out here without it."

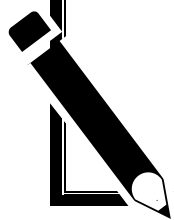
The leader's eyes narrowed, and he gestured towards one of his comrades.

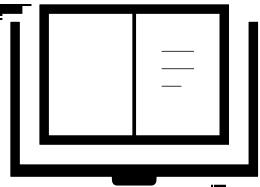
"Bren, take the blade. We wouldn't want our new mechanic getting any ideas."

As Bren approached, a dangerous glint in his eyes, Scorch's instincts kicked in. In a swift motion, he lunged for the blade, his fingers wrapping around the hilt. The world erupted into chaos. Shouts, the clanging of metal, and the discharge of weapons echoed through the desolation. In the midst of the melee, Scorch fought desperately to defend himself. However, the odds were overwhelming. A sudden blast shattered the air as Bren fired a makeshift shotgun-pistol, the slugthrower, hitting Scorch square in the chest. The impact sent him sprawling backward, a searing pain radiating from the wound. Gasping for breath, Scorch clutched his chest, feeling the warmth of his own blood seeping through his fingers. The world around him blurred, and the last thing he heard before slipping into unconsciousness was the cruel laughter of the Rustlords, triumphant in their ruthlessness.

To Be Continued...

Myles Mulholland





To Achieve Perfection

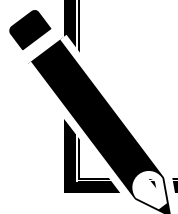
Episode One

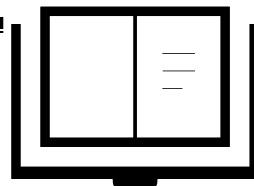
Prologue

It was a joyous Friday evening, and I was more than glad to be arriving home. Mum gave me a warm biscuit, which I ate with glee; I then hurried to watch television. I was but tender ten years old, and the only thing that I wanted to do was to watch Ella and Freya: Magical Enemies. The show had returned after a hiatus of a bit over a year, and I was still excited as ever to watch it. Perhaps it was aimed at older ages, but who cared? The show was recorded live from an arena, where two enemies, Ella and Freya, gifted with the superhuman ability to perform magic, would battle it out until one emerged victorious. Well, I say that, but it would always be Freya who won. Nevertheless, the arena would always be packed with families with their children, most of them screaming, shouting, crying Ella's name. The show had garnered both negative and positive media attention over the years. Some argued that it was unnatural to knowingly show violence on live TV, especially when so many viewers were children. The show often featured blood, albeit nothing too severe. Others simply stated that the show was entertaining, even if it was just the mindless entertainment of our time. What one cannot deny, however, was that the show had earned an audience of possibly millions of fans, some young, some old, but all watching the duo's every move.

The battle started like all of the others. Ella, the more popular contestant, at one end of the arena, bubble-gum-pink locks waving in the wind. She was wearing a bright blue dress with yellow, puffy sleeves, the impracticality of which may have contributed to her many losses. In fact, I doubted that she had ever won a match; I'd never seen it anyway. Then there was Freya at the other end. Slightly taller than her rival, with fiery red hair tied up in a furious ponytail. She wore some sort of black leather jumpsuit. I often heard my dad speculating that this was intended to hide any blood. Both competitors had their familiars at their sides. Freya had a wolf, which was an unnatural shade of emerald green, but always loyal and brave. And Ella had a cat, which was a bright pink colour that matched her hair nearly perfectly.

With a shrill, loud whistle, the pair began to fight. Freya made the first move, charging forward, her beloved familiar by her side, her ponytail flowing in the wind. Braking and holding her hands together, she created a ball of glowing blue energy, bright enough to blind anyone who came too close. Even her opponent, Ella, squinted at the sight of the sphere. Then it was launched. Ella generated a large shield with the same magical material as Freya's attack. The shield deflected it, and it soon landed into the sand around the duo,





causing a massive ripple and sending material into the audience. Ella made her move. Galloping like a horse,

With her cat familiar a few paces ahead of her, she approached her opponent at a threatening, rapid pace. She swung the shield at Freya like a massive claymore, but Freya, tough as nails, batted it aside with a single arm. Freya then launched a punch at Ella, the power of which knocked Ella to the floor with a thin streak of blood running from her forehead. Freya looked at her with sheer hatred and abhorrence, and then began to form another energy blast. Her wolf came to her side, growling at Ella, barking with the same fury as his mistress. But just as Freya was intending to launch the sphere, Ella leapt up, kicking Freya in the stomach. Freya backflipped and spun around, generating a thin ray of blue energy which made Ella recoil as it hit her in the stomach. Ella stumbled backwards, and her familiar came to her side. The cat noticed her mistress' pain, and began to pounce at Freya, but Freya knocked this attack aside with a simple blast of energy. The cat shrieked, the audience gasped, and Freya advanced towards Ella. At this point, almost everyone was shouting Ella's name, hoping for her to make a never-before-seen comeback against Freya. But it was too late. Freya stomped her foot, sending a wave of powerful energy towards Ella. This knocked her backwards, and Freya approached her prey. "Give up?"

Ella didn't need to respond. Her head fell in shame at having failed her supporters once again.

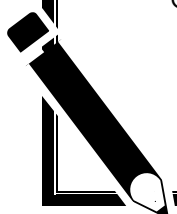
As I booed the TV, my dad walked in. He tutted and sighed. "You're watching that stupid show again, Skylar?"

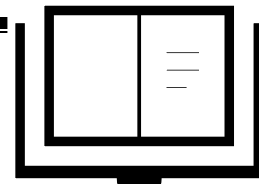
"It's not a 'stupid show', Dad. They can do magic. Isn't that so cool?" Dad rolled his eyes.

"It's a hoax, Skylar. It's all special effects and video editing. You're too young to understand." I didn't want to believe him, but I suppose, the words of my sceptic dad always echoed at the back of my mind.

Present Day – Five Years Later

School was finally out for the summer. I couldn't wait to have all of this time for myself. Birds tweeted joyously up above, surrounded by the iridescent sun. I had just changed clothes, and was sitting alone in the living room, watching TV with my mum. Then Dad walked in. I suspected this was something which been discussed in advance, as Mum immediately paused the show. He took a deep breath and pulled an ivory letter from his pocket. I caught a few





glances at the letter, and it was written in glorious, calligraphic handwriting. The contents were a bit like this:

"Dearest Bennett,

You and any of your...family... are cordially invited to spend Christmas upon the Hope estate, with the rest of your family. Despite the many years which we have spent apart, we hope that you will accept our offer. It would mean a lot to both me, as well as your brother and sister. I can hardly believe that we have been estranged for so many years...I hope that, if you are to accept our proposition, then this can be changed.

Kind Regards,

Theodore."

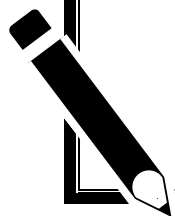
He took a breath and looked at me, but not in my eyes. He had a pained expression on his face; I could hardly blame him. I had heard, in obscured conversations between him and my mum, that his family simply did not want to see him. I did not know the reason for this. I could not pretend that I did not want to. I continued to look up at him, waiting for him to speak of his own accord, not of the letter's. Then, he sighed. He met my gaze. And then he, with a heavy heart, I'm sure, asked me, "Skylar. Would you like to meet my family?"

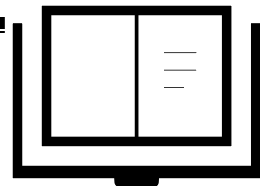
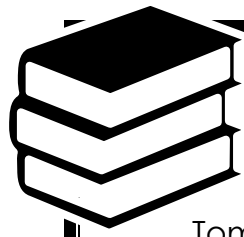
The curiosity was overwhelming me. I had heard bits and pieces about my dad's family. He never told anyone too much about them...not enough for me to sew anything together. If they were handing him an olive branch now, then there had to be some form of hope. Perhaps they wanted to know me. And I wanted to know mine.

But also...I was certain of the answer that my dad hoped he would receive. I doubted that he would want to see them again. My curiosity was growing like a sapling now, but was that really a good reason for me to meet them? What if they were terrible? What if there was a reason why my dad had left and never gone back? Curiosity is, after all, what killed the cat.

I am, however, not a cat. And so, I nodded.

Dad had a look of silent vexation on his face. I wondered if he would even accept my answer. But then he smiled, and just announced, "We'll set off tomorrow afternoon. Pack clothes, and anything else you'd want to take. We'll be there for a couple of weeks, at least...ahem...if all goes well. We will be able to clean anything, mind you. So don't worry about that."



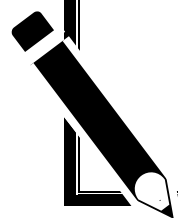


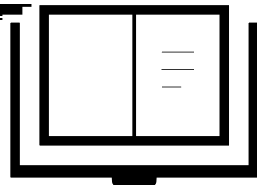
Tomorrow afternoon hurried around, like an inevitable train that one expected, but was still not quite ready for. I was wearing a sage green dress, the colour of a forest, with a fluffy yellow-white hoodie on top. Dad looked at my outfit in disapproval. He was wearing a black tweed suit with a silken green tie. In summary: he was dressed far more formally than I was. So, despite his contempt for his family, he still wanted to make a good impression, and expected me to as well? Hm. My mum was wearing a silken black dress with an equally jet-black hat which cast a gloomy dark shadow over her face. Both looked as if they were in mourning of something, but I wasn't quite sure what. Perhaps my unawareness?

The car drive was solemn and silent, not joyful and jubilant as usual. Mum and Dad were unspeaking in uncertainty, I assumed, and I was unspeaking in reciprocation. The radio, which usually played the elated songs my mum loved, was playing a grave tune. I continued to tap my feet to the imaginary lyrics of a more upbeat song. However, after a couple of hours, I suppose the boredom overcame me, and I fell into a slumber.

I was awoken by my mum, turned around in her seat and tapping on my shoulder. "Skylar", she whispered, "we're almost there." Jumping up in my seat, only restrained by my seatbelt, I looked around, and was greeted by the sight of charming Tudor-era houses, luscious greenery and a beryl, glimmering river. To my right, I saw a sign. "Welcome to Stratford-Upon-Avon".

The car drove until we reached a large townhouse. It most certainly fitted in with its surroundings: it had a grey-brown thatched roof, which was as smooth and whimsical as the houses in storybooks. The house was adorned with ash-brown lumber beams, unfortunately growing weaker after centuries of keeping the house sturdy and strong. I noticed a couple of windows, many with light shining through their delicate pearly lattices, showing a sign of exuberant life within this historic house. The walls were built of a very light beige plaster, reflecting the hopeful, glowing sun, which shined on this house like a glorious fiery spotlight, almost insisting that the world focus on this house. It was not a material I was used to seeing in the city; it was far more fanciful, yet quaint, than anything I was used to. This house had a curly, mischievous brick path leading up to it, which our car, contrasting harshly with the environment, was parked on the road in front of. As I finally exited the car, I noticed the viridescent shrubbery, each bush with pristine, lush leaves which exhibited the sun's glorious golden rays, scattered around the estate, embellishing the house's playfulness and exaggerating its mystery. There were a couple of trees, too: mighty oaks, which must have been almost as old as the house, and more dainty cherry-blossom trees, as similar as beasts and





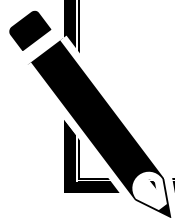
ballet dancers, and yet twice as complimenting, loving each other despite their plain opposition, and intertwining in their attempt to bedeck the glorious house. I heard my shoes pitter-pattering on the path up to the entrance, and, despite my dad behind me, I felt a slight anxiety upon looking on the door, regardless of its decaying appearance. I glanced back. My dad nodded. And I knocked on the door.

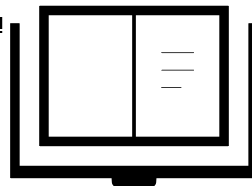
Within around fifteen seconds, during which I heard a great deal of jostling, a man had arrived to answer the door. He noticed my dad first, making nervous eye contact with him, but not daring to say anything. My dad was the one who spoke first. "Sparrow."

"Bennett." Neither man hazarded a smile. Then Sparrow broke the silence. "You should come in."

We sat around a round oaken table, clearly well loved by possibly tens of generations, with scratches covering its surface, and a large crack in the centre, which had been filled in with what seemed to be...purple...water? The appearance of this surface meant that I perceived it as such, but its solid, smooth texture, as well as the way which it stayed perfectly within the table, meant that this was likely incorrect. The table had three legs, each of which was curled and curved, not in the same way as each other, but reflecting the peculiar setting of this house. The walls had yellow wallpaper, which by itself would not have been so odd, albeit somewhat old-fashioned, however the yellow wallpaper was adorned by images of animals, some big, some small, and some even seeming as if they were not of nature. I noted a unicorn, a griffin and a dragon to name a few. Sparrow had left to fetch some refreshments, and as he returned, he held a tray, with four cups of tea – blue tea, which also looked as if it was not of this world – and possibly a dozen biscuits – which seemed shockingly normal. He handed a cup to me, another to my dad, and the third to my mum. Sparrow himself took the final cup, and despite this, was the first to drink, lifting the cup to his mouth with his smallest finger outstretched, as was the etiquette. I was apprehensive about my cup, to say the least, but when I saw my dad drink his with almost as much satisfaction and contentedness as Sparrow, I followed suit, and found the tea to be far more pleasant than I could have imagined, although I suppose my loitering may have made it a little cold.

After a long sip of tea, Sparrow decided to begin asking my dad questions. Most of them regarded myself and my mum. He seemed extremely interested in our lives, but I could not determine if this affection was genuine or out of obligation. When he was done with my dad, he turned to me. "And what is your name?"





"Skylar."

"Ah, Skylar. Allow me to formally introduce myself. My name is Sparrow. I am your father's younger brother. And how have you been?" This question confused me somewhat, as while this would usually be a question that would be asked to an acquaintance or friend who one had not seen for a while, I was certain that I had never met this man. So, I simply assumed that he had intended to ask me about my life overall. To which I responded, "It's been alright, I guess." Sparrow laughed, apparently amused by my response. All the while, I kept staring at the strange cup of tea in his hand. I supposed he followed my gaze, because he asked me, "Have you not figured it out yet?"

"Figured...what...out?"

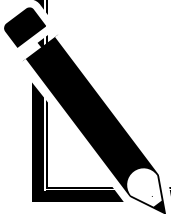
"Ah, I will take that as a no. Well then, allow me to demonstrate." He glanced over at a bookshelf to his left, and, raising a single hand, he somehow managed to pull one of the books towards him, through the air. He caught it in the same hand, grinning at me still, and I had to close my gaping mouth.

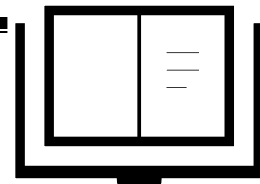
"You can do...magic?!"

"Correct." My dad was staring daggers at Sparrow, apparently agitated by his display. Sparrow frowned, seemingly in pity, and put the book down.

"Sorry, Bennett. I know you are not keen on magic. You have been envious of your sister and I since we were children, but-" Without another word, my dad stood up and left, and I guessed that he was...going to the bathroom. Sparrow sighed and looked at my – seemingly confused – mum, then back at me. "You know the scar on Benne – your dad's face?" The scar on my dad's face was something which everyone noticed, but nobody dared to mention. It was the unspoken truth among us. It was large, and a pale red colour, and over his right eye. I think I asked about it once, as a young child, and was met with annoyance and rejection, and no closer to the knowledge I desired. I just nodded, "Yes."

"Well, that scar is a reminder of your father's hatred for magic, born of the desire to have it growing up. He was certain that, if he just...acquired magic, somehow, or if we lost our abilities, then he would be loved as much as us, by our father and the rest of the family...I suppose he may have been right." He sighed. "Magic is a blessing from The Divine to a young child. Then, the recipient will pass on the gift to their descendants. But, just as magic can be given on a whim from The Divine, it can also be taken on Their whim. Unfortunately, this is what happened to your father. Magic is the blessing that dictated my life, and his lack of it is the curse that has dictated his."





Within the next couple of hours, several visitors came and left, spoke to Sparrow, and left. He spoke to them in another room – what I presumed to be his study – but would come back to make conversation with me between his visitors. In one of these conversations, I asked him, “Can these people also do magic.” Sparrow chuckled at the suggestion.

“If they could do magic, they wouldn’t be coming here.” I suppose I looked confused, so he clarified, “They’re my patients.”

“You’re a doctor?”

“No...I’m a healer. I use my magic to heal people. Of course, I can’t heal everything.”

By the evening, we were eating dinner which Sparrow had prepared. The four of us were sat around the table, but there was another girl at the table this time. She looked about twelve, was a couple of inches shorter than me, with sharp, brown curls and bitter freckles. Her eyes were a vexed shade of brown, not unlike my own, albeit a bit darker. “Lucinda,” Sparrow smiled. “Introduce yourself.” The girl made eye contact with me apprehensively.

“My name is Lucinda Hope...pleasure to make your acquaintance.”

“And I’m Skylar! It’s a pleasure to make yours. I’m happy to see someone so close to my age! I thought it was just gonna be grown-ups here.”

Lucinda broke eye contact with me after the first sentence and stabbed her fork into a baked potato.

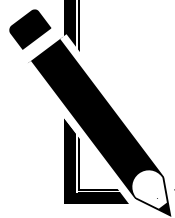
My temporary room was pretty big. There were two single beds, both at opposite sides of the room, one with red bedsheets and one with black. Red was hardly my favourite colour, so I sat on the black bed and looked at the ethereal garden outside of the window. I admired the almost violently green shrubbery and the pristine sky, and I was so engrossed in my adoration, that I did not hear the creaking of the-

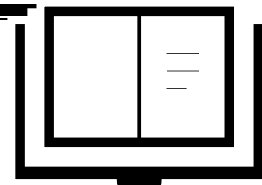
“Get off my bed.”

“Oh, sorry. This one is yours?”

“Yes,” Lucinda answered. “Your bed is the red one. I agreed to share a room with you during your visit. That does not mean, however, that you can sit on my bed.”

“I didn’t realise it was your bed. Sorry, Lucy.”





"Never call me that again." I noticed Lucinda grasping a roll of what appeared to be masking tape, and she used it to draw a perpendicular line between her bed and mine. "This is my half. That is your half." The 'halves' were hardly equal, but oh well. "And this," she said, drawing a new line across from the edge of the door to the other end of the door, "is neutral territory. Do you understand?" I didn't say anything; I just nodded. "Good. This is my room, not yours. Do not forget that."

"Alright. I promise I'll be a good roommate!"

"Promises mean nothing in the face of reality. Goodnight."

"Night, Lucy." A book fell on my face from the shelf above, so I moved it onto my bedside table. "Goodnight!"

In the morning, I was greeted by my dad, who told me that we would be seeing a performance today. "Whose performance?" Dad smiled, and then glanced away.

"You'll find out tomorrow. I'm sure it will be a surprise."

Lucinda and Sparrow were sitting in the front of the car, with Sparrow in the driver's seat, while Dad, Mum and I sat in the back. "You know, I'd think that you guys would have a better way of getting around than driving." I pondered.

"Like what?" Sparrow responded.

"Well...you know...something magical. Like a carriage drawn by unicorns...or broomsticks!" Sparrow laughed.

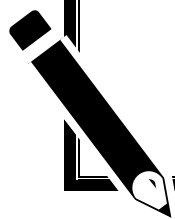
"We aren't witches, Skylar. We just have magic powers. A broomstick could work, via telekinesis, but it would be extremely impractical, and an object that large would need a lot of concentration to control...Plus, you would have to account for your own weight on the broomstick when flying. Which still makes it completely possible, but if you're going to do that, then you may as well just carry yourself through the air. Which is doable, mind you. A lot of us do that, despite the amount of concentration that a human takes to carry...Yeah, it's just a bad idea overall. Cars are easier."

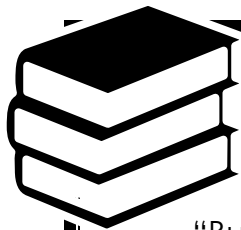
"And the carriage?"

"Well, you could hypothetically draw a carriage with familiars."

"You have familiars?!"

"Of course we have familiars!"





"But you said you weren't witches."

"Well, we aren't, but we are able to create synthetic lifeforms using moulds and molten mysticalum...we call those our familiars."

"Mist...ih...cah...lum?"

"Let's go with that. It's a metal which we use for many things, including creating familiars. It has a low melting point, so we can fill moulds with it and then use magic to bring the shape to life. But mysticalum is very expensive, so most of us only have one familiar. And the larger the familiar, the higher the cost. So, in conclusion, it would be possible to make a unicorn-drawn carriage, albeit very expensive. So once again, it's just easier to use a car."

We arrived outside of what seemed to be a large football stadium, but I suppose it was a lot smaller than what I would expect, and considering the context of the whole situation, I doubted that we were going to watch a football game. My suspicions were confirmed when I saw a single emerald-green wolf patrolling the stadium, but nobody seemed afraid, despite the wolf's tremendous size and his snarling mouth. And yet, I was certain that I'd seen him before...

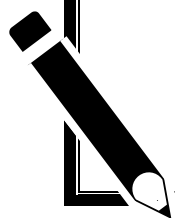
"See him?" my dad asked, pointing at the wolf. "That's a familiar."

"Is he harmless?"

"He is, unless his mistress decides otherwise."

Once we arrived at the front of the queue, Sparrow handed what appeared to be an annual pass to the ticket collector. He glanced at the ticket and said "Mr Hope. Come right this way."

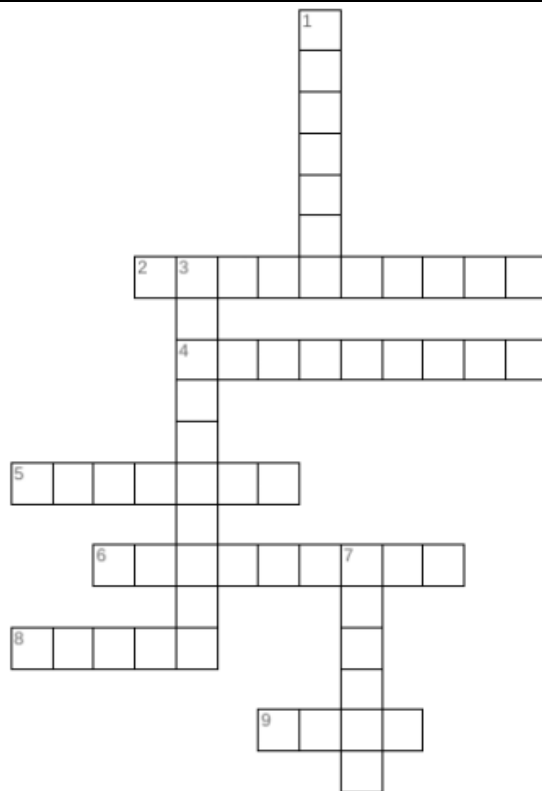
Maisie Funnell





Puzzles

How well have you read our new discoveries section? Try these puzzles to find out!



Across

- 2 Word for the reburial of corpses
- 4 Type of building the dig took place at
- 5 '... the third' - the king who was found in 2012
- 6 City in which the archaeological discoveries were made
- 8 Type of building the cellar was found in
- 9 Company who ran the dig

Down

- 1 Simon Bentley is the '... Director for Leicester Cathedral'
- 3 Technical name for an archaeological dig
- 7 Surname of the deputy director of ULAS

S	P	E	C	I	E	S	R	J	S	N	U	P	L
A	U	Z	E	M	I	S	S	I	O	N	S	H	C
N	E	A	I	M	B	F	P	A	I	P	G	R	L
T	S	M	C	D	X	U	A	N	Z	A	X	E	I
I	U	V	A	H	L	S	L	T	Q	R	D	C	M
H	S	Y	R	G	T	I	M	I	W	T	Y	O	A
Y	T	W	B	R	K	O	O	M	K	I	L	S	T
D	A	U	O	A	C	N	I	A	E	C	T	Y	E
R	I	Y	N	V	P	R	L	T	X	L	J	S	M
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G	A	K	V	T	A	P	B	E	I	S	I	E	E
E	B	Y	I	Y	S	P	I	R	N	Z	U	M	U
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Y	E	L	Q	U	A	Z	D	G	T	S	U	F	C

ANTIMATTER
PALMOIL
EXTINCT
SPECIES
GRAVITY
PARTICLES
ANTIHYDROGEN
BIRD
SUSTAINABLE
PLASMA
EMISSIONS
CLIMATE
ECOSYSTEMS
CARBON
FUSION



