

PRINCE'S HERALD



Wednesday, 13th of March

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Who let the Pope out?



The Failing NHS



The Queen's Nose

Huhne and his new climate

Former Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change and his ex-wife spend their first nights in prison after Mr Justice Sweeney slits the throat of Huhne's political career with an 8 month prison sentence.

By Joshua Wheeler

As Chris Huhne arrived for his sentencing at Southwark Crown Court on Monday, he is reported to have looked calm and collected as he walked to face the music. In court the truth finally came out. Huhne declared to the judge that he had "lied and lied" and that his ex-wife had not realised the consequences of her actions when she revealed the offence after their marriage broke down in 2010.

In a short interview with a Channel 4 journalist before he was jailed, Huhne also stated that "It seems crazy that this trivial issue can spin into devastation". However, many see his offence as far from trivial. In the eyes of the law, perverting the course of justice is an extremely serious offence. It carries a maximum sentence of life imprisonment yet the average sentence is around 10 months. The high profile nature of this particular case could have influenced Mr Justice Sweeney's verdict either



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way. It is also the publicity attached to the case that Chris Huhne commented on before his imprisonment with "I would suggest nobody has ever lost more, so publicly, for an offence of point swapping".

An 8 month prison sentence is what they both received, a sentence that is below the average and yet two months more than the sentence a dangerous driver might face from a magistrates court: are the two of-

fences even comparable? Many feel Huhne and Pryce could be out in just 2 months with an electric tag. On the other hand, this opens up yet another interesting debate: An electric tag, what for? It is hardly that they are a danger to the public. Furthermore, yesterday three men were sentenced for a case of point swapping which their judge said had "remarkable resemblance to the Huhne

and Pryce case" and yet each man only received a three month prison sentence. Huhne and Price's sentencing has divided the nation; many say they have got off lightly whereas some feel that imprisonment is simply not an effective resolution to this case of perverting the course of justice.

Continued on Page 3



Coverage of The Six Nations



Falklands Referendum



PHHS Taming of The Shrew



David Cameron to Drop Cheap Alcohol Sales

By Hannah Salisbury

The government has recently been accused of "weak leadership" after it emerged that their minimum pricing plans of alcohol in England and Wales are to be dropped. It's un-

derstood that the Conservative ministers were split over the proposed 45p per unit price that would help tackle drinking problems. The supporters of the idea argued that the minimum price unit would help reduce the levels of bad health and alcohol related crimes. **Cont' d on page 3**

UK Ministers fear migrant flood after EU shake-up

By Peggy Dalziel

Ministers in the UK are becoming increasingly concerned about the upcoming EU border shake-up which could lead to mass immigration on a scale not seen since 2004. When Poland,

along with seven other Eastern European nations joined the EU in 2004 the UK was hit by a massive influx of Eastern European immigrants, something that ministers fear will repeat itself when the 'transitional controls' over Romania and Bulgaria are relaxed in 2014.

Continued Page 3



“Huhne” do you think you are?- The Huhne Case Continued

By Joshua Wheeler

The offence stems from 2003 when Chris Huhne asked his ex-wife Katie Pryce to take his speeding points as he was already on the verge of being disqualified for multiple points on his license. Pryce went to the Mail on Sunday in May 2010 with the claim that Huhne had “pressurised people to take his driving license penalty points”.



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Huhne denied the allegations, but Essex police in-

vestigated the offence over the next two years and just

under two years later in February 2012, both Huhne and Pryce were charged with perverting the course of justice.

One of Pryce's main defences was that she was bullied into taking the points. If this is the truth then perhaps Huhne is facing an alternative type of justice after it was reported yesterday that the millionaire had to be segregated on his first night behind bars in Wandsworth prison

due to being bullied himself, for his money. Meanwhile Pryce is serving time in Holloway women's prison and is allegedly “coping” with her new home.

It is also alleged that Huhne is already planning his comeback to politics as a green figure in parliament. However, if the public will have him back in the House of Commons under our democracy remains to be seen.

David Cameron to Drop Cheap Alcohol Sales Continued

By Hannah Salisbury

As well as prevent practices like ‘pre loading’ with drink before a night out. However, there was pressure within the government for the alcohol pricing to be dropped and it seems that the Prime Minister, who has long supported minimum alcohol pricing, has been out voted. The 45p unit price would

mean a can of strong lager could not have been sold for less than £1.56 and a bottle of wine for no less than £4.22. Research showed that the pricing increase would have reduced drinking by 4.3% and would have potentially saved around 2,000 lives in a decade. This is the reason the medical profession backed the idea so strongly and were urging the Prime Minister to ‘stand firm’. Dr Sarah Wollaston tells the House of Commons that “whenever alcohol is too

cheap, more people die.” However, the Wine and Spirit Trade Association said that recent figures showed alcohol consumption was on the fall and there was very little evidence showing that the minimum price would reduce drinking.

The minimum alcohol pricing wouldn't have just targeted those with the drinking problems it would have also affected those people who do in fact drink alcohol responsibly as said by Miles Beale, “Minimum



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unit pricing would penalise responsible drinkers and treat everyone who is looking for value in their shopping as a binge-drinker”.

The reports that the minimum pricing has been dropped have angered health campaigners and some of the Conservative

MPs who are concerned about the health impact of drinking. The news has been welcomed by others as it is believed that it will avoid unfairly targeting responsible drinkers.

Different strategies have been developed to tackle the rising rates of drinking problems across the UK. Scotland has put forward a 50p price which is set to be introduced and Northern Ireland is also reviewing pricing even though they are yet to put forward any specific ideas.

UK Ministers fear migrant flood after EU shake-up

By Peggy Dalziel

According to Migration Watch the estimated figures of Romanian and Bulgarian immigrants per year to this country after the shake-up could be as many as 50,000.

Romania and Bulgaria joined the EU in 2007 and under the Brussels freedom-of-movement laws the 29 million citizens of both countries have the right to work and live in any EU country from 1st January



2014. This is particularly worrying when figures of Eastern European immigrants to this country being arrested for serious crimes are on the increase. Almost 28,000 Romanians of the estimated 68,000 living in

this country have been arrested for crimes including murder and sexual assault in the last 5 years; statistics show a staggering 40% increase of the number of Romanian prisoners in UK gaols and new figures indi-

cate that 92% of all ATM crime in Britain is perpetrated by members of the former eastern bloc.

However, the Romanian foreign minister Titus Corlatean has said that he does not expect there to be “a huge presence of Romanians” moving to the UK in the next year. The idea of an influx of Bulgarian and Romanian immigrants has been dismissed as scare-mongering by many and, it is claimed, the numbers estimated are exaggerated. According to the Romanian Ambassador Dr. Jinga “Romanians' immigration pattern is not towards

the UK but towards Spain, Italy and France, because of the language proximity”. Regardless of the actual number of immigrants likely to move to the UK after the change in regulations, it is clear that there is a large percentage of the UK population who are firmly against the idea of opening our borders to more people and fear the increase of foreign workers especially in this economic dip.

Continued from page 2

horse meat backwards, it becomes very hard to decide who is actually to blame for this. The horsemeat can be traced back to Romania. However, this does not mean that they are necessarily to blame for this, as they say that the horse meat was clearly labelled when it was shipped

out. It was only afterwards that the labels were changed.

French Consumer Affairs Minister, Benoit Hamon, said “From the investigation, it would seem, that the first agent or actor in this network who stamped “beef” on horsemeat from Romania was Spanghero.” There is also the possibility of some of the blame being

aimed towards Comigel (a company the horse meat was sold to). Staff there should have noticed the anomalies with the meat – it smells and looks different to beef. Spanghero has strongly denied any wrong doing though, so it seems that nobody will know for sure who is to blame for a long while.

The public are obviously

appalled, shocked and angry at this scandal, with one person saying “The French horsemeat. As far as I am concerned, if we are correctly informed what we are eating, then its fine. But if it has drugs in for whatever reason then it shouldn't have been sold to us.”

With concerns about the horsemeat posing a threat

to humans and companies deceiving consumers about what they are buying, everyone wants the horse meat to be eradicated from the shelves as quickly as possible. As companies try to find all horse contaminated products, only time will tell who it to blame for this horse meat scandal.

The Queen's Nose What's wrong with our beloved queen?

By Alistair Hutton

On 4th March, Queen Elizabeth II was admitted to the King Edward VII hospital in London for the first time in 10 years. She was admitted due to symptoms of gastroenteritis, and all trips for the week were cancelled as a precautionary measure. A Palace spokesperson said she was in "good spirits"

and had only been taken into the hospital as a "precautionary measure". He continued to say "She was not taken into hospital immediately after feeling the symptoms. This is simply to enable doctors to better assess her." Given the Queen's age – she will be 87 next month – doctors will have been anxious to ensure she remained properly hydrated while suffering from the infection, which causes vomiting

and repeated episodes of diarrhoea. On 12th March it was announced that the Queen had cancelled her Commonwealth visit due to the gastroenteritis, however the Duke of Edinburgh will be attending as planned. She is now in recovery and the whole nation hopes she will recover well.



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A helpful resignation for Catholicism?

By Alistair Hutton

On Monday the eleventh of February 2013, Pope Benedict XVI made a decision that had not been made by a pope for nearly 600 years. The last time a pope resigned was when Pope Gregory XII left office under very different circumstances of rivalry over the Papacy. Pope Benedict

XVI said in his letter that he had made the decision due to his declining health and old age. Benedict, the Bavarian professor-theologian, who made no secret of his sense that the papacy was a great weight that had been thrust upon him, concluded that the interests of the Church were better served by his departure. He said, that the strength of mind and body were necessary "to steer the boat of St Peter and

proclaim the Gospel". He continued to say that future popes may well thank him, as may The Church. Hours after the pope announced his resignation, two strikes of lightning struck St. Peter's dome at the Vatican. People of the Vatican, and Catholic followers were shocked by this, declaring it was a sign from God. On Tuesday the 12th March 2013, 115 cardinals took an oath of secrecy about the



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Mount St Helens, the famous eruption

By Imogen Shiels

Mount St Helens is one of the most well-known volcanoes in the world. It is situated in the Cascade mountain range in the state of Washington in the United States. One of the reasons it has become so well-known was because of the 1980 eruption. For hundreds of years Mount St Helens had stood silently until May 18th 1980 when an unexpected series of earthquakes shook the areas surrounding the volcano. From these earthquakes only a minor eruption was predicted or not even one at all. Suddenly at 8:32am a big earthquake, 5.1 on the Richter scale, shook Mount St Helens. This earthquake caused the gigantic bulge on the North Face of the volcano to slide away, causing a massive avalanche of mud, rocks and debris. This bulge was caused when magma began to work its way up the vent of the volcano, where the path

was blocked due to dried lava from earlier eruptions. The magma then took a different path towards the northern side of the volcano and to the position where the bulge was formed. It grew 6 feet every day in the week before the eruption, until finally the bulge slid. The landslide caused lots of hot ash and pumice to be ejected from the volcano. The eruption was much bigger than expected and millions of people were effected. Over 50 people died, many were left with injuries for life and some people are still missing today. The mud flows reached depths of up to 50 metres and destroyed the habitats of millions of animals and homes of thousands of people. Ash travelled thousands of miles away and Mount St Helens was reduced by around 1,300 feet in height. The eruption lasted for nine hours and ever since the terrible day, Mount St Helens has been watched

voting for the new pope. However, 24 hours later, the first vote had been unsuccessful and they would have to hold another vote. Some people are heralding the next pope as the final pope, due to the list of prophecies made by a 12th century monk. According to the prophecies, "*Peter the Roman, who will pasture his sheep in many tribulations, and when these things are finished, the city of seven hills [i.e. Rome] will be destroyed, and the dreadful judge will judge his people. The End.*" In recent weeks people have attached this prophecy to Benedict's successor. Whatever happens, the Catholic followers hope that the new pope will open new doors and correct the previous failings of The Church.



For more information scan here.

for any signs that it may erupt again. But will it?

Falklands remain British!

By Rhiannah May-Bryd

The people of the Falkland Islands have voted to stay British. Out of the 1,517 who voted, only three voted against the Falklands remaining overseas UK-territory. The UK Government welcomes the result of the Falklands' citizens and urges all countries to accept the Islanders decision and to respect their wishes. It follows pressure from Argentina over its claims to the islands; Argentina had gone through 31 years of dispute with the UK over the Falklands.

Argentina does not recognise the referendum and continues to insist on talks to reclaim the Falklands Islands with the British Government.

Interview with Dr Evans

By Rob Maher and
Jemima Barnett

We talked to our new headmaster Dr Evans, to find out about his future plans for the school and to discover more about him.

How have you found your first term and a half at Prince Henry's?

It's been amazing. I have really enjoyed coming to school, working with the wonderful students and the tremendous staff here. It has been a fascinating and interesting journey. In the lessons that I have observed, I have seen wonderful engagement and enthusiasm by teachers and students. This applies to all areas of the school from the academic lessons such as Maths and English, to the creative subjects such as Drama and Art, to the sport areas such as PE both in school time and after school. It's a real privilege to be Head at Prince Henry's and I have had a fantastic time.

Where did you work previously and how does it compare?

I was at a school in Bromsgrove, North Bromsgrove High School. I was Deputy Head there and I was in charge of the curriculum, timetable, data and assessment. It was a very different school compared to Prince Henry's, but similar in the sense that the students there were of the same age group, Year 9 to Year 13, a slightly smaller school having a pupil base of 900. It was great to join the school when I did and enable it to become more successful.

What are the main things that you hope to improve at Prince Henry's and how do you think that you will achieve this?

From the point of view of the examinations results, we are constantly looking to make the performances better. I am also looking at the school standards, as you are aware, and making sure that we maintain and uphold the traditional ethos and values that the school rightly promotes. We have good home grown traditional standards here at

Prince Henry's and these standards enable students to have sound values which helps them to be successful later on.

I am also aiming to improve the fabric of the building; we do the best that we can in terms of the money that we get. We put most of the money into staffing, so that you get the best lessons taught, but likewise we want to make sure that the building develops, and becomes extremely modern and up to date to equip you properly with the curriculum that you require in 2013 and beyond.

Where do you see the school in 5 years?

I would love for Prince Henry's to have even better examination results and be one of the best performing schools in the United Kingdom. We are constantly trying to find ways to give you the best possible chances, and not just from an academic point of view but also from the point of view of encouraging people ready for the work place and the skills that they need and require. Not everybody will go off to university, but we need to make sure they have the best grounding to go on to the career that they would like to do later on in life.

What have been your highlights so far?

So far, it's been working with the wonderful students and staff. I have really enjoyed the assemblies that I have conducted, meeting Alex Gregory and spending the day with him.

I also enjoyed watching the Christmas concert, the jazz evening, and the sporting results have been brilliant. Most recently, the performance of "The Taming of the Shrew" I saw last Saturday was outstanding and a credit to everyone involved.

There have been many memorable moments that have made it a real privilege to be part of the Prince Henry's community.

Did you always have the ambition to become a teacher?

When I left school I thought that I would become a scientist and I did my first degree in Genetics and I did a PhD in

Wednesday 13th March

Physiology. I did my first degree at Cardiff and then went to the Medical school in Birmingham to study for my PhD. At that time in my life, I was always intent on going into research, and my field of study was diabetes.

When I was at the medical school one of the senior lecturers at the time asked me if I fancied doing a bit of demonstrating and teaching. Then one of the lecturers said I was good at what I was doing and to think about a career in teaching. That is what made me apply for a PGCE. I trained to be a teacher and I haven't looked back since.

Did you always want to become a head teacher?

After a couple of years I thought wouldn't it be great if you could have your own school and perhaps put back into the system what you have gained and what you have learned. It's such a privilege to do a job in which you can give so much back to the community, to work with so many people, and to be challenged in what you are doing.

It's such an amazing job and you get to meet so many wonderful people who you hope will move on and become great successes in their lives.

How have you found stepping in to Mr Roberts' shoes?

Huge shoes to fill! Mr Roberts was so supportive in the time that he gave me, once I got the job on March 1st, St David's Day, this time last year. Mr Roberts wrote to me shortly afterwards and I had many meetings in this office with him.

Mr Roberts imparted so much knowledge to me at that time that I felt that I could hit the ground running when I started in September and hopefully the school has felt the benefit of that.

Hopefully you haven't noticed a change in how the school operates, that it has been quite seamless because changing a Head Teacher is a massive thing to do at a school, but I also hope that you have noticed that there has been a really nice buzz to the school and

the website; I am now starting to put some of my own flavour into the school.

My hope and ambition is that one day I might leave some very big shoes for my successor to fill!

Can you tell us some more on the proposed changes to the school uniform?

We have changed, obviously, the website, and we have given it a fresh look and we would now like to start exploring the uniform in relation to the image that we are trying to portray here at Prince Henry's and give it a fresh new look. We are maintaining the traditional school uniform but just giving it a fresh look.

I believe that it is very important for a school uniform that we should all have pride in the school and the uniform reflects the school.

In the same way, if you take a football team, and I will mention I am a Swansea City supporter, the players wear their kit with pride. That is exactly the same thing for me, that you have pride in the team (and hence school) that you belong to.

What has been your biggest challenge so far at Prince Henry's?

One of the biggest challenges, as you are aware, is the fact that Worcestershire as a county is a poorly funded local authority. As you will know from the local press and media, the government's new proposals for funding have meant that Prince Henry's will see a potential cut to that funding.

I have been quite forceful in making sure that the voice of Prince Henry's is heard in amongst government, to the extent where we were raised in Parliament just before the

Prince Henry's High School

Page 5

October half term (in terms of the funding issues for Prince Henry's) and as result of our voice we made sure that a capping programme was placed so the funding lost wasn't as great as first anticipated. But this is still a massive issue which I am actively pursuing.

Do you find your work/life balance difficult to achieve?

The job is huge, the job is massive, and it's an ever consuming 24/7, 365 days a year job: you never stop thinking about it. However I am really fortunate that I have a wonderful wife and two lovely children, one of whom is twelve and one who is eight. I am very much a family man; I very much believe in being a family person and it is important that you relax appropriately with your family, and take time out. It's no good being tired, you want someone who is refreshed, who has energy, and even Headteachers are human. I very much enjoy going home to my family, spending time with them, spending weekends with them. We travel abroad; we have a fantastic time together and have a good work life balance. My wife is also a Headteacher, so between us, our children see that we work hard and they still enjoy a great time with their parents as well. I think that we serve as good role models to our children, in terms of how you can balance a career with a family as well. I think that that is really important.





Has the exam pressure got too much?

By Rob Maher and Jemima Barnett

University tuition fees, the English GCSE scandal and now a complete overhaul of the entire exam system as we know it. Is the education system in a state of chaos?

From the perspective of Education Secretary Michael Gove, the simple answer is no. Currently, students wishing to gain an A-Level certificate must complete an AS-Level after one year, followed by an A2 course the next. Under Gove's instruction, however, exam sessions in January have been totally abolished in favour of a return to a more traditional linear exam system.



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Yet, perhaps more importantly, the future of the AS-Level has been wildly thrown into jeopardy in what can only be described as Gove's gigantic gamble with the lives of thousands



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of young people. New propositions set out by Gove indicate that AS-Levels from September 2015 are to be standalone qualifications, no longer counting to an overall A-Level. Instead, full A-Levels will be taken at the end of two year courses.

Critical response to this, nonetheless, has ranged from lukewarm to a cold, unconvincing and utterly unenthusiastic reception. Schools Minister Liz Truss has stated the reforms will bring an end to a system where students are preparing for an exam as soon as they begin a course; teaching unions have, on the other hand, said that the reforms are being taken forward in a "cavalier" fashion without sufficient evidence. They equally noted: "The Secretary of State should take note of the fact that there has been no clamour for reform."

In fact, it is these high stakes that may prove to be

the crucial blow to the heart of Gove's exam reforms.

Recently, Gove was driven into a humiliating U-turn and his plans for GCSE reforms switched to reverse gear. GCSEs were initially going to be scrapped to be replaced by the English Baccalaureate, a certificate combining core subjects such as English and Maths. Nevertheless after this was proposed, Gove received damning reports about the possibility of "entire system collapse" from leading academics and the exam watchdog, Ofqual. In spite of this, the majority of GCSEs will still receive a "tightening up" in terms of content and difficulty.

No one can deny that Gove should be applauded as a master of improvisation, but is the exam system in chaos? The simple answer is no, but it has come exceedingly close to it and is even now teetering on the brink.

50 to make it more reliable, and have more genres so you would know other types of music those people liked.

Conclusion:

In conclusion more people like Pop than any other genre, and other sub genres

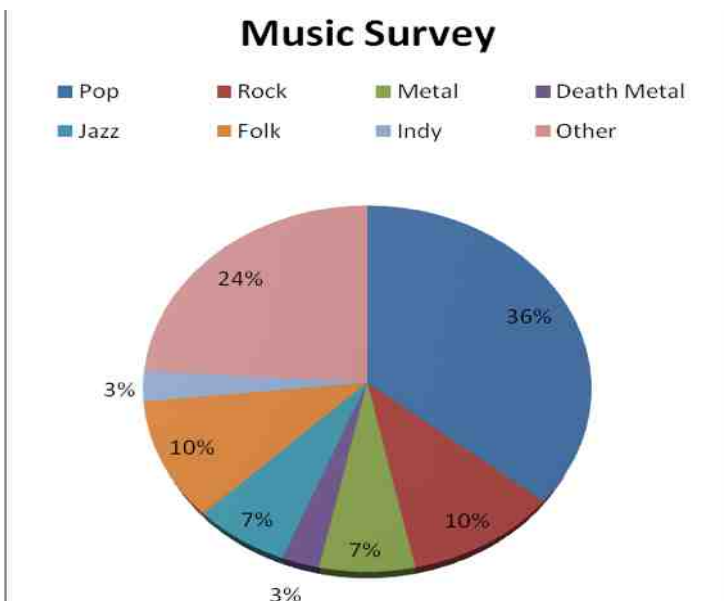
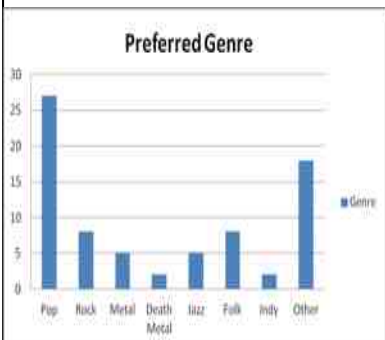
as a whole. In a sense we were "half right" and "half wrong", as more people like Pop than anything else. Here is a bar chart to show you the figures.

X Axis: Types of Music
Y Axis: Number of People

Music Survey Results

By Tom Britten and Jay Harris

This chart is shows the genres of music people like. We asked 75 people overall and had 8 genres in total (other being a genre of all other sub genres). Our prediction was that more people would like rock or pop than any other genre. What we could have done better for the survey would be to have asked more people, e.g. 100 people or maybe



What's the story behind Prince Harry?

By Anna Garner

The younger years of the Royal

Prince Harry is the younger son of Charles and Diana, Prince and Princess of Wales. He was born on 15 September 1984 at St. Mary's Hospital in Paddington (London) and weighed 6lb 14oz. He attended Ludgrove School in Berkshire, then went on to Eton College to do his GCSEs and A Levels, as part of a gap year, he visited Australia and Argentina.

In May 2005, he entered the Royal Military Academy in Sandhurst where he completed 44 weeks worth of training. He was made Second Lieutenant in the Household Cavalry for the Blues and Royals. He then went to Afghanistan and completed two months service with the British Army in Helmand Province. He was then promoted from Second Lieutenant to Lieutenant in April 2008.

He lives in Clarence House in London and Highgrove House in Gloucestershire. He supports various charities and has done a number of activities for the Princes' charity forum. Prince Harry has done a lot of Royal du-

ties which include the concert for Diana at Wembley Stadium, polo matches, sport, military and charity events.

At the moment, he is third in line to the throne, but when his brother Prince William and the Duchess of Cambridge have their baby, his place in line to the throne will be pushed down a place

Behind Prince Harry's personal life.

Prince Harry enjoys playing different sports which includes polo, skiing and motocross and he supports Arsenal Football Club. However, he has been referred to as rebellious in youth and "Wild Child" and was caught under aged drinking, smoking cannabis and attending nightclubs. The paparazzi managed to film lots of 'wild' activities.

Prince Harry has had a few relationships in the past which have made headlines, but his current girlfriend is Cressida Bonas, and reports suggest that their relationship is becoming more serious. Cressida has invited him to a family wedding to give him a chance to meet her parents.



Right: Included by kind permission of www.talter.com

MCM Birmingham Comic Con

By Hannah Salisbury

This year's Comic-con at the Birmingham NEC is fast approaching. On the 16th and 17th of March 2013, fans of comics, TV shows, movies, anime and games all come together to celebrate the magic of storytelling in its many forms. This year's Comic-con has a huge variety of attractions that appeal to a forever growing audience. The attractions include; dealer stalls, special guests, comic village, DDR and Retro gaming, Games expo, MCM Main stage, totally cosplay and Robots live. These fill the day with nonstop entertainment!

The dealer stalls bring you the chance to buy the very best of the world's movies, anime, manga, TV, comics, trading cards, actions figures and many more, even some items you would struggle to find anywhere else! Bringing together the UK's top dealers offering merchandise from both the



UK and abroad. The dealers at Birmingham Comic Con have something for everyone!

If you are a Comic Creator, artist, writer or a fan, this year's Comic Village is there for you. The Comic Village is one of the many features of Comic-con that brings people who share a love for something to come together. The MCM Birmingham Comic-con and its visitors supply a unique environment for Comic creators and fans to share in the arty goodness with those both new and experienced in the medium.

The MCM main stage is a well known highlight of every Comic-con. It's the place that fans can ask questions of special guests and sometimes even get sneak peeks at what is to come in upcoming TV shows. The MCM stage is the place to be for performances, industry panels, competitions, giveaways as

Wednesday 13th March

well as opportunities to see promos and trailers!

The MCM main stage wouldn't work without Comic-cons special guests and this year is no different. Over the two days, eight actors from recent popular TV shows and games are attending to meet their fans and sign autographs. On the 16th there are three actors from the ITV show 'Primeval' attending, Andrew Lee Potts (Connor Temple), Hannah Spearritt (Abby Maitland) and Lucy Brown (Jenny Lewis/Claudia Brown) and the young actor Connor Jessup who played Ben Mason in the 2011 TV series, 'Falling

Skies.' On Sunday the 17th, three actors who play the knights of Camelot in the recently ended BBC TV series, 'Merlin' are attending. These special guests are Eoin Macken, (Sir Gwaine) Rupert Young (Sir Leon) and Alexander Vlahos (Mordred.) Also on the Sunday, Steffan Rhodri who in the past has appeared in 'Gavin and Stacey' and 'Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows part one' and more recently did some voice acting for the new game 'Ni No Kuni,' is attending.

Comic-con is well known for its love of cosplay and every year at each event, a

huge majority of the visitors attend the event dressed as their favourite characters. "Elves mingle with Ninjas from the Hidden Villages and Jedi, making the event full of colour and life." The cosplay masquerade is a very popular highlight and is usually the last event held on the day at the main stage, bringing together the entire comic-con audience.



For more information scan here.

Included by kind permission of blog.houseofbetty.com, Above: mcmcomic-con.com



A Night Enjoyed By All.

By Alistair Hutton

The BRITS returned this year on the 20th February. James Corden once again hosted the night of awards in the O2 arena. This year featured a new BRITS trophy, re-designed this year by Damien Hirst.

Throughout the night, numerous acts sang and played their music including, Muse, Robbie Williams, Justin Timberlake, One Direction, Taylor Swift, Ben Howard,



Mumford & Sons and Emeli Sandé.

Awards were handed out by a wide range of celebrities including, Simon Pegg, Ed Sheeran, Sharon Osbourne and Tom Daley.

The big winners of the night were Ben Howard who picked up two awards, one for British Male Solo Artist and the other for the British Breakthrough Act and Emeli Sandé who won both British Female Solo Artist and the biggest award of the night - The MasterCard Album of the Year.

Lana Del Rey and Frank Ocean both picked up awards for the Best International Female artist and Best International Male artist respectively.

The group Mumford & Sons who played their music on the night, also won the award for Best British Group, whilst The Black Keys won the award for Best International Group.

The Rolling Stones were beaten by Coldplay for the Best British Live Act.

The Critics' Choice Award, now regarded as one of the

best awards to win at the BRITS was this year awarded to Tom Odell. Previous winners of this award include Emeli Sandé, Jessie J and Adele.

The list of nominees for the Best British Single was the longest list of the whole night, including James Arthur with 'Impossible', Emeli Sandé with 'Next to Me' and Robbie Williams with 'Candy'. However it was Adele who took the award with her hit song 'Skyfall' for the most recent James Bond movie.

The final award of the night was a brand new award - The Global Success Award. It was presented by Robbie Williams and won by One Direction. Fans of the world famous boy band were overjoyed that One Direction had won the award, however a large proportion of critics had negative views, stating that they thought the only reason the award was given to One Direction was because the organisers of the BRITS felt they had to give an award to them.

Overall the night was received well by both the audience and critics of the programme, and was certainly a night to remember.

Below: Included by kind permission of digital-spy.co.uk/music

Left: Included by kind permission of capitalfm.com



**Kelvin Okafor****By Charlotte Mallory**

North London citizen Kelvin Okafor has amazed people across the globe with his incredible drawings. The 27 year old lives in Tottenham, North London, where he grew up. He went to Middlesex University where he studied Fine Art. He graduated and has continued to draw, inspiring many with his unique talent.

His drawings are often mistaken for photographs as they show so much accurate detail. Many of his drawings are of celebrities and famous people such as Amy Winehouse, Adele and Mother Teresa. He says he would like to give the paintings to the subjects one day as a gift. He is becoming more well-known after having numerous interviews on TV and in newspapers.

He did not get there without criticism. Many people have claimed he is a 'fake', a 'fraud' and that he uses computer programmes to edit his work. But he has fought through, and, after 'proving' that he does his work by hand, deleted his online account on an art website, saying he was 'fed up' with people criticising his hard work.

Kelvin Okafor doesn't

draw a masterpiece in five minutes though. In fact, he spends up to **100 hours** on every drawing! He says "Before I start drawing, I spend a few hours — even a few days — analysing the face from every angle. I usually start with the eyes. From there, I make the whole shape of the face and I work in the detail."

What a lot of people do not know about Kelvin Okafor is that he has a YouTube channel. He posts videos of his drawings, taking photos of him drawing them every now and again. He then edits these pictures together to make videos where you can see how much effort and time goes into his drawings, and it is amazing to watch.

Furthermore, his work is not in vain. His drawings usually sell from £800 to £3,000. One of his drawings, titled 'Adam', sold for £8,500! Many of his artworks are featured in museums and art galleries across Britain. Following his success in the UK,

Kelvin says he wants to take his work to the USA and Nigeria.

Weather in Worcestershire**By Tabitha Byrd**

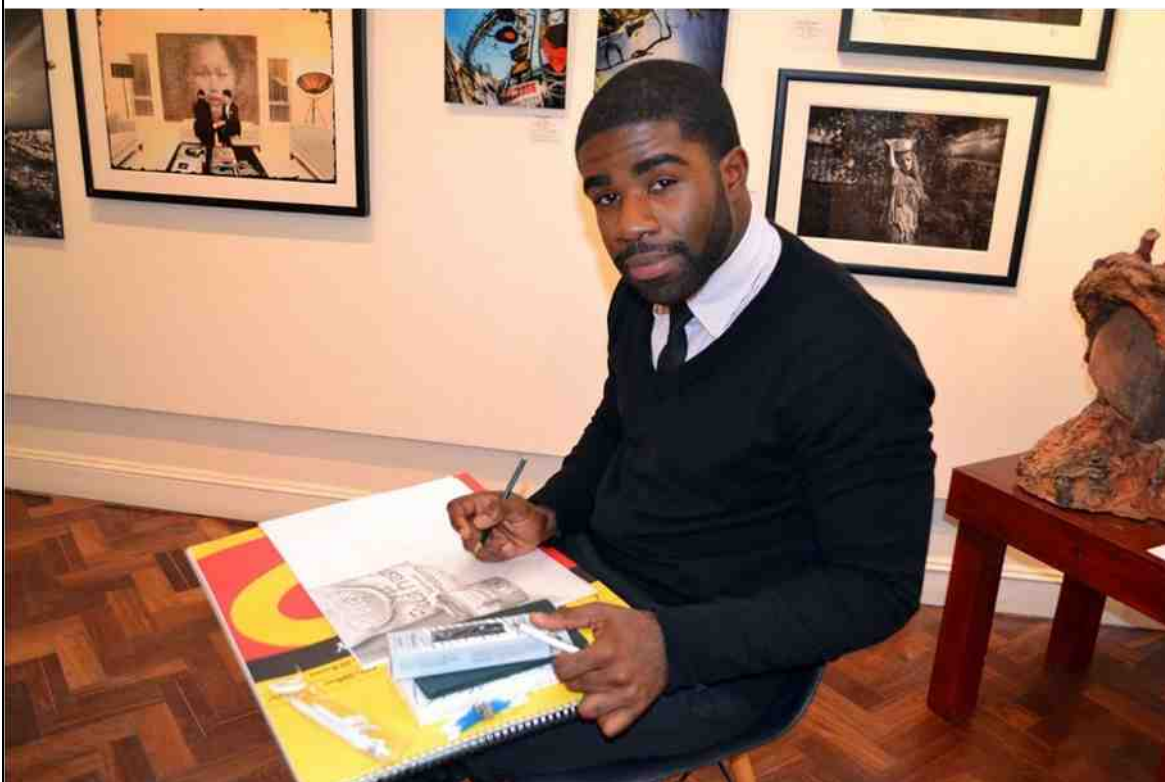
Today's Weather:

Today is a mixed day of sunny spells and winter showers. The showers are most likely to occur across areas of Birmingham but could affect all parts of Worcestershire. No significant snowfall is expected but it will be a chilly day on the whole. Tonight any showers will have ended and the skies will be clear. Temperatures will be below freezing.

For the rest of the week the weather will be mainly dry with sunny periods but will still feel cold.



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What a Great Year For Great Britain**By Megan Willoughby**

What a fantastic, exciting and memorable year it has been for Great Britain in 2012. Ever since the beginning of the delightful summer in June we have had heart warming and exhilarating events happening. First of all it was the Queen's Diamond Jubilee with an exciting long weekend of events and celebrations. On Sunday 3rd

June over 1000 vessels participated in a flotilla on the Thames from Battersea to Tower Bridge. It was one of the largest flotillas ever assembled on the Thames, with rowing boats and working boats of all shapes and sizes beautifully dressed and turned out in their finest rig's all these vessels surrounded the Queen's Royal boat as the Queen and Prince Phillip rode in the wet and miserable weather. However it didn't dampen the spirits.

On **Monday 4 June**, the BBC Concert at Buckingham Palace took place where a host of famous faces came together to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee against the backdrop of Buckingham Palace.

There was also the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Beacons. A network of 2,012 beacons were lit by communities and individuals throughout the United Kingdom. On Tuesday 5 June, the Diamond Jubilee weekend culminated in a day of celebrations in

central London, including a service at St Paul's Cathedral followed by two receptions, a lunch at Westminster Hall, a Carriage Procession to Buckingham Palace and finally a Balcony appearance, and fly-past by the Red Arrows. The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh undertook regional tours as widely as possible across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

On 27th July the Olympics began creating an excellent sporting phenomenon for all young sporting people and to inspire to be like our skilled and talented ath-

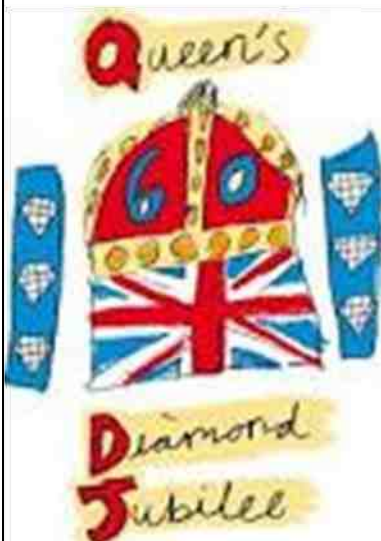
letes. It started with an opening ceremony as all of the countries walked in and a commemorative display was produced of Great Britain's recent history. In total we collected a large sum of 29 gold medals and came 3rd overall. We had some excellent achievements and moments shared throughout Great Britain.

The Paralympics came next motivating others with disabilities to have a go at sports that they wouldn't think they would be able to do, and encouraging the support of disabilities. The Paralympic Games began on 29th August just after the Olympics finished.

Felix Baumgartner is an Austrian skydiver, dared

evil and BASE jumper. He set the world record for skydiving an estimated 24 miles, reaching an estimated speed of 843.6 mph, on 14 October 2012, and became the first person to break the sound barrier.

Baumgartner's most recent project was Red Bull Stratos, in which he jumped to Earth from a helium balloon in the stratosphere on 14 October 2012. As part of this project, he set the altitude record for a manned balloon flight, parachute jump from the highest altitude, and greatest free fall velocity.



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Recession in the UK

By Tabitha Byrd and Rhiannah May-Byrd

There is a lot of talk in the UK about recession, national and international: this means that instead of a country growing in wealth, it is shrinking due to a number of different factors. The GDP (Gross Domestic Product – the total value of a country's goods and services) quarterly growth was unchanged in the fourth quarter (October – December) of 2012, contracting by 0.3% in the fourth quarter but growing by 0.3% in the year in total.

The decline in services sector (meaning services such as retail) output has only happened five times in the last four years. During the last part of 2012, the services sector did manage to go back to its pre-recession peak but a lot of this would have been driven by seasonal demand, such as Christmas. However, manufacturing and construction are still at least 10% lower than average. Since the beginning of the

recession, a number of events have affected the output of the UK economy. In particular, the fourth quarter reduction is partly the result of the events in the second and third quarters of 2012. The poor weather has also reduced output – the Black Country Museum reported a 50% drop in visitor numbers because of the very rainy and cold summer. However, the growth in the third quarter was likely to have been boosted by the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympics Games which drew in a lot of overseas visitors.

Average weekly earnings in terms of regular pay (excluding bonuses) grew by 1.3% in the fourth quarter of 2012 compared with the fourth quarter of 2011. The growth in earnings (1.3%) was lower than Consumer Prices Index inflation (2.7%) in the final quarter of 2012 and therefore led to a decrease in earnings. A loaf of bread may have cost £1.60 in 2011 for example in 2012 it cost £1.65. Whilst this does

not look like a big increase on one item, it is applied to all groceries and goods households need. Therefore, they will generally be able to buy fewer goods for the same amount of money. In addition, prices for such things as petrol, heating and water have also increased with inflation.

All countries go through recessions, the last big international recession in the 1920s and 30s was called the Great Depression. The pattern in the past has been for things to rectify themselves due to government changes and new technology. We need to ask ourselves though, if changing back to the old ways is really such a good idea if it brings these big dips in economy. Do we need a new way of living entirely?



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Derby Death Blaze, Father Denies the Charges

By Imogen Shiels and Charlotte Ricketts

Mick Philpott, his wife Mairead Philpott and Paul Mosley have been accused of starting a house fire last May which resulted in the death of Mr Philpott and his former mistress Lisa Willis', 6 children. Mick Philpott completely denies starting the house fire that killed his 6 children though he has confirmed that he has his suspicion who started the fire. He is in court today. It is thought that Mick Philpott was angered at the fact that Ms Willis was leaving him and taking his children with her and that he wanted to keep the children so that he would have the child benefits. It is thought Mick Philpott, and his two accomplices, set fire to the house in order to frame Ms Willis, so that he would be able to keep his children.

Traces of petrol were found on Mr Philpott's clothing by forensic scientists. Could this be from starting the

fire? Ms John the girlfriend of Mr Mosley's Nephew said that Mr Mosley had told her of a plan to help Mr and Mrs Philpott burn down the house. Though she did agree that Mr Mosley was an attention seeker and could have been exaggerating. Ms John also told the court that Mr Mosley had told her that he, Mr and Mrs Philpott had practised what they would do when the house set on fire. Mr and Mrs Philpott were to run out the front and scream for help, whilst Mr Mosley was to save the children from their bedroom.

Jade 10, John 9, Jack 8, Jesse 6 and Jayden 5 died in the fire, whereas their older brother Duwayne 13, died in hospital 2 days later. The trial continues.



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Obesity in Children

By Faith Williamson, Laura Snape and Eve Andrews

Obesity in children has been affecting the UK and many other countries and now is becoming more and more serious.

Obesity is a problem that is taking bigger and bigger proportions mainly due to fast food chains and a lack of physical activity. Now scientists are suggesting that obesity can be just as bad for the body as smoking or drug taking. However, obesity and smoking can both be cured because they are just a question of bad habits and addictions. They can be broken; all it takes is determination. It has been proved that the amount of teens between the age of 13 and 16 who are obese has tripled in the last 20 years. Teenage obesity can be caused by puberty and emotional eating. During puberty it is normal to gain weight especially

for girls. Due to taking part in less physical activity it has been proved that more teenage girls are obese than teenage boys. Many girls gain weight as their body changes but then do tend to lose it once they have experienced all of their changes.

Sometimes the weight is not lost at the end of puberty due to having a lack of exercise and activity. Emotional eating also causes weight gain. Emotional eating is when someone (normally a teen) is going through a tough time and thinks they can eat their way out of the situation; but, this is not the way forward. It is better to talk about problems than have more problems including health risks and possibly bullying from eating because you're feeling down. One woman said, "The children nowadays need to feel more like they are able to talk to their parents about their problems to stop this emotional eating." Many people are bullied because they are obese

which is why even more people should start making a change.

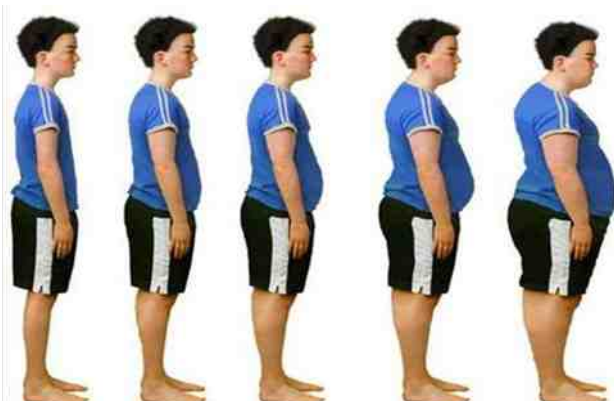
Lots of people find the weight of some youngsters ridiculous and suggest it is their parents' fault for not bringing their children up in a sensible way and feeding them lots of junk foods, or letting them just snack between meals; 45% of parents considered their child's weight to be "just right" when in fact they were obese. One man quoted, "Parents should make good hearty home-made meals for their children rather than being lazy and taking the easy option of readymade meals and McDonalds." Another person said, "All the adverts for sugar filled foods and fast food chains are brainwashing the children of today into thinking that fast food is the way forward. These adverts should be put on after the watershed." A study shows 50% of obese children have obese parents. It is evident that the parents' lifestyle has a huge impact on their child or children. A huge 80% of

obese children with obese parents are likely to stay obese as adults. Of course, when the obese adults give birth to children, it is probable that this cycle will start all over again. If, like these studies show, parents are the cause of their child's obesity, then parents are also the solution.

However, evidence is showing that childhood obesity may be taking a turn for the better, as previous studies show that in America, children and adults alike have been reducing their calorie intake. A 2010 report shows that although the obesity rate in America is high, children's calorie intake has been decreasing, showing that the children are consuming

fewer calories compared to a report taken 10 years ago. Considering roughly two thirds of the USA are either obese or overweight (17% of young people included in these two thirds), this study may show that the population have started to take obesity, as a health risk, more seriously.

However, despite all studies, it appears that child obesity has no signs of stopping overall. Although some changes in child weight have been recorded, more and more reasons for childhood obesity are surfacing, leading to the world believing, if that one day, the percentage of obese people in the world will become dangerously high.



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Worcestershire Teen Book Award

By Charlotte Ricketts and Charlotte Mallory

The Worcestershire Teen Book Award takes place every year. Children have a chance to vote for which book they think deserves the title. Thirty five books are given to groups of children in Year Nine who take part in a process where they look at the blurb and cover, and choose the six they would most like on the shortlist.

In the Worcestershire Teen Book Award Group, 17 Year Nine students have been given the final six books to read and rate. The books involved are: *The Haunting of Tabitha Grey*, *Dead Time*, *Socks are Not Enough*, *The Other Life*, *Soldier Dog* and *Girl Stolen*.

The Haunting of Tabitha Grey is a book about a girl who moves house due to her father becoming the new keeper of a mansion. She lives in a flat in the mansion and is the only one who sees ghosts. Everyone

believes that they are not real and a figment of her imagination.

Dead Time is a book about Rose and Joshua whose parents went out for a meal one night and never came back. They are a brother and sister, and team up to solve the mystery of what happened, and where they have disappeared to.

Socks are Not Enough is about Martin finding out his parents have become nudists. The book is written through Martin's eyes, containing many funny but disastrous events.

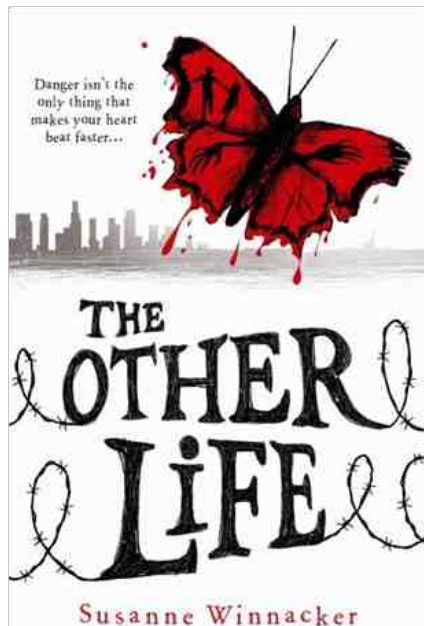
The Other Life is about Sherry who has been locked in a bunker for a long time with her family after a disaster but they run out of food, so she and her father venture into a world of death and destruction filled with weepers.

Soldier Dog is about a boy called Stanley who is a dog handler in the First World War. It is also about messenger dogs during the war and their adventures.

Girl Stolen, a book about

Cheyenne, who has been kidnapped, trying to escape. She cannot see her kidnappers because she is blind due to a car accident, in which sadly her mother died.

We have been meeting every Tuesday lunchtime for the past six weeks and it has been great. So far, *The Other Life* is our school's favourite. We will be voting on our favourite in about a fortnight.



Included by kind permission of Worcestershire Teen Book Award

Wolf Brother Book Review

By Hannah Salisbury

"With each kill- its power will grow. It will slaughter everything. The prey. The clans. All will die. The Forest will die... In one moon- it will be too late. The demon- too strong."

Set in the prehistoric forests of Europe, over six thousand years ago, evil wanders throughout the land and, according to prophecy there is only one who can put things right. The listener "who fights with air and speaks with silence" is the one who carries the destiny to save the clans, the creatures and the forest itself.

Twelve year old Torak and his wolf cub companion are the forests only hope, only they can defeat the demon bear and its conjurer. The recently bereaved pair must find the mountain of the world spirit and defeat the bear before the forest is ripped apart. To Torak, the quest is not a destiny, but a promise to his father who was one of the first to meet his doom by the demon

bear and, desperate not to let his father down, he starts on his journey unaware of his true self.

As the first book in Paver's Chronicles of Ancient Darkness series, the story is given a great start, throwing the reader into a world that is now, long forgotten. Paver tells the story from the very different views of the three main characters, each telling their versions of the events in chapters that are so realistic; the reader is plunged into roaring rivers and hurled into ice caves as if they are walking alongside Torak and his companions.

Wolf Brother is a hugely addictive read being almost impossible to put down. As Torak and his wolf cub companion journey to the mountain of the world spirit, meeting new people and experiencing the forests ways, the reader finds himself there with them, jumping at every sound and thinking ahead to how they will survive the days and nights that are ahead.

Paver has written a magical tale that takes you back to a

time that many of us today would have no idea how to live. A time with no TVs, no internet and not even the basic medicine that we rely on, Torak's survival depends on his skills as a tracker, medicinal herbs that he must find in the forest to tend to his wounds. He must hunt for his food and build his camp from the materials that the forest provides him, all at the age of twelve years old. The story highlights how people have changed with time, we no longer have the respect for the animals that we share our world with as our ancestors once did. Paver's phenomenal writing shows a time where everyone and everything was equal and respected.

Wolf Brother is a tale that succeeds in drawing the reader in and involving them in the story, leaving them eagerly awaiting the next book as the final chapter draws to a close. The series itself is gripping and *Wolf Brother* kicks it off to a truly amazing start. As the reader, you grow as

Red Nose Day 2013

By Alistair Hutton and Tabitha Byrd

This year Red Nose Day returned on the 15th of March. A range of programmes were created to raise extra awareness such as; The Great Comic Relief

one in the week it was released, selling over 113,000 copies.

In 2011 Comic Relief raised £74,360,207, and this year they are hoping to smash that amount, hoping to raise £100,000,000.

Money donated will help children in both the United



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Bake Off, Great British Menu for Comic Relief, Let's Dance for Comic Relief, Comic Relief Does Glee Club and Comic Relief's Big Chat with Graham Norton.

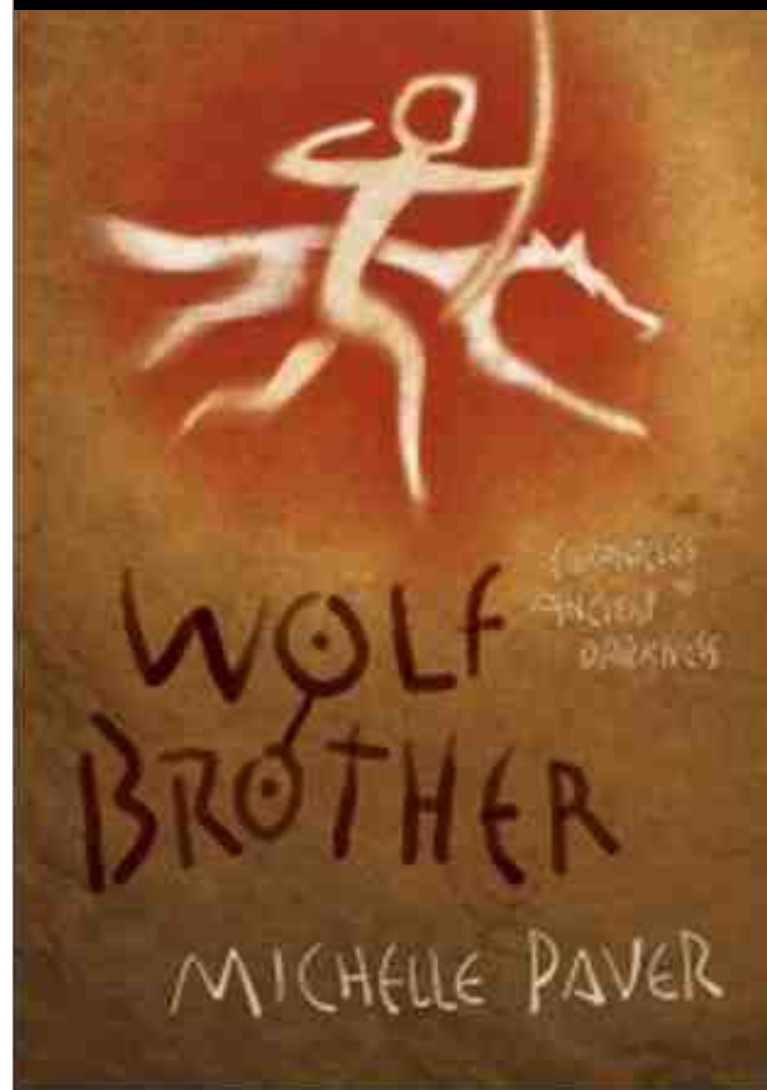
This year's Comic Relief was a medley of Blondie's "One Way or Another" and "Teenage Kicks" by The Undertones, recorded by the British boy band One Direction. It became number

Kingdom and Africa. If you're watching Comic Relief this year, think of the difference £5 of your money could make.



For more information on Red Nose Day, Scan here!

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attached to the characters as they do to each other. Paver has succeeded in

writing a tale that makes you realise how far we've come.



How well do you know your family?

By Anna Garner

You've developed an interest, you're determined to find out your family story, so where to start? The best place to begin is with immediate family, especially elderly relatives. They will have information and stories which will help and guide you as you go along. Remember to ask certain questions and make notes of important information. It's likely that there will be documents such as certificates of birth, marriage and death, letters and diaries which will provide extremely useful information towards your search. There may be old photographs of relatives (which might be named on the back) and some other heirlooms such as an engraved watch, a passport or some medals. Photos can also provide social information to add detail to statistics.

From the information that you've discovered so far, it's likely that you'll be able to draw a family tree

which can be used to record names and significant dates.

Parish documents provide some of the earliest, continuous records available in the country and can be particularly useful. It is possible to ask for copies to be posted to you but this can be costly. In the past, families rarely travelled far unless they were wealthy, meaning some families lived in the same area for many years, so sometimes this can help extend the family tree considerably! Several generations of my family came from three small villages near Ampthill, in Bedfordshire.

However, there are likely to be gaps in your knowledge and curiosity will lead you on - each question that is answered will raise more questions and the mystery will continue. It's like being a detective looking for clues, you'll have to be patient because doing this may take months or perhaps years!

It's also important to avoid

mistakes so it's wise to double check names and dates, as errors may lead you the wrong way and waste a lot of time. Beware that nicknames were occasionally used instead of proper names (eg: Betty rather than Elizabeth), not only nicknames were used but also some people were referred to by their middle names. Spellings of names may vary and curiously, sometimes two children in the same family may be given the same name (especially if one died young) or similar names may be used in several generations of a family.

The first Census was recorded on 6th June 1841 and provides precise information about every man, woman and child living in every residence, hospital, school, prison, workhouse and ship in the UK.

Additional information given includes the Head of the House and a list of the entire family living together at a certain address, the ages of all children up to 15,

occupation of adults and employed children and where people were born. Addresses are also indications of the wealth of the inhabitants living in the house. A Census has been taken every decade since and can be viewed online up to 1911 at

www.ancestry.co.uk. There are also free searches available at <https://familysearch.org/> which is a site run by the Mormon Church in America.

Many people will have ancestors in the Forces due to Britain's experiences during the last century.

Genealogical advice can be gathered from Regimental and military museums. For

example, information about the soldiers in the Worcestershire Regiment can be found at Worcester City Museum and Art Gallery. If you know all or part service number, name or rank, you may be able to access military/service records. This might include the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

In summary, it can be intriguing, rewarding and fun and you can discover the answer to a mystery, find that you're related to someone famous or a relative who has experienced an extraordinary event... we found one relative who was hung for piracy.



Groom: Harold Hood. Bride: Norah Hood (Gan)

Sworn in for a Second Term

By Darren Porter

On Monday, 21st January 2013, Barack Hussein Obama was sworn in for his second term as President of the United States of America. He took his oath and pledged allegiance to the US



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government outside the US Capitol building in Washington D.C. Obama used his speech to tell America to take action and reclaim the spirit of the founding fathers. In front of around half a million people, the 44th President

pledged that he would, along with the rest of America, battle against poverty and prejudice, deliver equality for the Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender community, also tackling climate change and allowing undocumented young immigrants the chance of citizenship.

During his speech with the theme of "Faith in America's future", Obama spoke about the constitution and what it stood for, and in reference to Dr Martin Luther King Junior, he underlined the importance and symbolism

of the inauguration taking place on the national holiday celebrating the civil rights leader. Unfortunately President Obama had to dampen the expectations of the nation during his second inauguration speech because during his first term he promised too much and was not able to deliver when the US was hit with the worst economic crisis since the 1930s. This time round he used the idea of America coming together as one by repeating "we, the people" to make all that he promised possible, and offering opportunities for all, instead of "shrinking a few" of the privileged.

Throughout his speech Obama attempted to prove the right-wing interpretation of the constitution wrong, saying that the four founding fathers did not intend for the country to become enslaved by the constitution and patriotism does not mean to becoming enslaved by it. At one point Obama said "Being true to

our founding documents does not require us to agree on every contour of life; it does not mean we will all define liberty in exactly the same way, or follow the same precise path to happiness." Obama told the generation of today that it is up to them to make a difference, to make the principles a reality, "For history tells us that while these truths may be self-evident, they have never been self-executing."

The President shocked the nation and even parts of the world when he said "Our journey is not complete until our gay brothers and sisters are treated like anyone else under law - for if we are truly created equal, then surely the love we commit to one another must be equal as well." This term shows his support for gay rights, when sadly last year he was heavily criticised by gay organisations for failing to do enough, he partly redeemed himself through ending "don't ask, don't tell", and for equal

marriage rights. Shortly after explicitly embracing gay marriage rights, Obama made similar pleas for equal pay for women, for undocumented youths to have citizenship and for children "from the streets of Detroit to the hills of Appalachia" to know they are safe from harm. Obama also spoke about a new strict gun control policy and has put himself under the pressure of having to deliver.

The President was more forceful in this term's agenda, telling America that it cannot deny the devastating effects that "raging fires, and crippling drought, and more powerful storms" have on the world and they must be the leaders of change, "though it may be difficult along the way."



To visit the Daily Mail website, scan here.

‘Les Miserables’ film review

By Megan Willoughby

‘Les Miserables’ is a fantastic phenomenon in several cinemas especially our local cinema the Regal in Evesham, where they have been sold out every night so far. There is no denying the scale and quality of the vision from director Tom Hooper, who also directed ‘The King’s Speech’. Several well-known acting stars were involved in ‘Les Miserables’ such as Hugh Jackman, Russell Crowe, Anne Hathaway, Amanda Seyfried, Eddie Redmayne, Samantha Barks, Helena Bonham Carter

In 19th century France, former convict Jean Valjean (Jackman) tries to start a new life as a factory owner, where an encounter with prostitute Fantine (Hathaway) leads him to adopt her daughter, Cosette (Seyfried). Pursued by policeman Javert (Crowe),



Valjean and Cosette get involved with students -planning to lead the citizens into rebellion. This impressive adaptation puts gritty intimacy ahead of the extravagance of the stage version, which has been seen by -60 million people worldwide over 20 years. Fans of the musical will enjoy seeing the actors sing all their lines, rather than dipping into the songs at certain times. It is defined by a stunning performance by Anne Hathaway, while Hugh Jackman has the stage experience

and screen presence to pull off the role of Jean Valjean. His physical and emotional journey is at the film’s core. While tending to shout rather than sing his lines, Russell Crowe looks the part as the ruthless Javert. The real revelation is Hathaway as the tragic heroine. Her performance as the -tormented Fantine is surely Oscar-winning, and her moving rendition of ‘I Dreamed A Dream’ is the tear-jerking highlight. It was based on the post French Revolution era and as well as being an entertaining film it was an insight into peoples’ lives after the French Revolution.



For more information on Les Mis: Scan the QR code above.

The Hobbit

By Jay Harris

Released in 2012 and based on the original book by J.R.R. Tolkien this two and a half hour prequel is



known as The Hobbit. After the trilogy of The Lord Of The Rings (which were amazing) The Hobbit was considered, but wasn’t made. They had to make the best book into a film, so directors carried on directing until 2012 came and Peter Jackson snapped up the Hobbit as soon as it was available. The Hobbit was a brilliant film, but there was

a downside to it. All hobbit lovers have to watch another five hours in order to finish watching the Hobbit story.

The next five hours is going to be split into two films over two years: 2013 and 2014, like the last Harry Potter films but in different years. In a nutshell the Hobbit is being split into three parts rather than being just one film. Their names are An Unexpected Journey, The Desolation of Smaug (2013) and a TBC name that we do not know of yet. The other

parts should be good as the first was astonishing, but as the films are split into parts it ended very suddenly.

As a lover of LOTR (Lord of the Rings) the films and the books, I hope after the Hobbit is finished, cinemas produce a Hobbit and LOTR marathon, or Peter Jackson could produce a full length Hobbit film, or marathon as they did with the Star Wars series. The actors were great, and as far as I know Peter Jackson is still filming the Hobbit in the same places the LOTR films were filmed, (those being Australia, and Scotland). The original orchestra, from the LOTR films also played the main song Misty Mountain Cold, telling the story of the dragon Smaug.

The last thing to conclude with would be the script, the best line of the film was delivered by Gollum, which was ‘‘what’s in your pocket?’’ I think it is safe to say that the Hobbit is safe in Peter Jackson’s hands.

Halo 4

By Jay Harris



Halo 4 is the game of 2012 being rated top game of the year by GamesMaster magazine and IGN. It is an incredible game. Here is the storyline, set in outer space, and Master chief is cryogenically frozen. With his AI companion (Cortana) controlling the ship everything is safe. After destroying the final Halo ring he went to sleep until he was called again, and his last words were ‘‘Call me if you need me’’, and now he is needed. A stronger force has risen from the depths of space, stronger than even the Covenant and the Flood. Masterchief is woken by the sound of explosions, and the Covenant is destroying his ship,

Luckily however as it reached a new planet’s orbit he escaped with Cortana and his life. He gains his strength and makes contact with the UNSC Infinity ship. The General tells him that he is to regain an artefact and kill Diadem. Will he succeed?

343 Studios and Bungie have worked together to create such an amazing game which has taken them about four years to do but they finally finished it and they made it the best of all the Halo games. After completing four other games (Halo Wars, Halo 3 ODST, Halo Reach & Halo Combat Evolved Anniversary)



Film Review – Lincoln

By Laura Snape, Faith Williamson and Eve Andrews

As the Civil War continues America's President struggles both on the battlefield and with his own decision to try to emancipate the slaves. Lincoln, produced and directed by Steven Spielberg, is a film that follows the path of Abraham Lincoln the 16th president of the United States. It shows Lincoln's efforts during January 1865 with a goal to abolish slavery in the country. The film starts a year before the end of the civil war at the battlefield. It stars many well known actors and actresses including Daniel Day-Lewis, Sally Field and David Strathairn.

The theme of the film was mainly diplomatic, and was told from the government's point of view. They were worried about "the people" and what they wanted. There are many scenes shown in court, though it

does focus on the history of the time, it also shows an emotional side as well.

We must say that Steven Spielberg made the film well, though in some places it could become boring. This may be because it was aimed at an older audience who might have found it more interesting.

Daniel Day-Lewis took on the role of Lincoln spectacularly and as a result of this he was awarded the "Best Actor" Oscar for the film. Unfortunately, "Argo" beat "Lincoln" to the best picture Oscar.

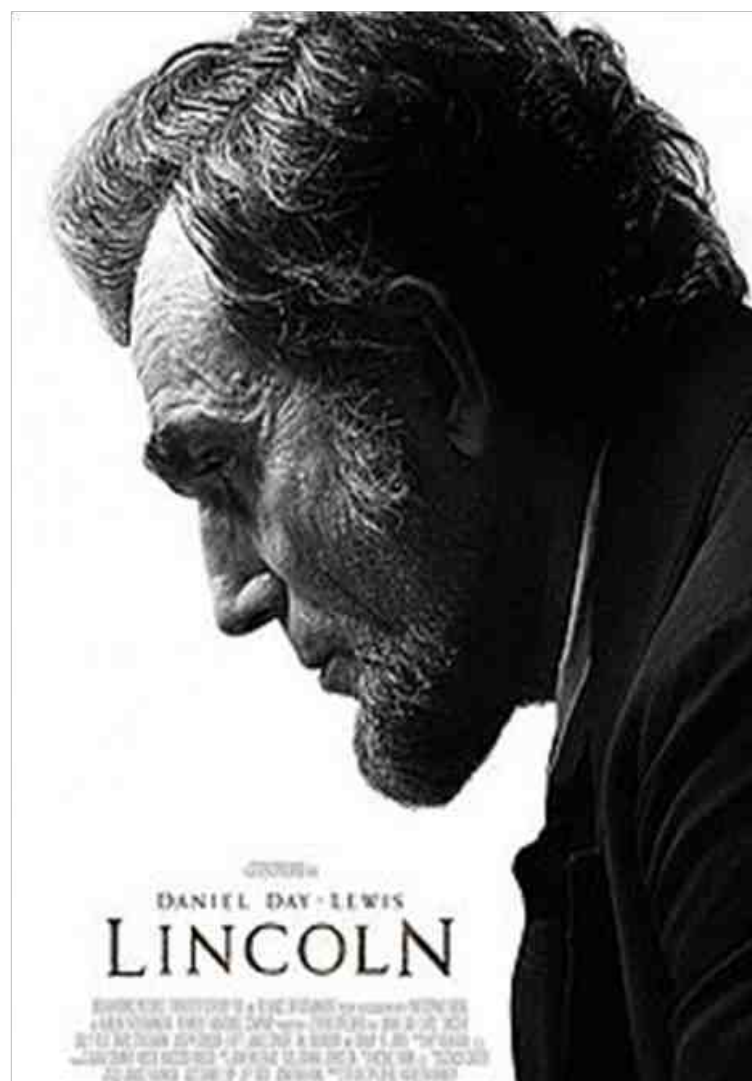
In the beginning the music is effective and sets the mood for the rest of the movie being sad, thoughtful and puzzling. The music is not carried through the film though, so it may have been better if there was more music throughout the film helping set the mood for each new

scene in the film.

At one point when we are waiting for the verdict of whether the people want slavery abolished or not, we find ourselves on the edge of our seats because there is so much suspense. All the characters are also intrigued to find out what will be changed in the future, which adds to the effect.

The characters are extremely well played, they are all acted strongly, no-one was too timid or shy in their roles but also no-one was over the top, because both of these would not fit the focus of the film. The fight for what they want is powerful, intelligent and passionate.

We would strongly recommend this film to anyone who is interested in history, and the particular topic of Abraham Lincoln.



Above: Included by kind permission of upload.wikimedia.org

If politics is of interest to you then it's a good film to watch. Although, it's probably best not to watch this film if you get bored

easily by long films which cover events in world history. However, in my opinion it is an amazing film.

Halo 4: Continued

Bungie and 343 Studios worked hard together to create the next official game of the series. Games Master claims that Halo is even better than COD: Black Ops II, which is hard to believe, but it's true. Treyarch worked with many companies to make Call Of Duty, but they still didn't make a good enough game. They lost 24 places in ranking to Halo 4 as it came first. Call Of Duty lost in all categories to Halo, these being: graphics, storyline, difficulty and many more. Multiplayer was terrible. Even though Halo bit off COD they improved the whole layout of the game, with great graphics, a good game engine and a good multiplayer and single player layout. This game is recommended to Halo players or anyone who likes a good shooter and campaign. Everyone is surprised that '343 Studios' made such a good game and so am I. If you are a Halo fan why not play this game, because with '343 Studios' Halo is better than ever. Thank you Bungie and '343 Studios.'

Your Daily Horoscope.

By Alistair Hutton and Tabitha Byrd



Aries:

You have probably got used to coping with deadlines. But there appears to be a much brighter mood now, which should help enormously, you should be able to find the energy to deal with any difficulties.



Taurus:

Financial matters continue to require your attention. You might be trying to secure the long-term future or possibly trying to pay off a debt. It is also likely that someone (possibly a younger relative) will require you to challenge them.



Gemini:

You could think of yourself as one of those toys that has to be delicately balanced. You may only now be re-balancing having been knocked around earlier this week. This could actually be a very good day to take a test or sit an exam.



Cancer:

A much brighter mood prevails, and you could find the energy to tackle tasks that really ought to be done on a daily basis, but which have been left aside for the last few days. The assistance of someone older may be particularly helpful.



Leo:

You might prefer to focus on getting into the weekend party spirit early in the day. However, it is likely that you are under some sort of time pressure. It may be necessary to complete a certain task before the end of the week, preferably before this weekend.



Virgo:

You may now be involved in a project which means stripping something back to basics. The assistance of a designer who understands the need to preserve the past may be a help to you. However working within a budget could prove difficult for you.



Libra:

Though you may

now have the answers to some important questions, you may still be some way off making decisions. Discussion about new deadlines could take place. Contact with the world of the arts in probable and could offer some balance to the day.



Scorpio:

You might be under a tight deadline that would involve moving or changing travel arrangements if money cannot be found quickly. However, a family member could be on hand to offer help.



Sagittarius:

Your memory could be put to the test. It's possible that you have valuable information and that someone older is keen for you to pass it on. Financial matters might also require your full attention. Someone may require you to go on a long journey.



Capricorn:

You may be thinking of ways and means to improve an area that is under used. The needs of someone older and who is perhaps not at all

well may need to come first however. Discussions about health matters and nutrition generally are likely.

Aquarius:

You could be exceptionally busy and required to undertake several short journeys. You might also find yourself at odds with a close friend. It could be that they need your help and simply cannot focus on anything other than their own problems presently.

Pisces:

Closing the door on one other chapter of your life might now feel exactly right. This could take the form of getting rid of items you no longer need. You may now also be seeking an item used some time ago and which you feel is hidden in an area incorrectly classed as junk.

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For more information scan here!



Mark Robson - Author Visit 2013

By Imogen Shiels,
Charlotte Mallory and
Charlotte Ricketts

On the 6th March 2013 British author Mark Robson talked to Year 9 in the Arts Centre and then gave them two workshops on writing. Mark Robson is a well-known author whose books are easy to read and have really good storylines. He began the day by talking about his life and how he came to be an extremely successful author. He then gave two workshops in the Learning Resource Centre on how to write a good short story. He was really funny and interesting when talking about his life and books. It was a great day and he has really inspired us to write our own books! We were given the chance to interview him, and it was really interesting to find out what his life is like:

When did you first start writing stories for children?

I started writing in 1995 when I was fighting in the Falkland Islands. I had nothing to do and someone told me to "go and write a book or something". I made a deal that I would write the start of a book, and if this person told me they liked the book, I would write the rest of the book. So I started my first book, the Forging of the Sword.

How long did it take you to write your first book?

It took me a few days to write the beginning of the book, and I continued to the end. Overall it took me a year and a half, but I got faster over time and it now takes me 8 weeks to write 80,000 words.

Where do you get your inspiration and ideas from when writing books?

I get my inspiration from "all over the place"! I use the TV, Internet and the radio. The inspiration for the Dragon Orb series was from an argument over the internet with a woman who loved dragon books.

How do you come up with

the names for your characters; for example Sam, Callum, Niamh, Matthew and Moira?

I try to use names with meanings as much as possible. I have a book of over 80,000 baby names which I often use to find characters names with meanings that fit to that character's personality.

What do you think makes a good story?

I think a good story is a story with an interesting problem, and characters that you can really relate to. I also think there should be one big problem that interlinks with many smaller problems which brings the characters together.

Do you have any ideas for your next book/series?

I have an idea for a new series called Warrior Kids. This will be about a boy who is being bullied at school. He learns Martial Arts because he thinks that he will be able to stand up for himself. It turns out that learning this new skill just gets him into a lot more

trouble. This book is going to be aimed at younger children and I am in the process of writing the first book in the series.

Who is your favourite author and what is your favourite book by them?

My favourite book is 'Mortal Engines' by Philip Reeve, but I also really enjoy the book 'Game of Thrones' by the author George Martin. I really enjoy adventure and fantasy books.

Do you have a meaning or moral that you try to get across to readers in your books?

I did not put any morals in my first 2 series, but recently I have started to add morals to my books. The Dragon Orb series is all about facing your fears

and in the first Dragon Orb book (Firestorm), it is about Nolita facing her fear of heights and dragons. In the second book (Shadow) Pell has to work as a team, this is something he does not like to do.

Do you have any advice for anybody wanting to become a writer?

You need to write books from experience because then you can use this experience to make the books full of details. The only experience most people have is of their school or workplace. Therefore if you want to write an interesting story, go and take part in interesting activities! Good luck to anyone thinking of becoming a writer!



Taming of the Shrew Review

By Amy Price and Peggy Dalziel

The school's latest production was William Shakespeare's 'Taming of the Shrew'. This version set the story in the 1980s. Of course, this meant the music was a great selection of 80s tunes! - We particularly enjoyed 'Prince Charming' (especially the entrance that came with it) and 'Wild Boys'.

Bravely and wisely, directors Mrs. Pomeroy and Mrs. Cook chose to balance the play's startling cruelty

with exuberant comic energy, rather than knowing irony. Their Katherina, (Jessica Dallard played her role strikingly and enthralled those watching her performance) is a compact, strong spitfire whose gentlewoman's education has evidently included self-defence classes, to judge from the effortless way she jumps to attack her suitor, Petruchio (played by Ellis Tustin with wonderfully judged complexity), on their first encounter.

Her sweet-natured younger sister, Bianca, is given a sharp flicker of minxy spitefulness by Grace Cap-

well, suggesting that the sisters are not as different in temperament as we are invited to believe.

There must be a note of the wonderful use of Rubik's cube blocks which were turned into tables, chairs etc. These were incorporated well into the performance, with changes in colours to illustrate different scenes and characters (such as white for Bianca's purity, and orange and red to symbolise Katherina and Petruchio's passionate, often violent, natures) however the stage crews who had to shift the large blocks making up the Rubik's

cube also deserve mentioning, apparently they were very heavy! The ending, at which the blocks were turned into a complete Rubik's cube, was visually very impressive. Although when Petruchio and Katherina climbed onto the blocks for the final farewell, our hearts were in our mouths, it really was a great way to close a fantastic performance.

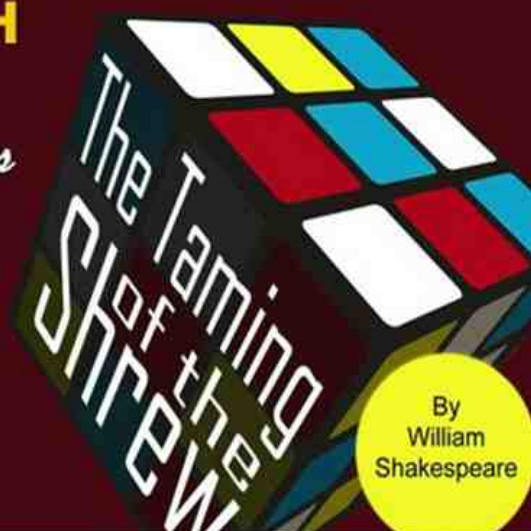
Shakespeare's comic passages are played by the cast with a riotous mixture of verbal dexterity and slapstick. The characters Biondello (Tom Watson) and Grumio (Fran Hassal) provided the slap stick servant comedy, while the classic Shakespeare plot device of disguise was shown through Pedant (George Organ) and Vincentio (Joe Wheldon) whose comedic antics had the audience roaring with laughter.

The characters of Hortensio (Alex Jones), Baptista (Beatrice Dooley) and Gremio (Scott Ridley) also stood out as being superb;

the addition of a Michael Jackson-esque Gremio was a terrific choice by the directors. In particular the rollerblading scene (where Petruchio arrives on skates, followed closely by Hortensio on a scooter) was one of the funniest beginnings of a scene we've seen performed. The scene was made especially good by Katherina's speech to Vincentio which was delivered with a wonderfully sarcastic and amusing quality. There remains the troublesome fact that the language of the *Shrew* is most beautiful when it is most cruel — for example in Petruchio's description of how he intends to tame his love by starvation, humiliation and sleep deprivation, methods enough to make any person concerned. But this intelligent and energetic production finds the tenderness in the text, and sends its audience home amused, exhilarated, but also disturbed — which is as it should be.

**PRINCE HENRY'S HIGH
SCHOOL**

Presents





The Cheltenham Gold Cup 2013

By Tom Britten

This year's Gold Cup looks to be an exciting spectacle. I am going to look at some fancied horses and a few outsiders that could spring a surprise. Here are the favourites;

Bobs Worth: He is the 3-1 favorite to win the race for trainer Nicky Henderson. He has never lost a race at Cheltenham, but there is a first time for everything. His form is good. His last 5 runs read, 1321-1 as you can see he has not finished out of the first 3 in his last five races.

Sir Des Champs: He is quite a favoured horse in the betting being a 4-1 shot. He won last time out at Leopardstown and has to be the Irish's best chance. He could be in with a good chance as his form is 142-11

Silviniaco Conti: This is possibly the most exciting horse in the race. He is a 5-1 chance and has never

been out of the first 4. He has won his last 4 races and I wouldn't be surprised if he makes it 5 on the trot for trainer Paul Nichols.

Long Run: He is 6-1 chance. Having won the King George at Kempton on Boxing Day he may be

be in the first 4.

Captain Chris: I feel this horse is in with a chance. Although he is 20/1, he was 2nd to Long Run in the King George. That was good form but I think he may be out classed here.

Cape Tribulation: At 25/1 he is an outsider but has a great record on the big stage having won at both last years' festival and the Grand National meeting at Aintree and to top that he won at Cheltenham in January, beating a past Gold Cup winner in

although he is a young horse, he has not put a foot wrong. Bobs Worth won the Henssy but has not run since. I also think that Cape Tribulation is worth an each way bet as he has shown some promise coming in to the race and so could run a big race.



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in the form to give him a repeat victory in the Gold Cup, a Race he won in 2011. Very few horses have come back and won this race having lost it. However I do think he will

The Giant Bolster: I really like this horse. He came 2nd in last years' Gold Cup and has also come 2nd to Silviniaco Conti but at 20/1 he has a bit to prove.

Imperial Commander: His form is 115-21 and I feel he could spring a surprise.

I think that Silviniaco Conti will win the race as he shows a lot of promise



Scan to visit the Cheltenham Cup Website

Sainsbury's School Games went a Storm

By Joshua Wheeler

On Thursday 28th February, the region was bouncing balls, making saves and scoring goals all in the name of keeping active. Pupils from all the local schools of our region travelled to Worcester University and other big sporting venues to take part in a day of tournaments and most of all fun!

Students from Prince Henry's both took part in the games and helped the voluntary team of Sports Coaches and Referee's organising the games. Our School's Sports Co-ordinator Tina Kay put together a team of six Young Ambassador's and Young Leaders from our school to volunteer at the event. Nat Kyle and Seb Speciale-Lees volunteered in athletics, Beth Gilks and Charlotte Rimell helped with netball and Alex Browne and I refereed rugby. We each had to aid the adult leaders with

conducting the tournaments in each sport which saw local school's go head-to-head for the top position in each sport and then an overall prize for the top spot among all schools, a bit like a mini-local Olympics!



The games started with an opening ceremony where a warm up was done and balloons were released to the skies to proclaim the start of our games. Throughout the day, sporting values were a constant reminder for participants who each had a value on their coloured t-shirts which also acted as a way of distinguishing between the teams. The Sainsbury's School Games values were very much

influenced by the Olympic values of friendship, respect, excellence, determination, inspiration, courage and equality.

We were very fortunate to have such nice weather on the day. The sun soon came out and I was refereeing in shorts and t-shirt for most of the day! Whilst competitors and volunteers were not busy, organisers had arranged entertainment in the shape of music, dance and even a visit from a West Midlands Safari Park expert who brought in some furry friends!

Wheels of the chariot falling off?

By Tom Britten

England supporters are getting nervous about next weekend's game against Wales as they had to rely on Toby Floods kicking to win the game. If Italy's play had not been so sloppy they may have won the game. Luckily England have top class kickers who kicked them to victory but at half time Italy were 9 points down and soon after they were 12 points down, it just goes to show how well Italy fought back at the end of

the match, which finished 18-11. England will have to put up a better performance against Wales to secure the six nations and the grand slam but Wales are in very good form; they have won their last 3 games, and to win the six nations they would only have to beat England by 8 points to do it, but is it out of their reach? we will have to find out.

France's tournament has not been very good as they were favourites coming into the tournament, but have failed to win a match. Their best result was 13-13 against Ireland, but they only just drew with Ireland. This is still a poor result as Ireland didn't play at the best standard they could. As a result of France's poor play throughout the tournament they are still at the bottom of the league table with only one match left to play, and as they are at the bottom of the league table they are highly unlikely to win their next match.



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Netball News

By Laura Snape

On Thursday 28th February, a squad of ten year 9 girls took part in a netball tournament at Worcester. Jodie Bryan, Niamh Smit, Abby Williams, Imogen Burke, Emily Moss, Katie Brown, Matilda Darling, Laura Snape, Rosie Rickets and Beth Knight all made up the team.

They had to arrive at school at 08:25am so they could get to Worcester by 09:00am. Upon arrival, there was a long wait for the rest of the teams to arrive, but eventually the tournament began. Before play started though, there was a group warm up and a balloon releasing ceremony. Each team wore different coloured t-shirts to represent different Olympic qualities. Prince Henry's wore silver, for respect.

The first game was against Malvern St James school. Malvern was a very good team and were very good at intercepting the ball meaning they often had

possession. It was a tough game for Prince Henry's, but they still managed to score a few shots, meaning the final score was 10-2 to Malvern.

In the second match, Prince Henry's faced King's School. The finishing score was 9-0 to King's. Unfortunately Jodie hurt her foot very badly. It was uncertain what happened but unluckily, Jodie's ankle was causing her so much agony she could no longer put any pressure on it, forcing her to withdraw from the match. Matilda had to take her place

Wednesday 13th March

quickly before the game could resume. A few moments later there was another injury when Abby tripped and fell on the floor. Thankfully she managed not to injure herself too badly, so was still able to continue playing.

The third match was where the team really shone though, with a score of 5-4 against Hagley School. It was a close match, but Prince Henry's managed to play to the best of their ability, and managed to attack and defend well enough to ensure their

opponents really had to work hard to score goals. Unfortunately they were unlucky and lost by just one point. It may have taken a while for the team to warm up and get involved well in the game, but when they clicked they were great.

The fourth match was very successful. They managed to win 6-3 against St Augustine's. The team really worked together to play to the best of their ability. They may have been unlucky in the previous games but this game was very different.

They managed to reduce the number of mistakes they made and the game went much more smoothly for them. It seemed the excitement of winning affected the team well in the next game.

The last match of the day was a close one. Everyone played as well as they could right up to the buzzer, signalling the end of the match. The score was 8-5 which was slightly disappointing after just having a great win. It was a strong finish and nobody could have played any better. The match was against South Bromsgrove. Although Prince Henry's did not win as many matches as they would have liked, it was still an enjoyable day for them, and they managed to work well together as a team. It was a good learning experience for the netball team and considering they had only been together a few months, they did extremely well and made the school proud.

Who's laughing now...
On your marks!

By Joshua Wheeler

When Lewis Hamilton announced his move to Mercedes GP at the end of the 2012 season, many critics felt that it was one of the worst decisions ever made in Formula One history. Anyone who follows Formula One will understand the reasons for his move. Firstly, Mercedes simply as a brand name is a huge backing for a driver that wants to become one of the biggest names in the sport's history and the sponsorship opportunities that will come to him at Mercedes would undoubtedly be attractive to any driver. Hamilton also stated in various interviews that he looked forward to the challenge of growing with a team. However, one of the biggest reasons that Hamilton is felt to have moved is the engine size change that will come in the 2014 season which it is thought will benefit the teams who have their own engine such as Ferrari and

Mercedes. However, Christmas appears to have come early for the Mercedes pair as they were quite significantly faster in the Barcelona tests and did more laps than any other drivers which is a good indicator of the reliability of the car.

show their true colours and Ferrari could be up to speed, if you'll pardon the pun, by the time Melbourne comes around. Another team that could be a strong competitor are Lotus who were extremely strong throughout the 2012 season. McLaren will

who had some fantastic finishes for Sauber last year, anything could happen. Furthermore with six brand new Formula One drivers on the grid this year we could all be surprised by a dark horse. Melbourne is notorious for throwing up surprises at the very start of the season.

In 2009, Brawn GP won a one-two clean sweep race and surprised everyone after Honda pulled out in October 2008, forcing Ross Brawn to form a team and build a car on a tiny budget. 2009 was a fairytale season and it featured an aspect of racing that has been prominent ever since – progress between races. Undoubtedly, the master of progress in design is Red Bull's Adrian Newey who has played a vital role in each of Red Bull's three



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However, the ship is far from sailing. Many pundits feel that Red bull are yet to

undoubtedly show their consistent quality and with new recruit Sergio Perez,

consecutive World Championships.

No matter what, the 2013 season is bound to be as tantalising as the last few. We may not have seven different winners in the first seven races but many feel this will be the closest fought championship ever.

Get set for Melbourne.

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