

PRINCE'S



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The End Of Top Gear?



Millions of Top Gear fans around the world will be disappointed this weekend following the BBC's decision not to broadcast the latest episode of the hugely popular motoring show. It is also thought that the rest of the series will be cancelled following claims that the ever-controversial Jeremy Clarkson, the programme's lead presenter, punched a producer. The Daily Mail says the incident occurred after filming in Newcastle last week due

to insufficient catering provision. The conclusions of an investigation into the incident are likely to decide the 54-year-old's future with the BBC. Furthermore, his departure could mean the 350 million viewers Top Gear attracts from a total of 214 countries could well have already seen the final episode of the most watched factual programme in the world. Clarkson is certainly a character that people either love or hate. On the one

hand, an online petition started on Tuesday afternoon has been signed by approximately 300,000 of his supporters and is gaining 10,000 new signatures around every 10 minutes, while the hashtag "Bring Back Clarkson" has taken Twitter by storm. On the other hand, Clarkson's previous comments have forced him to publicly apologise on a number of occasions, not least when he infamously declared on The One Show that he

would have striking public sector workers shot "in front of their families," prompting 31,000 complaints. In 2014, which Clarkson described as "a difficult year," he was accused of using derogatory terms to describe black people and Asians. This saw him upload a video on Twitter in which he was "begging for forgiveness," whilst Top Gear was censured by Ofcom for breaching broadcasting rules.

-By Michael Lear

Debate gate: Is David Cameron running scared?

By Amber Osborne

With the General Election looming party leaders are eagerly trying to gain the support of the people. One method of self-advertisement is via live televised debates where leaders go head to head with the aim of proving their worthiness for being voted in. Television debates are fairly new and exciting to the UK, in contrast to other nations where they used to seeing their potential leaders battle it out on live TV.

However one particular Conservative leader is not fully convinced and has come under scrutiny for his hesitancy in participating.

You may think 'why does it matter if he does not wish to participate?' and well the answer to that is: it *does* matter as his refusal could have a significant impact on the results. When television debates began in 2010 where the then Prime Minister Gordon Brown, Liberal Democrat leader Nick Clegg and Conservative Leader David Cameron

on battled it out Clegg's position in the polls triumphed quite significantly as a result. The debates also hold significance due to the structure of the UK's parliamentary system.

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£1.9 million
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Editorial Team

Our editorial team is as follows:

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Editorial - Gallery Gadget War Editorial

Beth Tether and Jessica Matthews

The new gadget, the selfie stick, has caused outrage among art galleries across the world.

At galleries everywhere it has become a familiar sight to see groups of tourists photographing themselves with the well-known selfie stick, whilst gathered in front of priceless masterpieces. This new trend has provoked fear in some of the world's most prestigious art galleries as they think that the artwork is at risk of damage.

The selfie stick was first introduced to the UK in the summer of 2014, after the trend was brought across by thousands of tourists, by Christmas time the selfie stick was huge and the inventors- Neil Harvey and Steve Pengelly could barely keep up with the demand. The National Gallery confirmed on the 10th March that it had banned visitors from using the gadget whilst

in the exhibitions, the gallery have said that they wish to preserve the security of the artwork. Following this there have been rumours that the National Portrait Gallery and the British Museum could soon adopt this ban. The move to ban the selfie stick, came soon after bans in art galleries in America and France.

Art critic Brian Sewell has encouraged this ban, calling the new gismo "absurd", he also followed this claiming that "If the Americans and French were banning them, the UK should join in. They are possibly quite dangerous to the artwork and cause appalling crowding around a painting." The ban has been supported by many people, including art critics and curators throughout the UK. As art enthusiasts we fully support the ban and believe that the art should be fully appreciated rather than simply used as a photo opportunity. People should be more respectful of the artwork that they are visiting. Art is something that should be appreciated in the mo-

ment and not trapped within the screen of a digital camera or smart phone.



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Easter

Amber Osborne

Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Day is in the past and we are now in the time of Lent, meaning that Easter is on the horizon. Nowadays when anyone talks of Easter, it is all about the chocolate eggs and the Easter Bunny. But what some do not know is the symbolism behind them and why we even celebrate Easter in the first place.

For western Christians, eggs would traditionally have been dyed red to symbolise the blood of Christ and the egg is also seen as a representation of the empty tomb. Chicken eggs would have been used in the past,

but nowadays hollowed out chocolate eggs are common place. The Easter Bunny originates from Germany and in fact was not a rabbit at all but a hare. Hares are significant to the Bible as they are representations of procreation, and according to tradition the Easter Hare acted as a judge deciding whether children were good in the season of Eastertide.

If they were then they would be rewarded with coloured eggs, so really the hare is just a spring time version of Father Christmas!

Easter Sunday, 5th April this year, is the most attended Sunday Service of the Christian calendar and is a day of celebration as it commemorates Christ's resurrection from the dead. Easter can also be seen as a time of hope and reassurance as many interpret Easter as a turning point for humanity from destruction to glory and salvation. All forms of Christianity unite at this time of year with special prayers, psalms and sermons performed especially for the occasion. The essential symbolism of Easter for Chris-

tians is the celebration of Christ journeying to Heaven, the very foundation of the religion. Easter Sunday reminds Christians of what awaits them after death and secures a relationship with God through his son Jesus Christ.

There are also many highlights at this time of celebration such as Good Friday, which marks the day of crucifixion and is always the Friday before Easter Sunday. This day is very significant as it marks Christ's sacrifice for mankind and the absolution of sin.

Easter also marks the end of Lent. This is a period of 40 days which Christians use for spiritual discipline, repentance and moderation. Lent began on the 10th February, Ash Wednesday, and will end on 5th April, Easter Sunday. Pancake Day or Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday and is often celebrated by eating pancakes as during Lent the ingredients used for pancakes would not have been consumed due to their fatty nature.

You may have heard people say "Easter has come late this year" and in fact it has and may do again. This is because the exact date of Easter changes every year and can fall between 22nd March and 25th April. The date is defined as being the Sunday following the Paschal Full Moon, or the first full moon after the vernal (spring) equinox, which differs each year.

Mothers Day

Lauren King and Ellen Day

Mother's Day is an annual event which is held on the fourth Sunday of Lent each year (this year on 15th March) to honour and give thanks to our mothers for their care and guidance. Mother's Day was first celebrated in 1916 to show



appreciation for mothers in Britain and was originally a time when people returned to the church in which they were baptized, but it is now generally recognized as a day of rest for all mothers, as well as being showered with gifts and cards, but what are you doing for Mother's Day?

Reading Buddies Scheme

By Alice Weaver

Since the start of the year, Sixth Formers have been working with the local middle schools St. Egwin's and Bredon Hill Middle School, and our own Year 9 students, in order to help students to achieve a higher reading ability.

Mrs Bennington started the Reading Buddies Scheme about 8 years ago in the LRC as a way of increasing the confidence of Year 9 students reading aloud in the LRC with sixth form partners. She stated 'it has really taken off this year'. As well as reading with the students in order to raise their confidence in reading,

Sixth Formers have been co-ordinating activities relating to a particular novel, in order to improve literacy skills. Role playing as key characters, acting out scenes of the book to gain a wider perspective of the plot and the characters' personalities are just a random sample of the activities enjoyed.

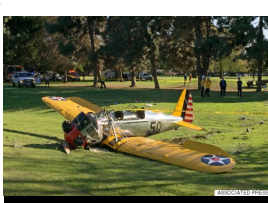


This is a fantastic scheme for both the buddies and the students and is thoroughly enjoyed by all. The Reading Buddies Scheme started very small, but has grown into a hugely popular intervention across the local area. In typical Prince Henry's style and in the words of our school

motto *Parva Magnum Crescunt*.

If you are considering a career in teaching, social work or anything working with children, or just feel like giving back to the community, I would thoroughly recommend this programme as it provides vital experience and helps

these children to achieve a stable literacy level, helping them to succeed in life. Speak to Mrs Barker if you want to participate in the Middle School Buddies scheme or Mrs Bennington if you wish to participate in the Year 9's scheme.

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10 Dead as Helicopters collide in Argentina Mathew Dunnyet A horrific helicopter crash near the North West La Rioja region of Argentina has killed all ten people on board both helicopters. The helicopters had just taken off as they were taking eight French nationals, including sportsmen and women, to a remote location as part of a French reality TV show 'Dropped'. All eight nationals, along with the two Argentine pilots were found dead at the scene on Monday.	Among the dead were French sports personalities Camille Muffat, Alexis Vastine and Florence Arthaud. Muffat won three medals in the pool at the London 2012 Olympics, including gold in the 400m freestyle. Vastine was a champion amateur boxer who won bronze at the 2008 Beijing Olympics and reached the quarter-finals in London. Arthaud was a very successful yachtswoman; among her triumphs she won the 1990 Route du Rhum, a prestigious solo race across the Atlantic. The President of France is sending two investigators	ucena Del Valle Aguero, also said 'He was a really experienced pilot who had been trained for years in the military and had worked with the producers of the show before', suggesting that the cause of the crash may not be simply an error from the pilot.  With Kind Permission of Google Images	
To Zoo or Not to Zoo Georgia Wilcox Zoos are the focal point of countless moral issues, but what is their purpose? And why are they important in our modern world? Are they key places of learning for children and vital to the protection of endangered species? Or are they no better than animal prisons with countless exotic individuals contained in unrealistic captive spaces, to be gawked at by children who wouldn't know the difference	ence between a Bengal tiger and a tabby cat and don't care enough to find out? For decades the argument over whether zoos are morally acceptable has been under great debate within the biological society, and recent developments have only made it even more imperative that this question is addressed. Are zoos morally acceptable within the modern world? In the last few months news of the Surabaya Zoo in Indonesia has spread	One tragic story was that of a young lion called Michael, he was only 18 months old when he was found hanged in his cage. He had a metal loop which keepers had used to open and close his cage, caught around his neck, and in his struggles to get free he had hanged himself. This story is sadly not the only one like it, shortly after Michael's death, a giraffe was found dead, on investigation it was discovered that it had 20kg of plastic in its stomach which was certain to have caused its death. It is zoos like these which give society such reason to question the ethics of allowing mankind to hold exotic species in captivity. However there are also many reasons that zoos are so important within our modern society, for example the significant role that they play in conservation. -Cont. Pg5	
Suspected poisoning at Crufts Alice Weaver and Rhiannah Byrd Yet another dog has died, poisoned at Crufts, the world famous dog show for pedigree breeds, yesterday after eating poisoned beef. At least five other dogs are believed to have been targeted, as well as 3 year old Jagger, an Irish Setter, who came second in his event, dying in his owners arms in his Belgium home. It was believed he was not the intended victim, as he switched places with noodle pedigree Thendra Pot Noodle, who had a similar sounding name. Dogs are no longer treated as man's best friend, but as a commodity. David Cameron commented on the recent events of the poisoning as 'unbelievably awful'. Security at the contest certainly needs improving.	Four days at the races Libby Phillips  With kind permission of google images		
Harrison Ford Plane Crash Isaac Stephens On the 5th of March, Harrison Ford took off from Santa Monica Airport in his private World War II era aircraft, and reported a fault in the engine, whilst airborne. The plane struck the top of a tree, damaging the plane and causing it to crash horrifically into a golf course. The crash resulted in the fracturing of Ford's pelvis, a broken ankle, head injuries and the loss of a vast amount of blood. Ford was immediately rushed to the hospital and following this it was later confirmed that the 72-year-old "Indiana Jones" star's injuries weren't life-threatening, and he was going to be "OK."  With kind permission of google images	Trainers and owners alike are busy preparing for the return of the year's biggest four days in National Hunt races- The Cheltenham Festival. With prize money second only to the Grand National, the Cheltenham Festival features some of the best Irish and British trained thoroughbreds raced to an extent that is rarely seen throughout the rest of the season. Six hundred million pounds is expected to change hands during the total of twenty-seven races throughout the course of the four days the Festival takes place, starting on the tenth of March. The first day features the Champion Hurdle and the favourite to win this event is Faugheen; the second day's most popular event is the Queen Mother's Champion Chase, set to be won by Sprinter Sacre with odds of 5/2 ; an up and coming favourite amongst the punters, the Ladbrokes World Hurdle, which takes place on the third day, could be won by the current favourite, Zarkandar, at odds of 5/1 and on the final day, the Cheltenham Gold Cup takes place, featuring a few new names such as Dynaste and Champagne Fever. The favourite to win this event is Silviniaco Conti at odds of 10/3.		

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Prime Minister's Questions Matthew Pegler With Election Day growing nearer, tension is growing between candidates. Many have debated whether PMQ's is good for our democracy or bad. Personally believe it is a good thing as it allows the Prime Minister to be accountable to the MPs and thus accountable to the public that elected them. At noon today the duel began, as per usual with the Prime Minister being questioned about his official engagements for the day. MP Stella Creasy started the events with his question regarding the defense budget. The Prime Minister's response was "we're investing in defense and we will defend our country." There was a range of speakers from all areas such as Naomi Long (Belfast East) to Dan Byles (North Warwickshire). When Ed Miliband was called to talk by John Bercow, the speaker, he began by asking David Cameron "Less than two		months ago the Prime Minister wanted a head to head debate – when did he lose his nerve?" with which the Prime Minister replied "I've offered a date, let's have a debate!" The question ended with the PM being called "pathetic" by the Labor leader. David Cameron then ridiculed Ed Miliband calling his policy "non-existent" and went on to claim he cares not for TV – but only for the country. Douglas Carswell (UKIP) asked the Prime Minister why immigration has gone up he responded with: Britain has created more jobs than any other country in the EU, this makes Great Britain more enticing for migrants. The Long Term Economic Plan was a common theme throughout PMQ's; as the election draws nearer it is not surprising, the Conservatives really want to drill in to those who are watching what they have been doing for 5 years. The NHS then went through a round of questions, with Tory MPs reinforcing the Long Term Economic Plan and how it is helping the NHS. David Cameron next mentioned the new defense equipment program, which will give new servicing contracts and weapons. Prime Minister's Questions closed with a goodbye to Gerry Sutcliffe who is ending his 20 year long career in parliament. Questions today were rather bland, surprising with the election approaching. Ed Miliband seemed to be more interested in the TV debates rather than actual policy. Douglas Carswell was the UKIP voice today; his question was referring to the immigration figures released by Migration-WatchUK, which show that immigration had reached almost 300,000 in 2014. This shamed David Cameron as he claimed he would reduce immigration from both inside and from outside the EU.		
General Election Matthew Pegler On the 7th of May 2015 those at voting age (currently 18, although the next election could see it being changed to 16) will traipse to the polls in their local schools, town halls and community hubs to help elect their MP and thus alter which candidate becomes Prime Minister. Labour and the Conservatives, the two main political parties, are the only parties who will be able to have their leader be Prime Minister due to their huge popularity. There are 6 political parties with significant support across the UK - these being: - Conservatives - Led by David Cameron (Prime Minister) - Labour - Led by Ed Miliband (Leader of the Opposition) - Lib Dems - Led by Nick Clegg (Deputy Prime Minister)		UKIP - Led by Nigel Farage (MEP for South East) Green Party - Led by Natalie Bennett Scottish National Party (SNP) - Led by Nicola Sturgeon (MSP) Although Labour or the Conservatives will be the largest party in the Commons - it is likely if not certain that it will be another coalition given that several Labour and Conservative supporters will be voting UKIP and Greens. For the first time in over 100 years, a General Election may be dictated not by the votes for Labour, The Conservatives or the Liberal Democrats but instead by the votes cast for The Green Party or UKIP.		
Why British Politics is Crippled by the Electoral System James Muir The political landscape and functionality of any modern democracy is widely influenced by the system it uses to choose representatives. Since it is nearly impossible to have a major impact on policy whilst maintaining a full time occupation outside politics, it is crucial that citizens can elect suitable candidates to act on behalf of their interests and beliefs. In the UK, we use the simple plurality or First Past the Post system. This dictates that, in each constituency, the candidate with the most votes will win the seat in parliament and a party with a majority of the seats can form the government. This system has its benefits such as being incredibly quick and efficient to carry out. General elections are over in a day, counted overnight and we usually know what form the government will take by the next morning. Eliminating any extended period of uncertainty is beneficial as it means there is no period of "limbo" in between governments. Another benefit is the fact that it provides what could be described as a "clear cut" government. Since a majority is needed in the House of Commons the government has a clear mandate to create and change policy. This makes for a more effective leadership of the country. However, despite these positive connotations of the FPTP system, it is a method that is severely increasing the democratic deficit of Britain. Since the candidate with the most votes in		a constituency is declared the outright winner, many votes are completely discounted. In some extreme cases, over 60% of the voters in an electoral constituency did not vote for their MP. How can a member claim to have a clear mandate, when only 35% of the people in their own constituency agrees with their policy. The archaic system has also led to massive voter apathy, especially in so-called "safe seats". These are constituencies when one party is so likely to win that most people don't even bother voting.		
				

-Cont. From Pg3

Countless zoos work to bring together individuals in a species who wouldn't otherwise come together in order to maintain genetic diversity and allow for successful breeding in the future. Many others provide funding for breeding programmes conducted within the natural habitats of animals in their care. This is key to preserving wildlife and their environment for future generations who may otherwise miss out due to extinction of severely endangered species such as pandas and tigers. Zoos are also vital for the education of children about the world around them, so that they can gain an understanding from an early age of the importance of preserving the natural world. David Attenborough recently commented on this saying that "People are not going to care about animal conservation unless they think that animals are worthwhile". It is for this reason that zoos are so important, they allow for experiences to be had which allow for connections to be built permanently linking individuals to the natural world, inspiring them to protect it. At the end of the day it is very much down to opinion as to whether zoos are moral or not, they are one of the ways humanity can compensate for the environmental damage which we have inflicted over the last few decades. They allow us to learn more about the amazing creatures in the world around us and inspire children of all ages to continue their important work. But should they even exist? It's down to you to decide.



Charlie Hebdo

By Jay Harris

At 11:30 local time, in Paris, France a beginning of terror loomed over the country. Over the next two days France was to face a series of terrible events carried out by terrorists. A black Citroen C3 drove up to the Charlie Hebdo building. Two masked men who were armed entered the building to begin their attack on innocent people associated with the Charlie Hebdo magazine. The authorities believe the terrorists are linked to the Islamic State attacked Charlie Hebdo associates, because the front cover of their magazine (which was released days before the attacks) was offensive to the Muslim culture, and society. An attack was supposedly then planned, and carried out upon these innocent people, in which many were killed. The next day a police woman was killed in the streets after France was set on high alert, and 500 policemen were deployed. Police initially dismissed the fact that this death was a link to the Charlie Hebdo killings, but they soon found out that this death was connected. Later that day, a petrol station was robbed by the same people near Villers-Cotterets. People in the petrol station said rocket propelled grenades were fired while the terrorists stole supplies from the store. They then fled from the scene of the crime, police later identified the men as Cherif and Said Kourachi. Police were on the trail of the men, but had not found them until Friday, in where they were hiding up in a printing firm, they were then surrounded by elite forces. The brothers kept people, hostage, before finally leaving the building by shooting at the police. They finally were killed later that day, but back in Paris another crime was underway. Two people at a kosher supermarket were taking civilians hostage and they were going to kill them unless the Kourachi brothers were allowed to go free. Explosions and

gunshots were then heard in the supermarket, and specialist forces moved in. The two gunmen were shot dead, and later identified as Amedy Coulibaly and Hayat Boumeddiene. After killing the two gunmen four dead hostages were found, but fifteen were freed. All of these killings were linked to the Charlie Hebdo attacks, and all in an effort to prove a point. But I am sure somewhere around the world there will be more of these attacks, all in an effort to prove a point about religion.

Women on the frontline

By Leah Middleton

Women around the world have fought for the right to be equal to men in matters such as the right to vote, the right to education and other things that women take for granted in the United Kingdom no matter what their age. Female figures such as Malala Yousafzai inspired people all over the world with her tragic story and bravery in order to fight for her own and many other female's right to education. They are still fighting the age old prejudices to overcome obstacles to be seen as equals. As a country that takes prides in its army why is it that in this day and age in Britain women are still not allowed to fight in close combat such as in the Infantry and Armed Corps. So why is it that the men of Britain are still perceived as the stronger sex, and after all these years of fighting and proving we are just as capable as men are women still classed as the weaker sex. Many people feel as if they are fighting a losing battle as its both male and female people who have an important role in society saying that women are physically different and even going as far to say that allowing women on the front lines would make the army less efficient. How could they possibly say and claim to know that when women are having to wait until at least 2016 to have the chance to prove themselves.

The United States of America, Germany and many other countries have already lifted the ban making their armies so much bigger, and in all countries that have lifted the ban are seen as just as effective with both women and men serving than just men if not more. With threats from the Islamic state and the growing disputes around the world including Russia, why is it not one of our first steps to make the Army and Navy of Britain stronger and bigger by using female personnel on the front line in case of more threats? Is it not more important to have a strong and United Nations to stand against future enemies than one divided by prejudiced and old fashioned opinions that are extremely discriminative towards a group of people?



-Cont. From Pg4

Turnout for general elections has been in decline since the nineties and was as low as 65% in 2010, even after the global financial crisis and the MP expenses scandal. The public are becoming disillusioned with politics and politicians

as many of them have no say in who will represent them in parliament.

Even though these issues have always been present with the system and become increasingly embarrassing for the UK in comparison to other world leading countries, the problem is not likely to be directly addressed for some time to come. The main reason for this is that the two big parties, Labour and the Conservatives, stand to benefit from the system. Since concentrated support leads to FPTP success and not widespread national votes, these parties will remain in power, and from this position continue to perpetuate the problem. UKIP may have some very controversial policy on very controversial issues but with nearly a million votes at the 2010 general election, surely they deserve a voice within the House of Commons. In fact, the Liberal Democrats and the Green Party are the only groups with parliamentary seats that include major electoral reform in their policy.

The UK needs to move towards the more representative systems demonstrated in Europe by Germany and France. These Proportional Representation methods of election are clearly fairer and produce a much broader range of candidates to assure all beliefs and cultural backgrounds are given proportional time to be spoken in parliament. If the big two can be shifted on this crucial area of policy, the entire political system would become dramatically more democratic. The vicious cycle needs to be broken.



An Interview with Deputy Head Mrs Wood

Beth Tether and Jessica Matthews

In May 2014 Prince Henry's was awarded National Teaching School Status and much of Mrs Wood's time at the moment is spent attempting to turn this accolade into reality. Broadly speaking, she says that this involves training the next generation of teachers, providing high quality professional development for school staff, and sharing excellent practice between local schools. We interviewed her to find out more about her and her job.

What is the best and worst part of your job?

That's a much more difficult question to answer than it first appears! There are so many enjoyable aspects of my job that it's almost impossible to do them justice here. However, there's no doubt that one of the 'best' parts of my job is when I witness first-hand the success and achievement of pupils at our school. I feel an enormous sense of reward watching our pupils achieve their goals, even if they are just relatively small achievements. That gratification is mirrored in witnessing the achievements of colleagues, and by working with them to make sure we are creating opportunities for all our pupils.

On a daily basis I enjoy the challenge of solving problems and still find a great deal of satisfaction and excitement in the variety of tasks that come my way; one day I might find myself running the Learning Council, working with contractors on our new build, delivering professional studies to our trainee teachers, or planning for the new curriculum changes at A level – there is genuinely never a dull moment! Consequently, perhaps the most challenging thing about my current job is finding the time to keep so many plates spinning, but I'm sure that's true of many jobs!

What do you hope to achieve with the teaching school this year?

I am genuinely excited by the opportunities that Teaching School status can bring to Prince Henry's, hopefully allowing us to continue to recruit the very best teachers to our school. Consequently, I am currently involved in facilitating national professional qualifications to teachers from across Worcestershire who are keen to see the excellent practice we have to offer here.

Alongside the Teaching School, like all the teachers at Prince Henry's at the mo-

tastic teachers whilst at school, particularly at A level, and I would certainly give them credit for nurturing my interest in the subjects that I studied (History, English Literature, French and Art). However, although they did provide me with some inspiration, it was not until I was 20 that I decided to explore teaching as a possible career. So in many ways my decision to become a teacher was not an epiphany, rather the result of some really hard thinking whilst at university. The appeal to me was in being able to do something creative, challenging, and with young people, that also involved my love of history. I was keen for others to experience what I found

pupils that they teach. Similarly, I am inspired by some of our pupils, particularly those who've had to overcome some serious challenges in their personal lives. Their resilience encourages me to remain optimistic and stay focused on solutions rather than problems. My dad, who was a head teacher before he retired, has taught me about how to deal with the pressures of leadership, seeing problems as challenges which can be overcome. Finally, I admire people who work hard in life, whatever their ability, those people who try to turn their dreams into reality.

Has the education system changed for you



ment, I am really focused on preparing pupils for the forthcoming exams. I have spent many hours with my colleagues looking at pupil performance in the mock exams and considering how we can best support our pupils to achieve their very best when the exams start. With that in mind I am currently co-ordinating a research project based on Carol Dweck's Growth Mindsets. This approach looks at ways we can continue to raise aspirations and support all pupils to achieve their very best. I am hoping to train teachers in her methods soon.

Who/ what inspired you to become a teacher?

It's true that I had some fan-

so fascinating. After spending many hours volunteering in a school in Bristol during the third year of my history degree, I soon came to realise that teaching offered a huge sense of personal reward and I have genuinely never looked back.

Who are your current role models?

In the same way that I wasn't directly inspired by one particular teacher, neither do I have one standout role model. However, there are many people around me whom I admire and that I look to for inspiration. Close to home there are my colleagues, who I see working tirelessly each term. I am frequently humbled by the lengths they go to in order to support the

under Nicky Morgan's regime?

Mrs Morgan has taken up her post in the midst of great educational change, much of it introduced by her predecessor Mr Gove. With an election on the horizon I've no doubt there is more change to come as politicians recognize the importance of education to the voting public. I started teaching at Prince Henry's in 1999 so have seen the demise of the 'old' A levels, the introduction of the 'new' AS and A2 levels, and now the changes to GCSE and the de-coupling of AS from A2. Consequently, I have come to accept that managing change is part and parcel of school leadership. In my opinion, having a strong educational philosophy rooted in values such as respect, hard-work,

and equal opportunities, has helped me become more resilient in the face of so many significant changes.

If you could give one piece of advice that's helped you to succeed, what would it be?

Early on in my career I learnt how important it was to listen.

I think we can spend a lot of time hearing what people are saying but when you really listen to someone you are able to become more empathetic and that can help you understand their point of view. That doesn't mean you always have to agree with everything you listen to, it's more about reflecting and responding to what you have heard. If you don't take the time to see things from the point of view of others I think you can make some mistakes.

What was your favourite subject at school and why?

As I'm a teacher of history perhaps there's no surprise it was history, but I also loved English literature. I think it was the mystery that appealed in history, piecing together clues from the past and understanding significant changes in society. There was always so much to learn about, I could always find something fascinating no matter what period of history I was studying. I enjoyed English literature because the books I studied captured my imagination but often made a significant comment about society, they felt important. I was 14 when I first read George Orwell's 'Animal Farm' and I realised English and history were often one and the same.



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A-Levels; Expectation Vs Reality

By Ellie Baldwin

So you spend 3 years of your life completing GCSEs and thinking they are the most difficult thing you have ever had to do. Everyone tells you "A-Levels are so much harder" and you just kind of nod along and agree while really thinking "that's what they all say". What you don't realise, is that what they all say, is actually true.

You start your first day of sixth form thinking that everything will be much easier; the teachers will be nicer and the rules will be less strict. Congratulations you can now use your mobile without breaking the rules; but not in the playground, not in the corridor, not in the classrooms, not in the café and not all the times that you actually want to use it.

Teachers will tell the lower school that it is very different in sixth form, that the teachers will treat you like adults (because obviously all adults still have to

ask to go to the toilet). In some cases this is true; yes SOME rules are less strict like being able to wear nail varnish (because this clearly affects our education) and the teachers are a lot more approachable especially because you have smaller classes. But school is still school. You are still expected to do your work, you are still expected to actually turn up to lessons and you are still expected to try hard.

This being said, sixth form is definitely worth all the stress that you go through. Although it is not for everyone, it definitely helps when deciding on your future career (especially if you want to go to university). Students who go to sixth form are there because they want to be there, not because they have to. This makes a huge difference to your lessons because you are actually able to get on with things and feel like you are learning a lot, which is obviously the point.

All in all, I would recommend going to a sixth form. It may not live up to everything you expected but to be honest,

nothing ever does. It gives you so much more than you first thought it could; making new friends, learning new skills, gaining confidence and having a more relaxed relationship with the staff.

Join sixth form to enhance your education and give you the boost you need for your future.



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Battle of Evesham — 750th Anniversary

By Michael Lear

In 1265, Evesham was the location of one of the bloodiest battles in medieval history. It would become a pivotal moment that would shape the fundamental way in which England was ruled for hundreds of years to come.

Simon de Montfort became one of the most important figures of the medieval era when in January 1265, after overthrowing King Henry III a year earlier, he called the first parliament that was truly representative of the people. It was a remarkable step forward for democracy.

As Earl of Leicester, Simon de Montfort began his rebellion in 1258. He was part of a group of barons determined to take the role of parliament further than ever before. Reluctantly, the king signed the Provi-

sions of Oxford. This document stated that not only would parliament grant taxes for the monarch, as Magna Carta established, but that it would also be involved with a much wider range of issues and now meet 3 times a year. Unhappy with the restraints on his power, Henry III soon defied the Provisions. Civil war broke out, 378 years before the much more well-known conflict between Charles I and Oliver Cromwell. In May 1264, Simon de Montfort emerged victorious at the Battle of Lewes and imprisoned the King and his son, the heir to the throne, Prince Edward.

De Montfort's spell in power was short-lived and his motivations for creating a representative parliament can be questioned. Certainly, his desire for greater power turned his allies against him, most notably when he lost the support of the Earl of Gloucester to the king. This was a disas-

ter for De Montfort, who soon found himself waging another war. It culminated in the Battle of Evesham, a fight considered extremely brutal even by medieval standards.

The morning of the 4th August 1265, lookouts on the tower of Evesham Abbey alerted De Montfort to the presence of an army led by the escaped Prince Edward. Taking the still captive king out with him to meet Edward's waiting soldiers close to the top of Greenhill, within walking distance of the school today. Edward wanted to silence the rebel opposition permanently. Fleeing troops were pursued into the town and slain; some were even killed within the religious boundaries of the abbey.

The significance of Simon de Montfort as "the father of the House of Commons" undoubtedly places Evesham firmly on the historical map. 750 years on, a

£1.9 million Building

By Lydia Webster

Prince Henry's High School is undergoing a £1.9million building project to replace the old Modern Language block.

During the process so far the builders have encountered multiple problems due to water pipes, electrical wires and plumbing in positions that had not been accounted for. If they had broken or destroyed any of the wires or pipes there would have been problems for the school. The problems were found just before Christmas; luckily the weather was perfect apart from a few wet and rainy days, there were no snow days. If there had been any snow days the builders would not have been able to carry on laying down the foundations.

The completion date for the building is to be November. This date has been changed several times due to the occurrences of problems.

Since Christmas the

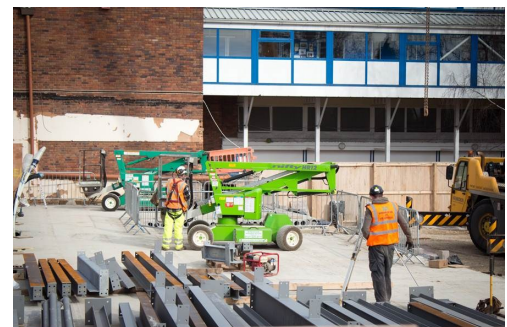
problems have been limited, thanks to good planning from the site manager.

Today they were planning on putting up the "steels" or frames, to do that they need to bolt the struts to the "steels" in the foundations. The crane will be a huge benefit to the builders work. Mr Hopkins, a caretaker, said, "It is like big boys' meccano." The new building will have a rendering on it like the rendering on the Pavilion.

The new Modern Languages block will have twelve purpose-built state of the art classrooms, an enhanced office space and an ICT server room. Dr A Evans commented, "The new building will allow our students to learn in an environment they truly deserve and will serve for many generations to come."

The funding is thanks to the Academies Capital Maintenance Fund for 2014/2015.

The person in charge of gaining the funding was Dr Evans' Business Manager, Zoe Smith. The Capital Maintenance application was supported by Sir Peter Luff MP.



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town that became the centre of a vicious battle for greater democracy in England deserves to be remembered.



Worcestershire Teen Book Award

By Olivia Edwards and Libby Phillips

The Worcestershire Teen Book Award is an award which starts with a broad variety of books being taken into schools. Classes then look at the books in a "speed dating" session to decide which 6 books they liked based on the cover and blurb. These top books were then read by a group of pupils in year 9. The team voted on which they liked best. All the votes from different schools are counted to decide on an overall winner, which will be announced on 19th march. Night Runner, Tim Bowler: The book starts by engulfing you in the world of a boy who is part of a family without much money. However you are constantly reminded throughout the book about how it has recently been getting worse for the child,

Zinny. Zinny is the main character of the book and you follow him all the way through the dark and dangerous world in which he lives.

The Shadow of the Wolf, Tim Hall:

In a twisted story of Robin Hood, Tim Hall has produced an original, savage, powerful and incredibly moving story. He captures the harshness and darkness of the ancient woodland so vividly, it is like the author himself has slid back in time. Robin and Marian are shown in a way you have never seen before.

The Killing Woods, Lucy Christopher:

A girl has been found dead in the woods behind Emily's house and now her father is being accused of murdering her. Emily's life is suddenly turned upside down and with her Father suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and flashbacks, he can't remember what really happened that night. Determined to find out what really happened,

Emily seeks out the one person who might have some answers, the dead girl's boyfriend, Damon. Damon is hiding his own secrets, secrets that he shares with his friends. Is there something more deadly happening in woods? And what really did happen that night?

Thirteen, Tom Hoyle: Thirteen follows a cult group lead by their crazed leader, Coron, on their mission to eliminate all children born on the stroke of the new millenium. They have one child left to destroy- Adam. This fast paced book follows Adam's fight to survive and uncover the truth about himself and the people who want him dead.

This book was very easy to read and very hard to put down. The characters are bold, brave and diverse which makes for a fast paced adventure. I loved the concept and the storyline. 9/10 Say Her Name, James Dawson:

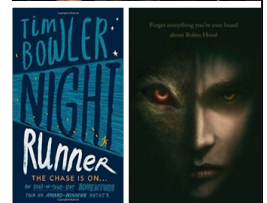
Roberta 'Bobbie' Rowe is not the kind of person who believes in ghosts. A Halloween dare at her ridiculously spooky boarding school is nothing special, especially when her best friend Naya and cute local boy Caine agree to join in too. They are ordered to summon the legendary ghost of Bloody Mary and say her name five times in front of a candlelit mirror, and she will appear...But, surprise surprise, nothing happens. Or does it?

Smart, Kim Slater:

'I told them everything. I told them how the homeless man's body just looked like rags in the water. I told them the police thought he was drunk and fell in. I told them that I thought he'd been murdered'. 'Smart' is a very well written children's novel about a crime scene but with a very unusual detective.

Everybody who participated in the book sessions voted on which book they liked the most.

In first place came The Killing Woods, in second place was Thirteen, in third place was Say Her Name, fourth was Smart, fifth was Night runner and in last place with 1 vote was The Shadow of the Wolf. Everyone enjoyed the meetings and we await



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news of the final winner!

Mark Robson Goes To School

By Mia Townsend and Kiya Haines

Reading is a complex interaction between the text and reader which is shaped by an author's imagination when put down on paper then transformed into a story. But how do we know what is really in the creator's mind? How do they convert all those ideas into something as special as a story? This week, as part of a world book day visit, an author paid our school a visit, his name is Mark Robson and we asked on behalf of all readers what goes through his mind when putting a story together.

What do you love about writing?

It is an escape. A way to be in control of your own world. You can be your own God and you can create your own people. It's an excellent way to have a whole world at your fingertips. You are in control and no one can tell you what to do.

Where do you get your inspiration from?

All around me. Everywhere I go. Unlike most authors, I don't have a "special writing place". Someone like Roald Dahl had a shed at the bottom of the garden. I can't work like that. I start by finding a coffee shop, and that's where I spend a good four to five hours working. Letting my imagination run wild. People also help me. I use my day-to-day experiences, as well as my past as a pilot.

Do you have any ideas for the next book?

Yes. My daughter and I are actually going to write this next book together on three different types of readers. About how reading gives you super powers, how it mentally and physically affects your way of living life.

Do you have any advice for new writers?

If you write a little bit every day you can really get some-

where with your imagination and get creative You just need that attention to detail to come up with something special. Keep writing what you enjoy if you don't then you start to think of it as a chore. Just keep your mind open to imagination. Having had the chance to meet Mark Robson, this has inspired us to think creatively and write our ideas down to try and further our abilities in writing. His story in life told us to stay open-minded and focus on not only school, but outside activities too. He taught us that his perseverance and determination got him into the RAF as well as an author. It was a privilege to talk to Mark and we cannot very popular with both students and staff and raised money for our charities World book day was also celebrated by a book swap in the Learning Resource was very popular with both students and staff and raised money for our charities.



K-Pop- 'The Korean Wave'

By Alice Weaver

'K-Pop' is the abbreviation for South Korean Pop music, a term used to describe a global Sub-Culture of dedicated fans who follow the styling and mannerisms of the artists, showing universal interest in modern Korean Culture.

'K-Pop' is distinctive from other genres in the respect that appearance, such as unique outfit concepts and even extensive cosmetic surgery are just as important as the music.



Furthermore 'idols' train extensively, with hectic day-to-day schedules, including persistent lessons such as choreography and vocal training which often relinquishes their rights to date freely as well as entering into extreme dieting.

This method of training has created controversy, with several often high-profile Korean celebrities suing or quitting due to issues with their rights; it has often been criticised by western organisations as 'unethical'. 'Idols' enter into this rigorous programme from an age as early as 11, and must then compete against other trainees being tested on their motivation and dedication.

'K-Pop' therefore continues to sweep global charts with the rise of social media meaning that its artists can reach an extensive number of nations, will this mean we will be seeing a global turning point in the music industry?

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The Detox Diet

By Olivia Edwards

Many young people are trying to get the perfect celebrity figure without having to put in much effort. This often resorts to new weight loss tricks such as Detox diets, but do they really work?

The diet is based on the idea that toxins build up in the body and can be removed by eating, or not eating, certain things. However, there's no evidence that toxins build up in our bodies. If they did, we would constantly be feeling ill. The human body is naturally designed to purify itself. Like many other diets, the Detox Diet is ridiculously low in calories, which is assumed to improve weight loss. However these diets can have harmful side effects, especially for teens. Normal teenagers need enough calories and protein to support rapid growth and development. Diets involving severe restriction to proteins, dairy products and carbohydrates are not a good idea.

Many supplements used during a Detox Diet are actually laxatives, which are designed to make you go to the bathroom more frequently than usual. They aren't a good idea as they can cause dehydration, mineral imbalance and problems with the digestive system.

During the diet you are effectively fasting because you are only drinking low calorie items such as a glass of water with lemon juice squeezed into it for your breakfast. A healthy breakfast should contain plenty of fibre and carbohydrates and sit around the 400 calorie mark.

Detox Diets don't help you lose fat. People who stick to the diet for a few days may lose some weight but it will be water and maybe some muscle. Most people regain their weight after completing the programme.

The diet is only short term. Fasting for long periods of time can slow down the metabolism, making it harder to lose weight later on.

In conclusion, there is no scientific evidence to support the claim that the Detox Diet is effective or sustainable for a long period of time. They are not often what they are made out to be by companies trying to sell weight loss products and the media. Nevertheless, if you have been cutting back on alcohol, processed foods and sugar in preference to homemade meals with more fruit and vegetables, lean meats and whole grain you will almost certainly feel better.



Included by kind permission of BBCGoodFood.

Ebola

By Josh Sellick

The current outbreak of Ebola has been named the deadliest since the disease was discovered in 1976. In fact, the current epidemic sweeping across the region has now killed more than all other known Ebola outbreaks combined.

The total number of reported cases (as of 10th February 2015) is 22,999 with 9,268 deaths in six countries – including Mali, Sierra Leone and Guinea. Also the World Health Organisation (WHO) say that these figures are underestimates as collecting this kind of data is very difficult.

In March 2014, hospital staff alerted Guinea's Ministry of Health of a mysterious disease in

the south-eastern regions of Gueckedou, Macenta, Nzerekore, and Kissidougou. It caused fever, diarrhoea and vomiting. It also had a high death rate. Of the first 86 cases, 59 people died. The WHO later confirmed the disease as Ebola.

Spanish nurse Teresa Romero was the first person to contract the virus outside West Africa. She was part of a team of about 30 staff at the Carlos II hospital in Madrid looking after two missionaries who returned from Liberia and Sierra Leone after becoming infected.

The first case of the deadly virus diagnosed on US soil was announced on 1 October. Thomas Eric Duncan, 42, contracted the virus in Liberia before travelling to the US he died on October 8th. He had not displayed symptoms of the disease until 24 September, five days after his arrival. Other people with whom he came into contact with are being monitored for symptoms. Two medical workers in Dallas, Texas, who treated Duncan tested positive for Ebola since his death but have both recovered.

A cure for Ebola is high on the United Nations' agenda, the research efforts are immense. As there are no clinically proven vaccines or cures for Ebola virus, experimental trials are underway in West Africa. Currently the most promising cure would be to take blood donated by survivors of Ebola and inject it into suffering patients. Scientists say that the antibodies developed whilst fighting the virus will remain in the blood and therefore be transferred into the blood of the suffering patient and help to fight the virus.

There is growing - but certainly guarded - talk within the World Health Organi-

zation that the overall number of new cases is leveling off. Officials have said they now expect the figure to stick at around 1,000 fresh cases each week. It is in sharp contrast to the early phase of the outbreak when the number was doubling every three to four weeks. Even if it is confirmed, 1,000 cases per week is still no cause for celebration. That would be the equivalent of every other Ebola outbreak in history happening every fortnight. Any attempt to claim Ebola is being contained is "like saying your pet tiger is under control", as the WHO's Dr Bruce Aylward put it last week.

There is still clearly a huge amount of work ahead before Ebola virus can be deemed under control but considering the time and effort going into the fighting of the virus I would hope that this crisis will be over soon

Defeating Diabetes

By Georgia Wilcox

British scientists have begun research into a vaccine which could change thousands of lives across the globe.

One of the greatest issues faced by modern societies today is the widespread effects of diabetes, with over 3.2 million people in the UK diagnosed by 2013 with thousands of cases going undiagnosed leading to many further health problems. Current treatments of this life-long disease are ongoing and temporary, these include regular insulin injections and also cell transplants.

Type 1 Diabetes involves insulin deficiency due to the low levels of insulin producing cells in the body, it is this type which is generally involved

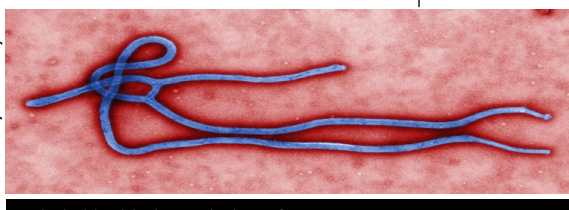
with cases of diabetes in children however, it only accounts for 10% of

diagnosed cases. The other 90% of cases are down to type 2 diabetes, which is the insufficient production of insulin or bodies' resistance to it, this type is generally developed due to dietary rather than genetic factors as in type 1.

There are also many secondary effects of diabetes on other aspects of health, statistics showed that people with diabetes are up to 5 times more likely to suffer from coronary heart disease than those who aren't affected by it. This comes as a great expense to the tax payer, with over £14 billion being spent by the NHS on treatment of diabetes every year.

But things are about to change as trials for a breakthrough vaccine which could become a long term solution are about to commence. This drug aims to treat Type 1 diabetes by preventing the damage and depletion of cells which produce insulin. This would allow the body to naturally increase its own insulin levels and would reduce the necessity of regular insulin injections, greatly increasing the freedom of those affected by diabetes.

The project is launched today, research has already begun at The Kings College London and it hopes to provide this solution for children and teenagers within the next 10 years. Diabetes UK has provided £4.4 million funding with the help of Tesco and JDRF Diabetes Research Charity, they hope to provide further funding over the coming years in order to support the completion of the trials and production of a working solution to the problem faced by so many. Dr Alasdair Rankin, director of research at Diabetes commented on the project stating, "This research is hugely exciting because it has the potential to change the lives of hundreds of thousands of people as well as leading us towards a longed for cure."



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Will a change in packaging lead to a change in habit?

By Amber Osborne

The "stop smoking" campaign is in full swing and there is a stronger emphasis to kick the habit now than ever before. The debate, once again, has reappeared on the political agenda with more controversy on how packaging may be a key weapon in reducing the amount of smokers, especially targeting the youth of the UK.

Smoking has not always been portrayed in such a negative way, once upon a time it was associated with big brands such as Formula 1 and made one the very height of Hollywood fashion. The "Marlboro man" image was one that was one of glamour and style which strongly juxtaposes the reality and damaging consequences of the habit. It was not until 1957 when a report by the UK medical Research Council displayed the direct link between smoking and the onset of lung cancer.

This report set out a series of events that led to the campaign against smoking. 1965 saw a complete ban of televised cigarette advertisements and all forms of cigarette advertising was introduced in phases by 2005. More memorable actions against smoking include the smoking ban in 2006-2007 which has been described as "one of the most important public health acts in the last century".

In the last couple of years graphic images and videos have been used which convey the dire consequences of smoking. Rotting teeth, tumours and oozing black tar are used as posters, television adverts and in some countries even on the packages themselves. The World Health Organisation claims that the use of pictures "significantly enhances the effectiveness" of the warning messages.

Current controversy however, relates to how the packaging may effect children. Presently packaging displays bold messages and

a range of colours. Most campaigners believe that the focus group of the anti-smoking battle should be young people with 200,000 11-15 year olds starting every year. Some critics believe that the use of colour and "smoking kills" would appeal more to youths, who would become excited with the connotations of 'forbidden fruit' and that the introduction of a "standard" plain packaging would be more appropriate.

Unsurprisingly the cigarette industry is fighting back, identifying that the total consumption of cigarettes and tobacco fell in the first quarter of 2014 and that the plain packaging will only make it easier for smugglers to make money out counterfeiting.

So the big debate is: will standardised "plain" packaging save the children of the UK from smoking?

Is enough being done to help children with mental health disorders?

By Rhiannah May-Byrd



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One in ten children have a mental health disorder. Early identification of a problem and early intervention to provide support are key to helping and improving the outcomes.

It is often hard to distinguish between normal adolescent behaviour and what is an indication of a disorder. It is vital that teacher, parents and guardians become aware of the warning signs in order to be available to provide help to young people and help them recognise when adolescent tur-

moil may be moving onto a mental health problem or disorder.

But, what can be done to help in schools? Teaching about mental health and wellbeing in PSHE curriculum regularly and telling pupils that coming forward with their problems is not a sign of weakness.

Schools can also include into the biology curriculum about brain development to give students a better understanding of how the brains of those with mental disorders are different. If schools and carers can come together to recognise a child's disability before it turns into a problem, then that child's enjoyment of school and life could greatly improve. If schools can become stricter in their approach to bullying and listen to parents concerns, schools will become a place where children can feel safe to talk about their problems.

Fashionably Busy

By Pippa Bayliss

This year Interact bought fashion to the Prince Henry's stage, organising an evening of fashion, music and charity fun. The aim of the evening was to raise funds for the international charity Make A Wish Foundation, and the local organisation Working World. With support from students and teachers, Interact managed to raise a fantastic total for the charities which hold a place close to the hearts of many. The evening of sparkles, glamour, and sophistication kicked off with a vintage collection, followed by the genius musical talents of a student band known as The Harts. Their Indie style fitted the night's atmosphere perfectly, stirring up the crowd and giving a buzz to both the audience and the models. Prince Henry's very own Gok Wann (James Colby) took to the floor several times during the evening, playing the role of a fashion guru, transforming two busy and

stressed Year 11 students into prom princes and princesses. The comedic value of James' humour struck a chord with the audience, and by the end of their act the audience was feeling excited and ready to see the models in the next clothing line. Festival, grunge, going out and prom were the four other styles which our models epitomised as they strutted down the catwalk, framed by a dazzled audience.



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During the interval, Interact took to selling the clothes which had been so beautifully modelled. All clothing had been either donated from students and teachers, or sourced from the local charity shops. The

clothes sales were a huge success, and many bought our vintage gems as a result of the inspiring outfits worn during the first half of the show. A local bridal boutique also joined in with the selling on the night, and one of Interacts' own models wore one of their stunning Cinderella prom dresses to an admiring crowd in the second half.

The second half kicked off with another incredible song from The Harts, and was followed by the Interact Raffle. Members of the team had been out to the community to source many incredible prizes for the raffle, and had gained a fantastic response. As a result, many members of the audience left at the end of the night with great prizes, including a free meal for two at the Northwick hotel, a free day membership at the Leisure Centre, Easter hampers, and an iPod Shuffle.

After the models had shown off the clothes collections, they all collected at the end of the catwalk to

give one big finale to the beat given by the fantastic DJ of the night. All the way through the event the effort from technicians, models, musicians and back stage crew had been flawless, and gave way to a spectacular event. Interact would therefore like to thank anyone who came or helped to make the night such a huge success.



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Behind the scenes of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'

By Lauren King and Ellen Day

This Shakespearean classic is now being retold by the students of Prince Henry's High School in this year's highly anticipated school play. The original play was

written by William Shakespeare in around 1593, but has been reinvented time and time again in many different ways, which goes to show that a play written around 400 years ago can still be relevant to today's modern audiences. Prince Henry's fantastic Drama and Music Departments are collaborating to make this year's school play one to remember. Full of talented actors, marvellous direction by head of Drama, Mrs Cook, beautiful sets and colourful costumes, not to mention a wonderful live orchestra and plenty of hard work from the backstage crew. This play will surely be a huge success, with the first show on Thursday 19th March. Don't forget to grab your tickets now!

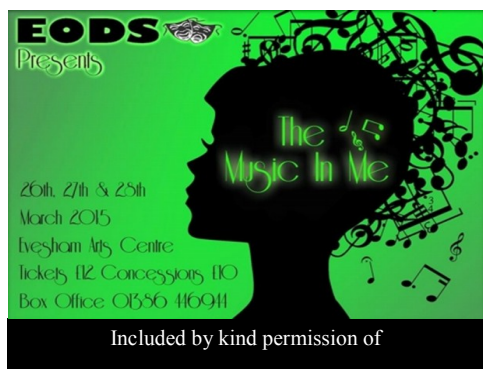


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EOSD Presents The Music In Me

By Ellie Baldwin

Once again the members of Evesham Operatic and Dramatic Society have come together to produce this fantastic heart-warming show. The Music in Me is all about those special moments when a song has touched your heart. The reasons behind the choice of music come from the performers themselves as they dance and sing the songs that shaped their lives.



The Time Warp, Holding Out For A Hero and Make You Feel My Love are just a few of the song choices for this year's show along with big dance numbers such as Blackbird and A Thousand Years. The cast have largely contributed to the ideas for this show as they themselves have suggested the songs that mean something to them.

Director Chloe French said "The Music in Me is a really exciting project for EOSD." It brings together songs from stage shows such as Fame and Wicked and popular artists such as Queen and Michael

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Evesham Abbey Bell Tower

By Amber Osborne

Evesham is a town of great architectural brilliance with the cornerstone of our prowess being the Abbey, and more significantly the Bell Tower. In 1531 the

Buble.

The cast have been working hard at rehearsals since October 2014 under the direction of Chloe French and are eager to share the music that has inspired them. Several students from Prince Henry's High School will be taking part in this spectacular show so come and support them at Evesham Arts Centre.

Previous performances by EOSD include Sweeney Todd and Beauty and The Beast. Both well-known shows went down

really well with the audience members. The previous show written by EOSD (The Showstoppers) was highly successful and all members of the group thoroughly enjoyed it. EOSD hope to make The Music in Me their next success.

The show is on from the 26th – 28th March so get your tickets now! They are available from the Box Office (01386 446944). Tickets cost £12 or £10 for concessions

[@EODS_tweets](https://www.facebook.com/eveshamarts)
www.eods.org.uk

Bell Tower was built by the last true Abbot of Evesham Clement Lichfield and stands proud in the grounds of the magnificent All Saints Church.

It is the final reminder of the original Abbey which was constructed many years

Local Music Scene

By Ben Coley

In a day of technology as the world becomes continually smaller, we are all aware of the new Robbie Williams album, or Ed Sheeran's world tour or Mumford and Sons' sell out shows. But how much would you pay for to see these huge shows by these huge artists in the best venues? £60? £100? That's beside the point; there are in fact fantastic unsigned artists who are playing right on your doorstep, in some small and intimate venues.

Around Worcestershire the music scene is larger than anticipated, with plenty of bars, clubs, pubs and theatre's in local areas such as Evesham, Redditch, Worcester and Malvern.

On top of that there is a large quantity of unsigned artists, who, believe it or not aren't that bad! In terms of venues, perhaps one of the most enjoyable place to see a gig is at The Marrs Bar in Worcester. After an extensive 14 month renovation, it is now one of Worcester's premier live music venues, which the owners claim to have "been designed with the musician in mind". Artists featured there this week have included the critically acclaimed, guitar virtuoso 'Jon Gomm', as

before in around 710AD.

To uninformed onlookers our beautiful tower may look in pristine condition, quite rightly so, with its virtually intact exterior and an active bell ringing society. Unfortunately, this is far from the truth.

As discovered in the summer of 2013 our Bell Tower is far from fighting fit. It has had reconstruction work in its previous 500 years of service but the last time it was maintained was over 60 years ago in the 1950s. This alongside number of harsh winters, has left the tower in desperate need of care.

A target of £500,000 has



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well as 'Guns Or Roses' who are a 'Guns & Roses' tribute band. Moochers Jailhouse in Stourbridge is another vibrant venue which is a great place to see local music. Moochers prides itself as being "the best night out in Stourbridge", and features live music from established, upcoming and new bands. These budding musicians will be more than satisfied with the controlled lighting rig, as well as the large PA system in place for optimum sound quality.

One venue which is certainly on the rise is The Iron Road Rock Bar in Evesham, which is now under new ownership and is beginning to establish itself as a great music venue for a good night out. 'The Guildhall' in Gloucester, despite being a slightly bigger and more established live music venue, features many under the radar artists, another great place to discover new music.

With summer fast approaching only one word springs to mind - Festivals.

been set to cover current and future repairs. This is indeed a hefty sum to raise, an opinion confirmed by Gillian Nicholls who is co-ordinating the fund raising, "it will not be an easy task raising the funds that we need".

But in true community spirit local "Eveshamites" have not let the fear of reaching such a large target prevent progress. Since fundraising began in June 2013 £470,000 has been raised. This massive and ever growing total is thanks to the hard work and organisation of the Bell Tower appeal committee who have organised everything from concerts to cycling events. £10,000 was also donated in De-

Perhaps instead of spending lots of money and venturing afar to go to the likes of 'Reading & Leeds' or 'Glastonbury' festival. You could turn your attention to local festivals. 'Lakefest' in Tewkesbury is to some extent the best local festival, which takes place at the start of August at Croft Farm Waterpark. At only £90 for a full weekend ticket you can watch some budding new bands on the BBC Introducing stage as well as seeing some classic artists on the main stage like 'The Buzzcocks' and 'Dr & the Medics' who were at last years festival. Smaller local festivals include: Nozstock Festival - Bromyard, Colwall Family Music Festival - Ledbury, Jazz Festival - Malvern and Worcester Music Festival. Whether it be a local show or a local festival, a local band or a local DJ, Worcestershire certainly caters for all.

cember 2014, by the National Churches Trust whose aim is to promote and support places of Christian denomination.

Even as the £500,000 target draws nearer, events are still in full swing. Local establishments like the Vale Golf Club are hosting a meal in March and sponsors are required for Committee Chairwoman Sue Abeltt's participation in the London Marathon.

For more information regarding any aspect of the Evesham Bell Tower appeal as well as getting involved in events or donating please visit www.eveshambelltower.org.uk.



The End of Cinema as We Know It?

By James Muir

As the Oscars showcase some of the greatest filmmaking ever, why are people still flocking to see Terminator 7: The Jurasic Die Hard?

We are in a golden age for cinema. This is evidenced

If this is the direction Hollywood is headed I don't like it one bit. In ten years the trend could take over the film industry entirely. I don't know about you (someone obviously enjoys the genre) but I don't want to live in a world where a trip to the cinema is akin to falling down the stairs. With the

tioned Interstellar for example had me gripping the edge of the seat whilst also being blown away by perfectly lifelike space scenes. It just doesn't seem to make sense that people settle for dreary, predictable thrillers when there are high-tension, well produced action films being released regularly.



by the recent Oscar nominations. We can go and see the American Sniper: a dramatic interpretation of an incredibly moving true story or The Theory of Everything: a tear jerking biopic of one of the greatest minds in human history, and even Interstellar: a science fiction epic to rival 2001, which was nominated for a few minor awards such as Best Visual Effects and Best Score. It says a lot about the quality of filmmaking when my favourite movie of 2014 didn't feature in any of the more prestigious Oscar categories.

My quarrel however isn't with directors, actors or even producers, it is with the viewers. The highest grossing film of 2014 by taking over \$200,000 was Transformers: Age of Extinction. The fourth film in Michael Bay's critically slated series about large pieces of metal colliding with other large pieces of metal was no revolution to the recipe. It followed the same formula as its predecessors: doubtful storyline with more holes than a cheese grater. The lead female actor that fell straight off a catwalk and enough mangled steel to reconstruct New York after the comic book robots have traipsed on through.

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advancement of 3D and even 4D technology that heightens the immersion of movies you might even experience pain along with the on screen actors. I thought A Good Day to Die Hard was painful enough.

Only two of the top twenty highest grossing films of all time come from original source material. It appears that imagination is spread so thin through Hollywood that only Christopher Nolan, James Cameron and Quentin Tarantino possess any. The number of movies closely based on comics and books is astronomical and when that well ran dry, people just started making exactly the same movies again. Robocop (2014), Total Recall (2012) and Godzilla (2014) are some examples that spring to mind. CGI has improved leaps and bounds from twenty years ago, but that does not give you an excuse to copy and paste the same script and put pretty filters on it.

If you were truly desperate for an action filled movie with spectacular special effects there's no reason it can't be paired with an engaging plot. The aforementioned



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Best of British

By Ben Coley

On Wednesday 25th February one of the biggest nights in music returned in all its glory to the O2 Arena. With hot competition in each category, and world class performances from the likes of Madonna, Royal Blood, Taylor Swift and Sam Smith, the Brit Awards 2015 was certainly another night to remember.



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The most prestigious award of the evening for 'Album of the Year' was this year awarded to Ed Sheeran, a man who has sold out three nights at Wembley Stadium - on his own. Ed Sheeran received the award for his multi-platinum "X", whilst also walking away with another beautiful trophy (designed by Tracey Emin) for 'British Male Solo Artist', and when up against artists such as Paolo Nutini, this is a very impressive achievement indeed. Sam Smith was also frequently in the limelight; winning both the 'Global Success' and 'British Breakthrough' trophies, not to mention his breathtaking performance.

In amongst the heavily populated pop nominations, rock made its mark with Royal Blood, the rock duo won the category 'British Group', as a result of their electrifying live shows and their very successful self-titled debut album. This result however was somewhat unexpected as they were up against the very popular rivals 'One Direction', who only walked away with one award. Great success was also seen in the female cate-

gories, with Paloma Faith taking home the award of 'British Female Solo Artist', which, judging by her reaction and lengthy speech, made her very happy. Taylor Swift also stepped up to claim her award for 'International Female Artist' after opening the whole event with her



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performance of 'Blank Space' from her new album '1989'.

Other Brit Award winners include: Pharrell Williams (International Male), Mark Ronson (Song) and Foo Fighters (International Group).

Despite the roaring success of the Brit Awards, with all its expected glitz and glamour galore also came its disaster; it's always the way! Unfortunately, during Madonna's first performance at the Brit Awards in 20 years' Madonna was pulled off a platform on the stage and landed on her back, partway through her song. However, despite the audience at home wincing and the live audience cringing, the Queen of Pop lifted herself up and finished her performance with true professionalism. Thankfully, after the night Madonna put a message out to fans saying



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Batman: Arkham Knight!

By Maria Keane

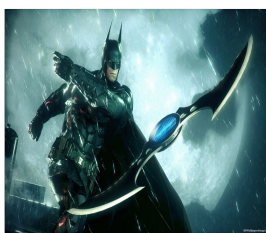
Rocksteady's final game in the Arkham Asylum game series is due to be released in June 2015. This is going to be a great final game to the series. Gotham City's most notorious criminals, Two-face, Penguin and Harley Quinn, are united under The Scarecrow, the main antagonist, who has not been seen in person since Arkham Asylum as a secondary antagonist.

The title of the game is also the name of the new original villain who is an equal to Batman. This new villain wears a Batman style battle suit painted with the Arkham A. This villain's true identity is unknown and there are many fan ideas of who the Arkham knight is. One villain is nowhere to be seen. After the tragic death of recurring villain, The Joker (who has been the main antagonist of Arkham

Asylum, Arkham City and Arkham Origins), in Arkham City the gateway has been opened for other villains to torment The Dark Knight.

One edition to Arkham Knight is a driveable Batmobile that carries non-lethal slam rounds, missile barrage (unmanned drones only), 60mm cannon (unmanned drones only), and immobiliser missiles (unmanned drones only). The Batmobile gives players a fun and easy way to navigate the city of Gotham. The Riddler has returned to the game for a third time but has grown bored with his signature riddled and has set up racetracks for you to complete.

The only question on everybody's mind however is: Who is the Arkham Knight?



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CATFISH AND THE BOTTLEMEN - THE BALCONY

By Ben Coley

With this rock quartet naming themselves after a busker, and coming from a small town called Llandudno, 'Catfish and the Bottlemen' were surely just another number in the struggling "under the radar" crowd - not exactly. The group have catapulted into the wider world with youthful energy and growing likability, and the band's debut album "The Balcony" exemplifies their hard work.

"The Balcony" commences with "Homesick", which soon flourishes into loud electric guitars and a chorus typical of 'stadium rock'. The song is somewhat frustratingly short, nonetheless it starts the album off with fantastic forcefulness. The most recent single from the album "Kathleen" is unquestionably the crowning glory of "The Balcony", consisting of pounding drums and soaring choruses all tied together with an exceptional melody. "Kathleen" is sure to see a few repeat buttons being pressed.

It is clear that after only two songs in, 'Catfish and the Bottlemen' have firmly established themselves as a band worthy of the attention surrounding them. Despite this, after the success of the first half of the album, both "Business" and "26" fail to succeed in bringing anything new to the table, which unfortunately causes 'The Balcony' to briefly lose its

sense of purpose. The album's redemption soon comes in "Rango", which, with its chiming guitars certainly strikes a chord with the listener.

The finale "Tyrants", despite receiving much critical acclaim, falls slightly shy of the "triumphant" and "epic" mark which a rock album should perhaps have. However, a total disappointment? It is not. "Tyrants" rounds off the splendid effort produced by "Catfish and the Bottlemen" in style. "The Balcony" will be in the limelight for a good while no doubt.



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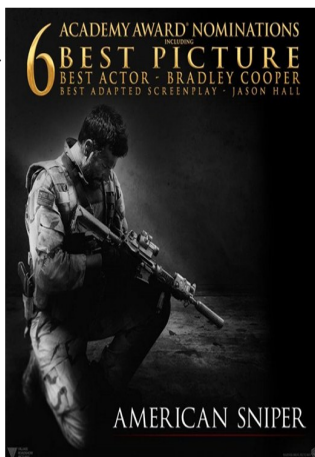
Cooper calls the shots

By Mathew Dunnnett

The life of a soldier in the army is troublesome, but what if you're a sniper in the US army? but not just any sniper, the most lethal sniper in American history. Then you have Bradley Cooper playing you in a blockbuster film that has taken the world by storm and, as the picture above emphasises, has been lucky enough to be nominated for six academy awards including Cooper for best actor. It's easy to see why. Cooper is outstanding as Clark Kyle, an American soldier that has to face up to the title of being the sniper that protects the troops as they go into battle with the Taliban in the Iraq war. Apart from the fact that this is an obvious attempt of propaganda

from Hollywood to promote the superiority of the American army against the enemy, the performances from Cooper and co-star Sienna Miller as his frustrated wife who just wants to see her husband have shown the romantic side of this film. With soldiers on patrol and scenes including raids on houses looking for Taliban henchmen all adds to the action and drama. The gruesome scene depicting a child having a drill go through his knee and head is not for the faint hearted, but is in a minority as the majority of this movie focussing on Kyle's dynamic with his wife. Other enigmatic characters including his fellow soldiers and his rival sniper from the Taliban, who seems to be just as accomplished as Kyle. This

leads another twist to a story that may be controversial in reality, but no doubt has been portrayed with another great acting performance from Cooper.



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"The Theory of Everything"

By Ellen Day and Lauren King

This BAFTA winning film follows the extraordinary story of world renowned astrophysicist, Stephen Hawking. It shows all points of his life. Starting as a young man studying at Cambridge, who then fell in love with fellow student, Jane Wilde. His life took a dramatic turn when at age 21, he was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) also known as motor neurone disease. The film emphasizes his struggle with the disease, along with his scientific work on general relativity, all of which with Jane at his side. An amazing film overall, a little emotional at times, but due to the severe reality of the story, this is to be expected. Director James Marsh did a wonderful job of bringing Stephen Hawking's life to the big screen. The whole

cast gave brilliant performances, but the show was clearly stolen by Eddie Redmayne, who convincingly portrayed Stephen Hawking, and



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truly deserved his Academy Award for best actor. Felicity Jones also gave an enjoyable performance as Jane. Once again, a great film to watch and a remarkable example of British film-making.



Probing Pluto

By Aaron Dingley

NASA's 'New Horizons' space probe has finally reached its destination, the dwarf planet Pluto. After being launched almost a decade ago in early 2006, the craft has travelled 23.43 astronomical units (AU), which approximately equates to a mind-blowing 2.18 billion miles, a distance practically impossible for most of us to even picture! To put this into perspective, imagine travelling from the UK to Australia and back... 200,000 times. Not to

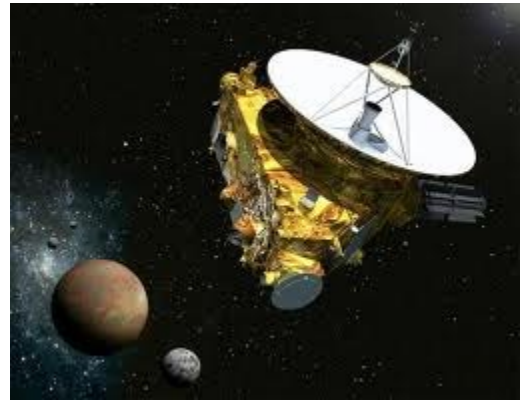
mention that the vast majority of the journey of the probe is through absolutely nothing, with the vacuum of space all around.

For much of the voyage through the solar system, *New Horizons* was 'asleep' in order to save as much energy as possible. On the 6th of December 2014, a signal was sent by mission controllers at NASA to the probe in order to 'wake it up' in readiness for the approach towards the icy planet, Pluto; and scientists predict that the probe will make its closest passage to Pluto on the 14th of July 2015.

This image may not look like much, but to those working at NASA; it is the result of years of hard work. The image shows Pluto (top) and its largest moon, Charon (bottom), as well as the

lesser moons of Pluto. From May onwards this year, the New Horizons probe will be able to send images back to Earth that are clearer than anything we have seen before, even better than those that can be seen from the famous Hubble telescope.

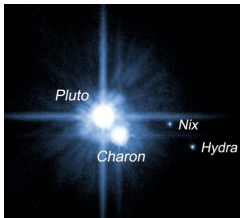
Although this is a fascinating, awe-inspiring endeavour, the probe has not been sent simply to capture photos. Instead, this mission, part of the



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New Frontiers Program, is intended to give scientists and astronomers a better idea of the solar system around us, and hopefully in the near future, this will lead to landing probes on the surfaces of these bodies in order to learn more about them. As well as the New Horizons probe, NASA has sent two others, Juno and OSIRIS-Rex to discover Jupiter and an asteroid which could potentially hit

Earth one day (although, not for many thousands of years), respectively. So, get ready for the passage on the 14th of July this year, it is likely to be the beginning of something big in the world of astronomy, the dawning of a New Horizon.



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Magna Carta

By Matthew Pegler

This year marks the 800th anniversary of the signing by King John of the Magna Carta at Runnymede, the basis for our modern democracy in 1215. The name 'Magna Carta' literally translates to 'Big Charter' in English from the original Latin. It outlined several key freedoms that we as British citizens take for granted, such as power being invested through the Crown into Parliament – which was formed 50 years later. The Magna Carta also secured the right to trial with jury, which we in our epoch are most certainly thankful for. The local MP

for Evesham and Mid-Worcestershire, Sir Peter Luff, is spearheading a Parliamentary committee for the commemoration of the anniversary, which of course has connections so close to home due to the Battle of Evesham. Simon de Montfort first called his parliament in January of 1265. Sir Peter Luff was recognized by the Speaker of the House John Bercow for his efforts, stating:

"I am sure that the whole House would want me to thank the group's Commons Chairman, the Honorable Member for Mid Worcestershire for the energy and wisdom that he has brought to the task."

Early this month, an edition of the Magna Carta was found in the Kent County Council's archives - it is in poor condition however it is expected to be worth up to £10m. The Professor who authenticated the item, Nicholas Vincent, claimed it was a 1300 issue which makes it extremely rare. Although it was found in Kent County Council's archives, it actually belongs to the town of Sandwich which means that it is likely that other towns across the United Kingdom have a copy from around that time.

Recently, four of the finest copies of the Magna Carta were brought together at the Houses of Parliament, marking a pivotal moment in the recognizing of the foundations of our world famous democracy.

It was revealed today that Winston Churchill planned to give the United States one of the original 1300 documents in return for support in World War Two,



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however this did not come to fruition as Churchill managed to drag the US in anyway.

The demise of Simon de Montfort on 1st of August 1265 in Evesham and the fact King John is buried at Worcester Cathedral can bring a sense of connection to this historic and wonderful document.



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Weather

By Rhiannah May-Byrd

Wednesday

Slightly cloudy with chance of rain in the afternoon.

Highest temp.

10°C

Lowest temp.

8°C



Thursday

Murky and cloudy start, mist and fog in high places. Most places remain dry until rain comes in from the west in the evening.

Highest temp.

12°C

Lowest temp.

4°C



Friday

Cloudy and wet start for Friday,

The rain will gradually clear throughout the day.

There is a cold feeling in the breeze.

Highest temp.

6°C

Lowest temp.

2°C





What does the New Premier League TV Deal Mean?

By James Noble

One story that has been in the sporting headlines for over a month now is the new television deal agreed between the Premier League and broadcasters Sky Sports and BT Sport. The two have agreed to pay England's top division a staggering £5.136 billion for the rights to show live Premier League matches from the start of the 2016/2017 to the end of the 2018/2019 football season. So what does this stratospheric figure mean? Who is likely to benefit from the deal and who will probably not? The broadcasters will be hoping for value for money. Doubtless, both Sky and BT feel confident that their offering of the live unscripted drama that is the Premier League will lure in more customers and see their profits rise further. However, it seems likely that they will increase their

prices to help cover the cost of the new contract, at expense of TV viewers. The deal is great for Premier League clubs. It means that yet more money will be heading into their pockets. It means that whoever finishes bottom of the division at the end of the 2016/2017 season will

live on TV. Moreover, the new deal may well see every one of the twenty Premier League clubs enter the top thirty of the richest clubs in the world. Currently, all of this season's Premier League clubs are within the top forty. It has also been well

years. It is hoped by many in the game that clubs will view their increased wealth as a chance to allow a drop, or at least a freeze, in ticket prices over the coming years. After all, the new TV deal will only increase the pressure on clubs to do so. It is as much a PR issue as a financial one.

building of 152 new artificial 3G pitches. This will undoubtedly improve football at grass roots levels and hopefully see an improvement in player development, as better facilities should see better young players coming through, helping the England national team. However, the fact is that, at this moment, only around 5% of the Premier League's income filters down to grass roots levels and while it is hoped this will improve, it is unlikely to do so hugely. One positive is that 5% of a Premier League budget is likely to be a pretty healthy amount, only one look at the new TV deal is needed to see that. However, the gap between football's higher and lower levels still seems likely to widen overall.



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It seems that all levels of the game will benefit from the increased volumes of cash that will be pumped into football. Following the

gain £99 million, while the league winners will receive £150 million and that's before factoring in additional payments to teams for staging matches

documented how football fans have struggled to keep up with the constantly rising prices of match tickets, particularly in the Premier League, in recent

announcement of the deal, the Premier League swiftly revealed their plans to spend £168 million on "facilities and good causes", including the

RBS Six Nations

By Josh Sellick

So far in the Six Nations nine games have been played; Wales v England (16-21), Italy v Ireland (3-26), France v Scotland (15-8), England v Italy (47-17), Ireland v France (18-11), Scotland v Wales (23-26), Scotland v Italy (19-22), France v Wales (13-20), Ireland v England (19-9).

The first game played was Wales v England, a tense game resulting in an England win. Throughout the first half England's play was scrappy and allowed Wales to steal an eight point lead by half time. However England picked up in the second half with a score by in form centre Jonathan Joseph only four minutes in. George Ford took a successful conversion to make the score 16-15 to Wales. Later in the sixty first minute Alex Cuthbert was penalised for not rolling away George Ford tapped in a penalty to take the lead. In the seventy eighth

minute the undisciplined Wales gave away another penalty which George Ford took comfortably. The final score was Wales 16, England 21.

France v Scotland produced a tense game with only one try scored, surprisingly scored by the losing team. Throughout the first half France scored 3 penalties due to Scotland's many mistakes, Scotland scored one penalty and one unconverted try making the half time score 9-8 to France. In the second half Scotland continued to make mistakes and gave away another six points from penalties. This was the last game of the first round of the tournament, the final score was France 15, Scotland 8.

England v Italy was predicted to be a walkover for England, it was predicted correctly. Overall the game was easy for England however, as is becoming usual, they had a shaky start only scoring one penalty, two tries and one

conversion, also they allowed Italy to score a try. The half time score was 15-5. However England, again as usual, picked up in the second half. They began running in tries all over the shop. Throughout the second half they scored a total of thirty two points with two penalties, four tries and three conversions. Italy managed to score two tries and one conversion in the second half. The final score was England 47, Italy 17.

The Final match in the second round of the tournament was predicted to be a walkover for Wales but it was not as easy as they thought. Throughout the first half Wales' inform kicker, Leigh Halfpenny, scored three penalties and also converted a try from Rhys Webb. Scotland scored one try, one conversion and one penalty. The half time score was Wales 16, Scotland 10. Just as the second half began Wales gave away a forty fourth minute penalty, it was scored giving Scotland

another 3 points.

Wales came back quickly and scored a forty eighth minute penalty. Scotland scored another penalty, again reducing their deficit. Wales Jonathan Davies scored a sixty third minute try which was then converted. Thinking that they were home and dry Wales became complacent and allowed Scotland to score a try, it was also converted but it left them slightly behind. It was too little too late for Scotland. The final score was Wales 26, Scotland 23.

The next round of the competition saw Scotland lose to Italy at home and Wales beat France away. The only unpredicted win was Ireland's 19-9 victory over England.

The next game of the tournament is a very important one, Wales v Ireland. If Wales manage to beat Ireland then, England, Wales and Ireland will all have lost one game and won

all of their others giving them all an equal chance of winning the tournament. However if Wales do not beat Ireland then all they have to do to win the grand slam is win their one remaining game, a game that they are expected to win. The result of the next game almost decides the tournament which makes it very hard to predict the winner until after the game. However, as Ireland are expected to win, they are the favourites for the title.



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A Guide to the 2015 Formula 1 Season

By Michael Lear

As the Formula 1 circus rolls into Melbourne, Australia for the first race of the year this weekend, Lewis Hamilton will begin the defence of his World Championship title. After a fierce battle with teammate Nico Rosberg that went down to the final race of last season, he will have to drive harder and faster than ever to increase his tally of titles.



Lewis Hamilton testing his 2015 Mercedes - Included by kind permission of www.sport360.com

To add to the challenge for Hamilton and Rosberg, it is unlikely that their Mercedes team will enjoy the same dominance they had throughout last season, which saw them easily secure the Constructors'

Championship. Data gathered and knowledge gained from the 2014 season and an intensive winter of development and testing will undoubtedly close the gap between Mercedes and the rest of the field. Teams likely to be competing with "The Silver Arrows" for the front row of the grid in 2015 are Williams (who experienced something of a revival in 2014), Red Bull and Ferrari. Both these latter two teams struggled to master the new, smaller, more efficient turbo-hybrid engines as effectively as Mercedes, but extensive personnel changes within Ferrari and the appointment of 4 times World Champion Sebastian Vettel should see them recover strongly, whilst Red Bull's surprise package of 2014 in the form of Daniel Ricciardo means they are bound to be competing for victories.

Further down the order, McLaren's eagerly anticipated engine partnership with Honda has

had a troubled start, with frequent reliability problems hampering their test schedule. As a result, they have completed the shortest running distance of all the teams preparing for the new season so far. The glory days of 1988, when they won 15 out of 16 races with Honda, are a long way from being re-lived just yet. This is understandable, however, given that Honda are in the same position as the other engine suppliers were this time last year when they were wrestling with the highly complex part petrol, part electric power units. McLaren do have the skill of double World Champion Fernando Alonso to their advantage, but more testing woes ensued after he suffered severe concussion from crashing heavily at the Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya, meaning he will miss the season's opening race.

Another driver to watch in 2015 is Toro Rosso's Max Verstappen. He is already the subject of some

controversy because at the same time as many sixth formers will be first getting behind the wheel, when the starting lights go green in Melbourne he will be racing his way into the record books as the youngest ever driver to start a Formula 1 Grand Prix. At only 17 years old, questions have been raised over whether he can (or should) compete at the pinnacle of motorsport so young. The sport's international governing body, the FIA, certainly seem to have reacted against it. As of next year, drivers under 18 will not be allowed to race in Formula 1. Nevertheless, Verstappen's supporters insist that he is a rare talent.



Max Verstappen - Included by kind permission of www.formula1.com

Rounding out the teams expected to be fighting for the final point-scoring places in 2015 is Manor Marussia. It is remarkable that they are even going to make it to Australia at all after missing the last 3 races of 2014 due to entering administration in October. Hundreds of workers for the financially stricken British-based team were made redundant, but recent investment has saved them from suffering the same fate as the now defunct Caterham F1. The cost of Formula 1 has long been a contentious issue, with struggling smaller teams simply unable to compete with the seemingly endless millions available to the manufacturers in particular. With rumours rife that another team, Force India, is now at risk, hopefully this thorn in the side of the sport will not overshadow what is promising to be a fast, thrilling, excitement-filled 2015 Formula 1 season.

2022 Qatar World Cup Set For November and December

By James Noble

As well as the simultaneous presence of Advent Calendars and World Cup Wallcharts in our homes, what else does a winter World Cup mean? It is now just over two weeks since a taskforce working for the world football governing body FIFA made the unprecedented and historic recommendation of staging the Qatar World Cup of 2022 in the months of November and December. Up to now, the World Cup has always taken place primarily during June and July, so this represents a considerable change. The reason for the change of date is because of the scorching summer temperatures in Qatar throughout June and July, often exceeding 40°C. The view taken by FIFA was that this was simply too dangerous for both the players and the thousands of fans who will travel to

the tournament. Temperatures in November and December are usually between 15°C and 25°C, notably more comfortable than the summer temperatures. However, a large proportion of the football world are very unhappy with the decision to move the World Cup to November and December. It is mainly the European leagues and clubs who are against the move due to the fact that these months fall in the middle of the European football season, interrupting the schedules for both domestic and continental competitions. These competitions would simply have to be cancelled in order to accommodate the World Cup, giving European football nearly two months' worth of fixtures to catch up on. A prospect quite understandably not to the liking of many of those in Europe. Despite a plan to shorten the tournament from the normal month to around three weeks, the disruption

to the football calendar in Europe is still expected to be considerable. It is thought that, for example, the Premier League will need to commence in mid-July, as opposed to mid-August, pause in early November as players are released to their national teams, and conclude in mid-June, instead of mid-May. The presence of the World Cup in the middle of the season will cause the 2022/2023 Premier League to be extended by two months. Some have even expressed their feeling that a World Cup in November and December may, in fact, benefit the England team

(presuming we qualify), due to the fact the England players would go into the tournament fitter and fresher than ever before because they will not be entering the finals after playing a full season of football, as they would for a summer World Cup. It would also put England on more of a par with other European nations particularly, because, unlike the Premier League, many of Europe's other major leagues take a mid-winter break over the festive period, something many people believe means the players from these countries are fresher going into international

tournaments in the summer. No European league will have had any kind of winter break by November. A blessing in disguise for England? A final decision regarding the date of the 2022 World Cup is expected when FIFA's executive committee meet in Zurich on the 19th and 20th March, but it is thought the taskforce's recommendation will simply be ratified. So this represents a significant step forward for Qatar, their World Cup has now become that bit more real.



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