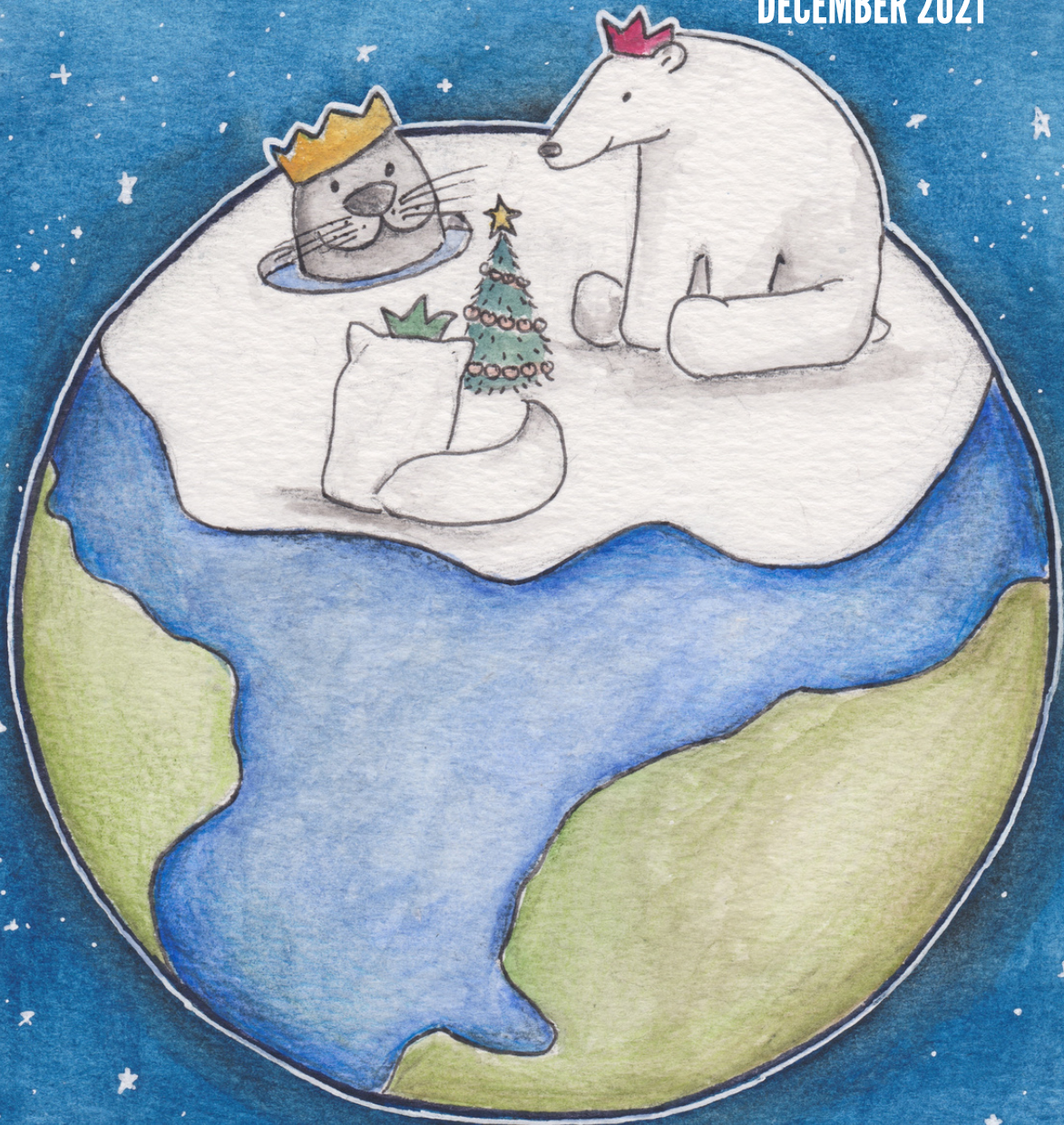


THE CASTLE

DECEMBER 2021



WELCOME

Welcome to our first RGS student publication.



Dear Reigatians,

Welcome to the first edition of our newspaper 'The Castle' - with many more to come.

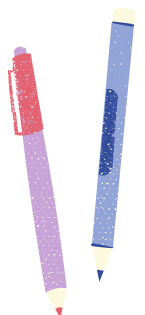


We're kickstarting the Christmas season with a festive collection of puzzles, articles and more! Read on to discover hilarious puns, interesting debates and vaccine updates!



If you'd like to submit an article for our next edition, feel free to contact us - or come along to lunchtime meetings on Mondays in Room 4. Everyone is welcome!

*Happy holidays,
From Sofia, Iris and Amelia :)*



THANK YOU...



SOME OF THE FEATURED STORIES THIS ISSUE:

SAVING THE BEES

TENSIONS IN EASTERN EUROPE

GREEN ARCHITECTURE

SCREEN ADDICTION

COVID VACCINES FOR TEENS

SWEATSHOPS

CLIMATE CHANGE

IDENTIFYING AS A FEMINIST

Thank you to the following students for their work on this edition:

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Luka U - contributor

Photo credit - Canva.com

News report by Sofia M

12-16 YEAR-OLDS URGED TO GET COVID-19 VACCINE

December 2021



Where do you stand on teenagers getting the COVID-19 vaccine?

Find out more...

On 2nd December 2021, the UK became the first country to authorise the COVID-19 vaccine. Margaret Keenan, a 91-year-old grandmother, was the first person to get the new medication, and she later said "It's the best early birthday present I could wish for because it means I can finally look forward

to spending time with my family and friends in the new year, after being on my own for most of the year." Children aged 12-16 in the UK have now been offered a smaller dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine, and the NHS have begun a vaccine rollout scheme, having proved successful in older age groups. The benefits of getting vaccinated are that it could protect the vulnerable, like the elderly or people with health conditions. It also prevents children



Featured articles

from getting long COVID. Long COVID sometimes leaves seemingly healthy people unable to get out of bed, and in some cases, can leave them with insomnia and tiredness, among other issues. Many people argue that if everyone in the country was vaccinated, there would be fewer restrictions, and people could return to work and school sooner.

However, the risk of serious illness is significantly lower in healthy children, and doses are being used up on people who are unlikely to get a life-threatening infection.



Less developed countries are also unable to afford the COVID vaccine on a large scale, and because of this they have seen some of the worst virus rates and fatality numbers across the world. The WHO (World Health Organisation) have approved the vaccine scheme but are advising more developed countries to share doses with poorer countries. This would help to eradicate COVID-19 from our day-to-day lives.



How does the UK compare with other countries?

Many countries are vaccinating children over the age of 12.

- EU countries including France, Netherlands, Germany and Italy have started jabbing children
- China aimed to have all 12 to 17-year-olds vaccinated by October
- The US was already recommending vaccination for over-12s, but has also now approved the Pfizer vaccine for children aged five to 11

Want to find out more?

Visit the NHS website to find out more about the COVID-19 vaccine.

Are we too keen on screens?

A LOOK INTO WHETHER WE HAVE BECOME ADDICTED TO SCREENS



The World Health Organisation has given this advice:

Children under the age of two should not spend any time at all watching screens continuously. And children between two and four should not watch more than an hour of screen time a day as the after effects can be damaging towards their health. I agree with this advice as I myself often experience headaches and sore eyes from too much screen time, which often occurred during online learning in the COVID-19 lockdowns.



Screens can cause eye strain, which is also known as computer vision syndrome – this occurs if you stare at a screen for a long time. This condition can be distracting and can even alter how well you work. It can also give you painful headaches which can be even worse! They are scientifically proven to adapt the style in which people work, and quite often in a negative way.

An anonymous student at RGS stated, “Children’s screen time should be limited but they should still be permitted an allocated period of time (not too long) when they can go on devices.”

There are increasing reports of younger and younger children getting sore thumbs from too much gaming on phones or tablets. This can result in something called “text thumb”, especially in the case of texting friends or sharing information on social media. Children can also lose their social interaction skills and even become aggressive in some severe cases if the games they play include blood, violence and gore. Some other negative effects of too much screen time include sleep deprivation, vision problems, obesity, neck strains from craning over a screen and other uncomfortable aches and pains.



What are the impacts?

Screens can also alter concentration levels and disrupt working commitment. Paediatrician Skyler Kalady, MD, commented, "Early exposure to excessive screen time at 24 months was predictive of lower developmental outcomes at 36 months; and similarly, increased screen time exposure at 36 months also was related to decreased developmental outcomes at 60 months."

Children's development has been severely altered by screen time, especially in terms of education, which is extremely concerning as we should want the best possible schooling for our generation. The average child spends about 5 hours a day on a screen (sometimes more.) Usually, it is around 2 hours on the TV, 1-2 hours on the internet, 1-2 hours on a phone and more playing video games if they have a console.

So, what about the future? If we don't act now, scientists are fearing that children's common addiction to screens may result in a deeper, more serious consequence. If children lose social skills and the ability to even be cheerful, it could mean the screens are having negative effects on the future. This may even result in phone bans and other means of compressing screen time.

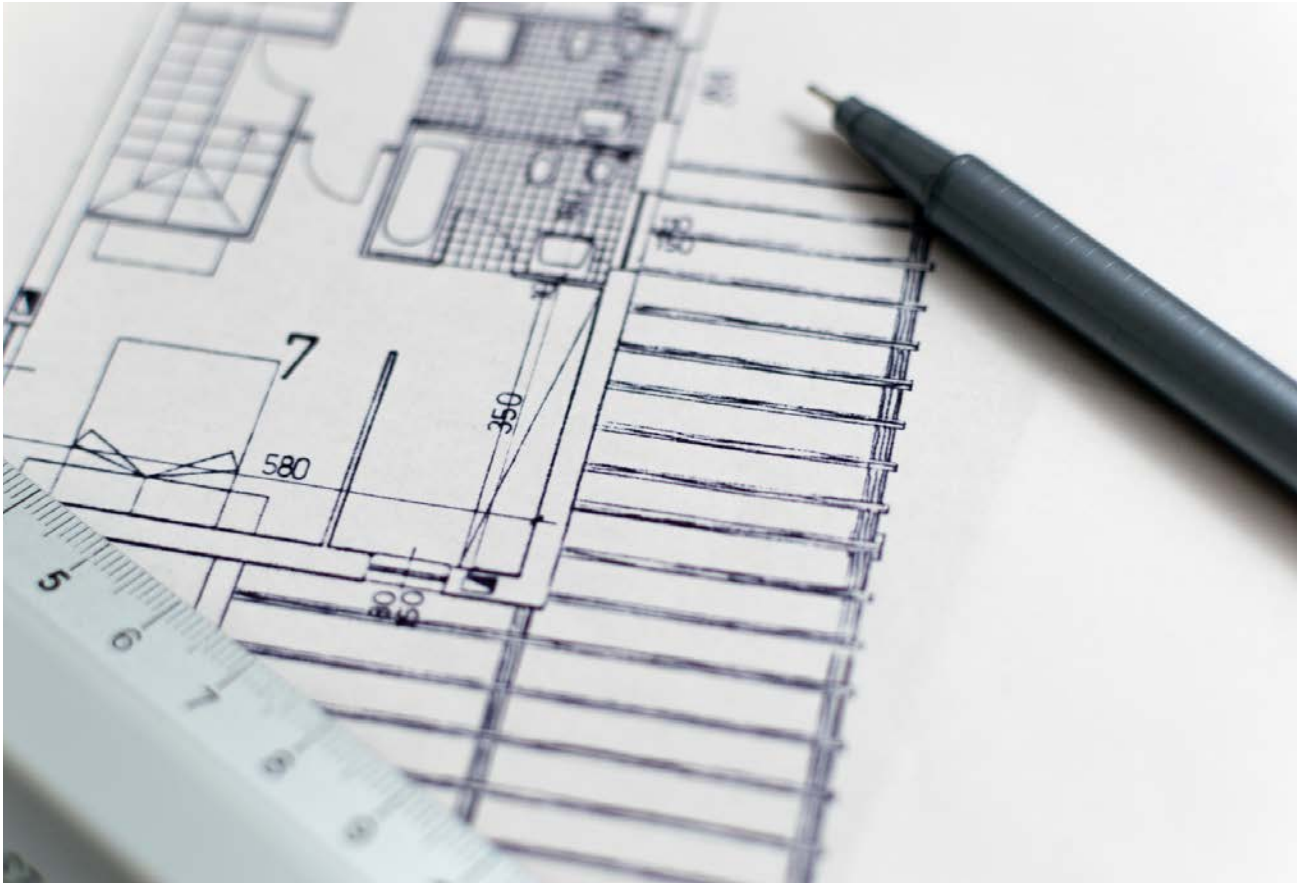
Will children be able to manage and control their amount of screen time before it is too late? The scientists have studied children from the ages of twelve to sixteen, and they have proven that children who spend an extra hour a day on screens experience a drop in grades. And for those children who spend the extra hour reading, doing homework, or studying, their average grades go from A to A plus. This is a clear answer to the question, proving that the more time spent on screens, the less time is spent being productive.

If we don't act now, scientists are fearing that children's common addiction to screens may result in a deeper, more serious consequence.

News report by Luka U

Green Architecture: Building the World We Need

December 2021



You've heard about climate change, but have you heard about green architecture?

Find out more...

Living in the 21st century, we are very familiar with the idea of climate change. It is very much part of daily life, with COP meetings which have been happening annually for the last 26 years, it is becoming part of everyday conversations. A huge proportion of news coverage is now about climate issues and

globally, we are witnessing the effects of climate change with hurricanes, rising sea levels, global warming, and changing temperatures. We now realise that something big needs to be done to fix these issues. The existence of the human species relies on such a shift. There are many different solutions being developed to solve the climate crisis, but it will take many ideas. One of these is the use of Green Architecture -

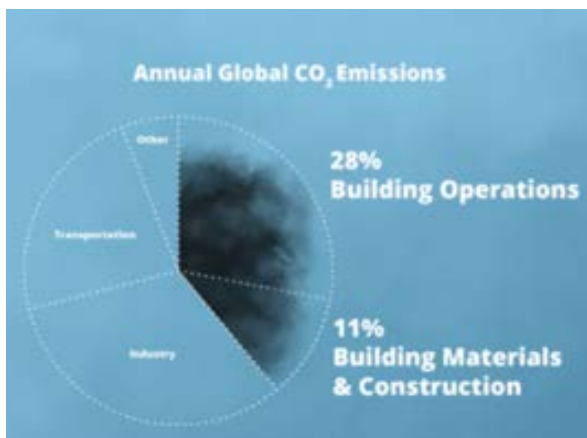


Featured articles

which focuses on building the world we need if we are to make it as a species.

What is Green Architecture?

Environmentally friendly architecture, or Green Architecture, is the concept of using eco-friendly methods and materials to create buildings. Over time, as methods have been simplified by automation, carbon emissions have increased greatly with about 40% of annual global CO₂ emissions coming from creating houses and buildings. With a population of around 7.9 billion people, the demand for housing, buildings and infrastructure is high.



How can it help?

If we use more sustainable methods of creating all these buildings, we could cut emissions dramatically. Green Architecture is founded on a few key principles. Firstly, materials selection: by using sustainable materials such as bamboo, the carbon footprint of a house can be significantly decreased. Secondly, energy efficiency: using methods to create a buildings that have a low carbon impact, for example going off grid, using living roofs/walls, and solar panels. Finally, environmental impact: for example, water conservation, waste reduction and suitability to surrounding environment.

Where did it come from?

The concept of Green Architecture emerged from the United States in the 1960s, where the interest in Green Architecture was sparked by the admiration of early Native American lifestyle which was seen to be very much in touch with the natural world. This has now risen in popularity with people turning to indigenous communities to understand how we can live and build our world in harmony with nature.

What does the future hold?

In the UK, there are now over 20 successful Green Architects forging the way for a more sustainably designed world. Their work focuses on redefining architectural values for the 21st century, minimising the carbon footprint, utilising green energy solutions, and having minimal impact on the environment.

It is clear that Green Architecture is a solution to many of our problems, especially since the current building and construction industry is one of the biggest carbon emitters in the world.

One student at RGS has said that, "Green Architecture is a way forward and will be a big solution to fixing the problems that we have created".

The question will be how quickly we can change an entire industry to have a big enough impact before the effects of climate change become irreversible.





Saving Bees

News article

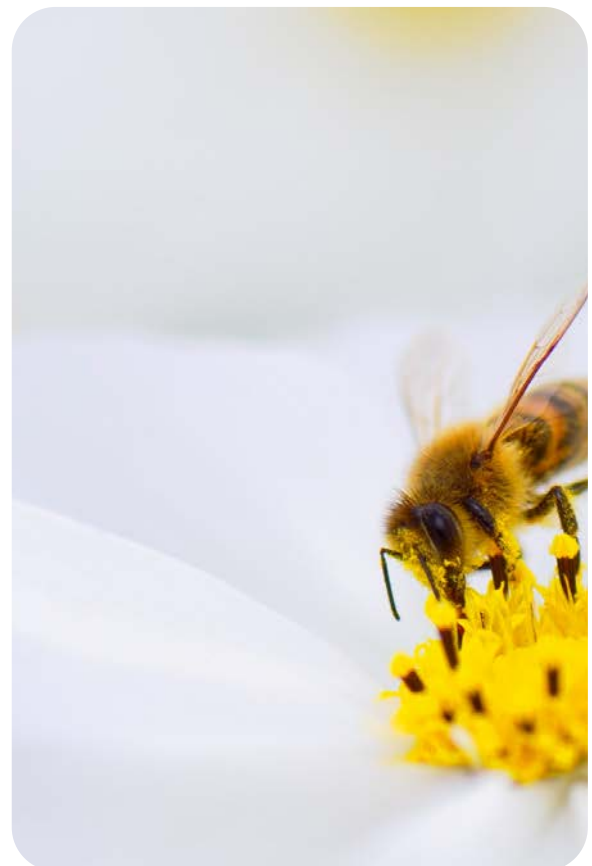
Dec. 2021

By Riya M

Save the bees is a common plea. It's likely you've seen it imprinted on t-shirts, on mugs, and on images online. But why are bees so important?

When people say bees the first thing you think of is small, yellow, striped insects that just make honey... But bees are much more than that. Believe it or not, without bees we would only last 4 years!

Bees are crucial to the process of pollination. They provide us with our favourite fruit and vegetables and even contribute to making some of the ingredients that go in medicine! Bees are renowned for their role in providing high quality food and essential ingredients that go in medicine like beeswax, propolis and honeybee venom. But many pollinators are disappearing at alarming rates, especially native bees, such as honeybees...



Saving Bees

News article

Dec. 2021

By Riya M

Every single day we rely on bees and other pollinators. In fact, one of every three bites of food we consume relies on pollination. Yet, bee populations continue to decline because of pesticides and other environmental factors – like climate change.



A vast majority of flowering plants rely on pollinators to reproduce. As mentioned above, fruits and vegetables all rely on pollinators transporting pollen from one flower to the next. But the value of bees goes beyond just supplying countless fruits and vegetables. Bees are also responsible for nuts, coffee, and even spices. A lot of the luxuries we take for granted come at the expense of bees' very hard work.

Imagine walking into a supermarket to do your weekly food shop and not seeing any shelves lined with food.



If it weren't for bees there would be very few fresh fruit and vegetables and there would be absolutely no products that contain honey, almonds, coffee and even chocolate! On top of that, milk and beef would also be in short supply. Pollinators are responsible for a huge amount of the food that we consume. Pollinators (like moths, flies, beetles, birds, bats and more) are a crucial part of maintaining our planet. Pollinators help the growth of many trees as well as other plants! They are a vital part of many ecosystems.

Furthermore, did you know that 90% of flowering species require pollinators and there are over 20,000 species of bees across the world? 4000 are native to the United States – one of the most notable is a honeybee. Shockingly, the humble honeybee is responsible for nearly a third of crop pollination! They have six hive products – pollen, honey, beeswax, royal jelly, propolis, and venom. These products are all collected and used for nutritional and medical purposes by humans. There is no way to overstate the importance of bees.

If bees became extinct, we would only have very few types of food to eat—nothing that would be tasty to eat day in and day out. The wind is responsible for the pollination of corn and wheat, but the majority of our nutritious foods are from bees. No almonds, apples, cherries... the list goes on and on. Humans would lose a healthy, vibrant diet and would develop diseases due to a lack of highly necessary additions to their diet.

In conclusion, we need to look out for bees now more than ever and before it is too late. If you learnt something new from this article share it to a friend and help spread the word about the brilliance of bees...



DECEMBER 2021

ARE SWEATSHOPS A THING OF THE PAST?

Article by James M, Bruno B & Arthur B

IT IS COMMONLY BELIEVED THAT IMPROVEMENTS TO WORKERS' RIGHTS HAVE PUT AN END TO SWEATSHOPS, BUT MANY MAJOR BRANDS ARE STILL BEING EXPOSED FOR ACTIVELY USING SWEAT SHOPS IN 2021.



WHAT ARE SWEATSHOPS?

Sweatshops are factories that mass produce items, usually for the clothing industry; working conditions are considered substandard, often dangerous; hours are long and wages can be shockingly low.

Sweatshops are often found in developing countries, particularly in south-east Asia and central America where legislation does not protect workers' rights. Poverty means that workers have little choice but to accept the dangers, and police and officials are willing to accept bribes in order to turn a blind eye to illegal practices.

In Bangladesh, on the 24th of April in 2013, a factory called 'Ranza Plaza' collapsed due to the negligence of the officials who performed the safety inspections, tragically causing the deaths of 1,100 people and injuring another 2,500. In the years after the incident, the Bangladeshi government rectified 97,000 hazards found in 1,600 factories, improving the working conditions for over 2.5 million people. However, despite these changes, major clothing brands have still been accused of using illegal and dangerous sweatshops. The developing world is not the only culprit for the abundance of sweatshops, with 98% of factories in Los Angeles not meeting health and safety guidelines.

The clothing industry has been putting on a show of improvements, but behind the curtains the dangers and abuse remain. Tamara Browning, writing for the Globe Banner, claims that companies from the USA, Sweden, the UK and Japan are all using sweatshops. She says Aeropostale, an American clothing company, not only uses sweatshops but even send children to Uzbekistan to work as forced manual labourers on the country's cotton farms. Victoria's Secret, which in 2016 is said to have controlled 40% of the UK's lingerie market, pay their production workers an average of 4 cents an hour. Even one of the world's best-known brands, Nike, is accused of using sweatshops; according to the blog 'Brandon Gaille', workers at these factories die as young as fifteen. They also say that roughly 90% of sweatshop workers are women. Since then, there has been little change to the rights of the workers. The online website 'Good On You' said that the ethical treatment of Urban Outfitters' employees, some of which are children, is just "not good enough" and the statements made by the company concerning the wellbeing of their workers was not supported by any evidence. All these companies are displaying a trend of maximising profit at the cost of employees' wellbeing; we, the consumers, enforce this method by always buying the cheaper product.

**BEHIND THE CURTAINS
THE DANGERS AND
ABUSE REMAINS.**



HOW CAN WE COMBAT SWEATSHOPS?

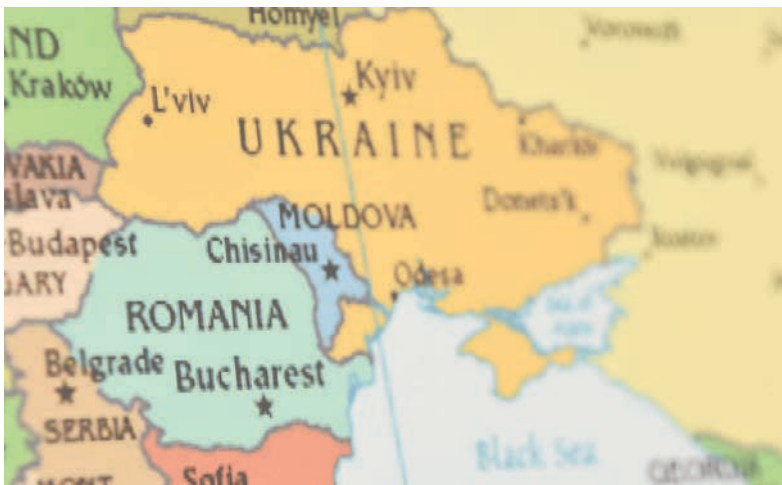
One of the most direct approaches is improving workers' rights through campaigning for greater consumer awareness. Another way is to have regular government inspections of factory conditions. But arguably the best way to prevent the use of sweat shops is more media coverage in articles such as this. If we can increase awareness about sweatshops and the companies using them, then we can tackle the excessive consumerism that drives the need for ever-cheaper products and bring about true change.



TENSIONS IN EASTERN EUROPE

BY ARUN L

DEC. 2021



EASTERN EUROPEAN TENSIONS: WHY SHOULD WE CARE?

Eastern Europe plays a central part in the world today; Eastern European countries compose a key block of EU member states, with nations such as Latvia, Estonia and Croatia have made valuable progress towards democracy and economic strength. This contributes to a stronger EU for Britain to trade with. Moreover, Eastern European migrant workers make up a significant part of labour taking place in Britain. Although, as of now, more than 200,000 are leaving the UK in the wake of Brexit. Our present supply-chain crisis is a consequence of the loss of this relatively cheap labour. Furthermore, many key jobs, from hospital porters to cleaners, electricians to plumbers, are often filled by hard working migrants, drawn to Britain in search of a better life for themselves and their families. Should war break out, or perhaps even a significant spat between two neighbours, many of these workers could be forced to return to their previous nations to ensure the safety of their families. This causes a loss of economic progress, inflicting devastating humanitarian damage.

Eastern Europe, since the time of the Tsars to today, has experienced a number of tensions over ethnic, religious and territorial differences.



HOW ARE THINGS AS THEY STAND?

There are four main conflicts that will now define the future of Eastern Europe:

The first are tensions between Serbia and neighbouring Bosnia and semi-recognised Kosovo. These nations emerged from the collapse of Yugoslavia in the 90s; unfortunately, the atmosphere between the states is still tense, and Serbia contests Kosovo's very existence.

To the south, there has been talk of Greece and Turkey purchasing considerable military equipment, from submarines to alliances in the region, in order to prepare to fight over who controls the many Aegean Islands, which presently grant Greece the right to fish and drill right off the Turkish Coast.

Heading north, to Belarus, "Europe's last dictatorship," has been found to be luring refugees with promises of a better life in Europe, before forcing them towards the Polish border, which is now militarising at a growing rate.



Finally, to the East, there have been reports that Russia continues to exert its influence over the nations around it, growing more brazen in its threats towards Ukraine and support for an insurgency there, and in the recent war between Armenia and Azerbaijan, intervened to ensure Armenia, a Russian ally, did not over-extend itself.

In conclusion, Eastern Europe has been a source of conflict and disagreement for centuries, which continues to tangibly affect Britain today.

You can find out more about the tensions in Eastern Europe by visiting www.crisisgroup.org

Climate Change Changes Thought Process

December 2021



COP 26 is really shaking up the internet. While many people may have Greta Thunberg's speech going through their minds, they may not be considering the bigger picture itself: Climate Change.

What is climate change?

Climate change is an escalating cause of worry for the world; our sea levels are rising; our temperatures are increasing; our polar caps are sinking, and our world is at peril. There are high levels of pollution caused by factories and cars releasing carbon dioxide, as well as planes, motorbikes, trains and boats.

The world's trees have no room left to grow. Something needs to change.

What are the solutions?

The answer is not a simple one but there are many different ways that the government and general population have thought of to overcome the matter at hand. Electric cars are one of the more spoken of topics when it

comes to saving the world. The figures are incredible. 300,000 pure-electric cars are on the world's roads today. The amount of electric cars has sky-rocketed along with charging points. The rate of technological advancement is truly remarkable. However, this is still in the process of development. The first electric car took an incredible twenty-four hours to charge- so there's still a way to go before we fully make the switch!

Featured articles

Plastic in the ocean is perhaps more widely discussed. Eight million tons of plastic ends up in our oceans every year. This staggering figure certainly should raise eyebrows. This massive problem is at such a scale it looks like the world is going to lose species such as the turtle, the blue whale and the shark. This would be devastating and surely prompt even more outrage from activists such as David Attenborough and Greta Thunberg. If this carries on, we will be looking at an end to all marine life and thus an end to the underwater world we know. This needs to be addressed immediately. People flippantly say they will save the world, but in reality, it isn't that simple. That is why the world is looking to end plastic usage; there's hope on the horizon, but we need to put the work in to get there.



This massive problem is at such a scale it looks like the world is going to lose species such as the turtle, the blue whale and the shark.

The flaw to the solution...

You may think that there are no downsides to the surge in electric cars, but unfortunately this is not true. Firstly, as the amount of petrol cars decrease, the demand for these increases. Furthermore, as previously mentioned, the first electric car (Toyota Yaris) took just twenty-four hours to charge, and the mileage needed improvement. With this model, if you planned on going to Devon for a holiday you would have to stop off around five times, meaning you would be there for five days just charging a car!

Another obstacle in the way of progress may be the attitudes towards change. When people are asked to change from plastic to another resource they may respond with outrage, as plastic is so reliable and reusable to the extent that people are not yet ready to change.

However, we are certainly able to overcome these obstacles, and if we are truly willing to try, we may be able to save the planet. As the world becomes more and more aware of climate change, we can only hope that this will result in deliberate action, paving the way to a future with a far more stable environment and climate.

Find out ways you can be more eco-friendly by visiting:

www.ecofriendlyhabits.com



Why People Don't Identify as Feminists



WHY SOME WOMEN DON'T IDENTIFY AS BEING FEMINIST

In 2018, CBS and Refinery29 asked 2,093 women whether they considered themselves feminists, and more than half said no. This same study highlighted that only 28% of women think that abortion should be legal in all cases.

What does that mean and why is it significant?

There is much controversy when it comes to modern-day feminism. Historically, society views the Suffragette movement as the pivotal moment for feminism - when (white) women got the vote.

And whilst the Suffragette movement was hugely beneficial to society and magnified the daily struggles of many women, it also created stereotypes of the 'feminist'. The truth remains that all black women weren't allowed to vote in the UK until 1965. Yet the feminist movement had already reached its peak and was in decline. This has created the modern-day stereotype of the 'feminist' as white, passionate, pink-loving heroines- which shouldn't be the only portrayal.



SEXISM IS STILL RIFE

In 2019, the BBC reported that in the UK and US 'fewer than 1 in 5 women would call themselves a feminist'. Most people agree that sexism still exists and identify with the values of gender-based equality- so why doesn't everyone identify as a feminist?

Systemically, sexism is imminent in many aspects of a woman's life. Women pay an estimated US\$1,300 more than men every year due to the pink tax. The pink tax refers to women paying extra for goods because they are more feminine in design or because they are marketed towards women. For example, a women's ankle support costs US\$9 more than a men's one. Women and girls are charged approx. 37% more for toys, cosmetics and clothes than men according to a 2016 investigation by The Times.

Sexism is rife in children's clothing. Whilst boys' clothing sports slogans such as 'future genius' and 'superhero', girls' clothing bears phrases such as, 'princess,' and, 'born to be spoiled.' The kind of messages companies market to consumers feeds us with the notion that all girls are passive and all boys are leaders. This simply isn't the case. Not only is there a double standard for men and boys, but this messaging returns to the perception of girls as weak, emotional and fuzzy. Which is worse: the fact that retailers feed us sexist ideology for profit or that the data they collect from the public mirrors this trend?

In conclusion, the feminist movement has achieved a lot, but there is still so far to go. Most people don't identify as feminists because they feel that gender-based equality has been reached for the most part. If that is true, why are over 130 million girls not in school? Why were women in Saudi Arabia only allowed to vote in 2015? Why were women in Saudi Arabia only allowed to drive (with permission from a man) in 2018? The feminist movement hasn't achieved everything it set out to accomplish as not all women have the right to vote. People often associate gender-based discrimination with countries less affluent than our own, yet in 2021, the UN found that 71% of girls in the UK had been sexually harassed in a public space (a staggering 86% of 18- 24-year-olds).

Why don't we stamp out sexism? The answer is the same as with any form of prejudice: as long as there is always stigma and ideology that is prejudiced, individuals are always going to abuse privilege as an act of self-preservation.

HOW WILL CLIMATE CHANGE AFFECT BOTH THE WEATHER AND WILDLIFE IN SURREY?

AN ARTICLE BY RUTH C

Whilst it is commonly known that the ever-growing climate crisis is catastrophically affecting the world, many Surrey citizens are unaware of the consequences for our county.



Surrey Wildlife

Scientists are currently predicting how the county will look in the year 2050 –when damage caused by climate change will be at its peak. This article provides both a comparison between Surrey's current and future ecosystems, as well as an insight into what we can do to prevent further destruction to our community. I will also explore the impact of climate change on Surrey households and wildlife as a result of extreme weather.

One effect climate change will have on Surrey is the decimation of many of our dearly loved species, such as: tawny owls, field mice, starlings and bumblebees.

According to the Surrey Wildlife Trust (SWT), there are already 972 species in Surrey that are at risk of becoming extinct by 2050. The SWT has already

stated that there have been no sightings of species such as the water vole for over 12 years, suggesting that climate change is not only putting our future in jeopardy but our present as well. One explanation for the current deterioration of biodiversity in the county is:

- Increased use of chemical pesticides
- Loss of green space (due to an increase in housing construction)
- Over management of local parks. This destroys habitats, meaning species are unable to survive due to lack of resources.

Frequent droughts and heavy storms will also threaten wildlife and cause habitat loss. Scientists have confirmed that storms, hurricanes and tornadoes will become more frequent – accompanied by substantial changes in temperature. Whilst some may see this as a benefit of climate change (if there even is one) it is important to know that this doesn't mean warm, idyllic summers, and snowy winters.

Frequent droughts and heavy storms will also threaten wildlife and cause habitat loss.

In fact, it suggests heatwaves throughout July and August, and significantly lower temperatures during December and January. By the year 2050, scientists estimate that the average summer temperature in Surrey will be 28 degrees. To put that into perspective, Barcelona's current average summer temperature is 29 degrees. Scientists have also suggested that tornadoes will become more frequent and destructive, just like the one that Surrey residents saw on the 21st of December 2019- which reached speeds of up to 183 kilometres per hour. It is also predicted that Surrey is in a high-risk flood area due to its proximity to the River Thames. In 2019, the environment agency stated that over 43,000 properties in Surrey are at risk. The rise in sea level has been attributed to the increased frequency of heavy and persistent rainfall. These changes in temperature will also be accompanied by horrendous storms and flooding throughout the county. This proves that the disastrous effects of the climate emergency will not only have a negative impact on the plants and wildlife in Surrey, but also its people.



What can we do to help?

What can we do to help? Some ways to prevent high levels of carbon dioxide from continuing to pollute the atmosphere is by:

- Driving less, using public transport when possible
- Switching to energy-efficient light bulbs
- Washing clothes at a lower temperature

As well as saving money, these simple changes will help save our environment.

It is fundamental that we, as Surrey citizens, don't rely solely on the inspirational work of climate activists like Greta Thunberg who are making global change. We as a community must begin to make small changes in our everyday lives to guarantee both our future that of generations to come- as well as the future of Surrey.



DECEMBER 2021

SURVIVED ESCAPE BUT NOW AT WAR WITH DISCRIMINATION

AN ARTICLE BY DILLON C



Hundreds of Afghans have escaped the Taliban - coming to Europe in the hope of finding help and comfort; instead, they are faced with discrimination from colleagues and classmates.



After facing the rule of the Taliban and escaping via aeroplane or boat, many young refugees will have been separated from their families and may now face being racially abused by classmates. According to 'I Didn't Come Here for Fun', a charity who held a recent report, every refugee child has experienced racism.

This might not come as a shock to many of you, but it remains a grave issue. We must acknowledge our own biases, donate to charities, and stop bigotry when we see it to help people in this situation.

Find out more here:

www.refugee-action.org.uk

THE DEATH PENALTY: NEED TO KNOW

ALTHOUGH ABOLISHED IN ENGLAND SINCE 1965, CAPITAL PUNISHMENT (THE DEATH PENALTY) IS STILL USED TODAY IN MANY COUNTRIES SUCH AS BANGLADESH, CHINA, EGYPT, ETHIOPIA, INDIA, INDONESIA, IRAN, JAPAN, NIGERIA, SAUDI ARABIA, SRI LANKA, SOUTH KOREA, TAIWAN AND THE USA.



DEATH PENALTY CRIMES:

One of the most common crimes is violence, and depending on how bad this is, the accused may receive capital punishment (death row). Surprisingly, robbery is one of the least common crimes - with only the most serious cases ending in the death penalty.

Crimes punished with the death penalty include:

- Terrorism - it is considered a serious crime as it leads to destruction, injuries and often death on a mass scale
- Murder - some countries take the view that the punishment should fit the crime

People's Opinions

Let's take a look at people's views of the Death Penalty. In America, Biden has vowed to abolish the death penalty-however this goal hasn't been achieved so far in his presidency. In Japan, the public generally support the Death Penalty. Like Biden, the Australian government formally 'opposes the death penalty in all circumstances for all people'. I asked 5 people anonymously, and all 5 said that they were against the death penalty. In another anonymous poll, 12 out of 13 people said they were against the death penalty.

Article written by Hugo J

SO, WHAT IS THE DEATH PENALTY?

DEATH PENALTY IS THE ACT OF KILLING SOMEONE BY COURT ORDER, OFTEN BECAUSE OF A SERIOUS CRIME. COUNTRIES THAT DON'T HAVE A DEATH PENALTY WOULD NORMALLY GIVE LIFE SENTENCES FOR CRIMES SUCH AS MURDER. HOWEVER, SOME COUNTRIES THINK THE ONLY WAY TO KEEP PEOPLE SAFE IS TO KILL THE OFFENDER.



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN BUSINESS

An article by Cristiana H



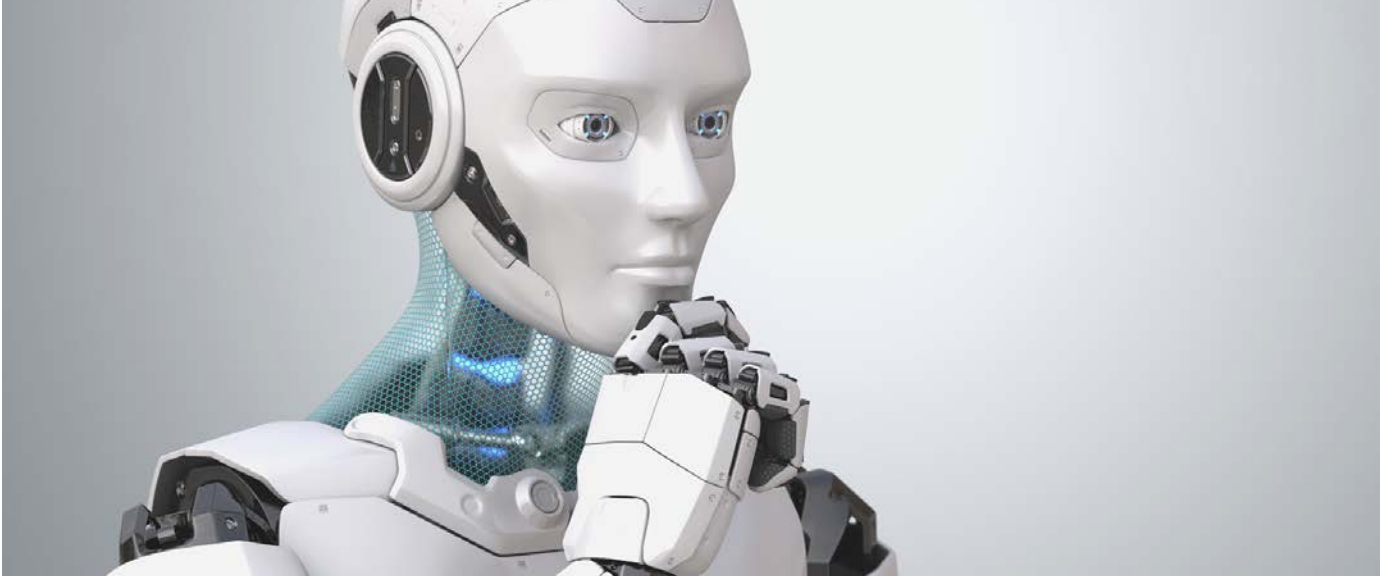
The subject of Artificial Intelligence has an immediate evocation of fear. All I could think about when I first heard of it was the bewildering concept that humans will be replaced by robots. Perhaps humanity will regress and the only jobs available will be of the ones that control robots.

Alas, once I let go of the sci-fi tales of AI, I learnt that AI is just a modern approach to development; it cannot exist without human intelligence and ingenuity. Artificial Intelligence is merely a supporting tool. It is the future of successful and more productive economies, ecosystems, education, health, and science.

In context of the new economic environment, the use of economic informatics can not only determine the development of companies, but in many situations can even ensure a company's survival. The current generation of computers is successful in implementing methods and algorithms that are able to embed experiences in a wide range of situations, and even learn from new experiences.

These methods are generically grouped under the name of Artificial Intelligence techniques, and come in support of the frantic race of market forces that impel production companies to launch new generations of products faster, and in shorter time frames.

The subject of Artificial Intelligence has an immediate evocation of fear.



The objective of Artificial Intelligence is to obtain artefacts that behave intelligently, similar to a human being. Examples of such artefacts are: anthropomorphic robots; machine translation or retrieval of relevant texts on the internet; computers that can communicate in human-like language; and medical diagnosis.

In business, AI can process and analyse huge amounts of data much faster than the human brain, returning with synthesized courses of action and present them to the human user. In this way, humans can use Artificial Intelligence to help manage the consequences of each action and streamline the decision-making process. AI is also changing CRM (Customer Relationship Management) systems which relies heavily on human intervention to remain current and accurate. However, when AI is applied to these systems, they self-update without any human intervention. Another example of Artificial Intelligence's versatility is within the financial sector. Areas of impact include consumer protection, financial crime, competition, the stability of firms and markets, and cybersecurity.

The global Artificial Intelligence market size was valued at USD 62.35 billion in 2020 and is expected to expand at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 40.2% from 2021 to 2028. Software solution led the Artificial Intelligence market and accounted for more than 38.0% shares of global revenue in 2020. This high share attributed to the prudent improvements in information storage capacity, high computing power, and parallel processing capabilities to deliver high-end AI software in dynamic end-use verticals.

The great fear of the growth of AI is that it will put masses of people out of work. Yet, CEOs believe that workers have little to fear at this point, as cognitive systems perform tasks - not entire jobs. Furthermore, Professor Lynn Wu from the Wharton School at University of Pennsylvania suggests that AI 'might not deliver the outcome you're hoping for if you're looking at radical innovation.' However, I believe that with the right planning and development, AI will be the new golden age of productivity, work satisfaction and productivity.

I believe that with the right planning and development, AI will be the new golden age of productivity, work satisfaction and productivity.

REVIEW OF 'ASYLUM' - A NOVEL BY MARCUS LOW

A bleak and gritty exposé of quarantined life



A haunting read

Review by Imogen C

Barry James is detained in a quarantine facility in the blistering heat of the Great Karoo. Here he exists in two worlds: the discordant and unforgiving reality of his incarceration and the lyrical, snowy landscapes of his dreams. He has cut all ties with his previous life. His health is failing, and he has given up all hope. All he has to cling to are the meanderings of his restless mind, and the daily round of pills and the journals he reluctantly keeps as testimony to a life once lived.

And then there's an opportunity to escape.

"Haunting me every hour simply because the dead cannot help but haunt the living."

Perhaps this is the right word to describe my experience of reading Asylum - 'haunting'...

"...an internal monologue that straddles the precariousness of what are essentially two worlds – one real and one imaginary..."



There was something about reading *Asylum* during lockdown that allowed me to connect so with the main character: Barry James. It is not a long book by any means, and yet the air of desperation and need for escapism that Marcus Low is able to create is quite remarkable. From Barry's opening statement - "Outside my ward window the world has died." - unto his last (no spoilers!), I found myself really beginning to sympathise with him. However, I would not call him a protagonist; he is physically imprisoned, and, ironically, his sanity can only be maintained to the extent to which his mind is capable.

Barry's life has become a product of others decisions: even his voice throughout the book is the product of his psychiatrist's recommendation that he keep a journal. Indeed, Barry's personal journals are critiqued by psychiatrist and editor alike, and so, as a story of imprisonment, desire, and futility, the way in which Low approaches his structuring of *Asylum* only adds to its bleak and unnerving tone.

Asylum is a delicate yet gritty read, exploring issues such as mental and physical health.

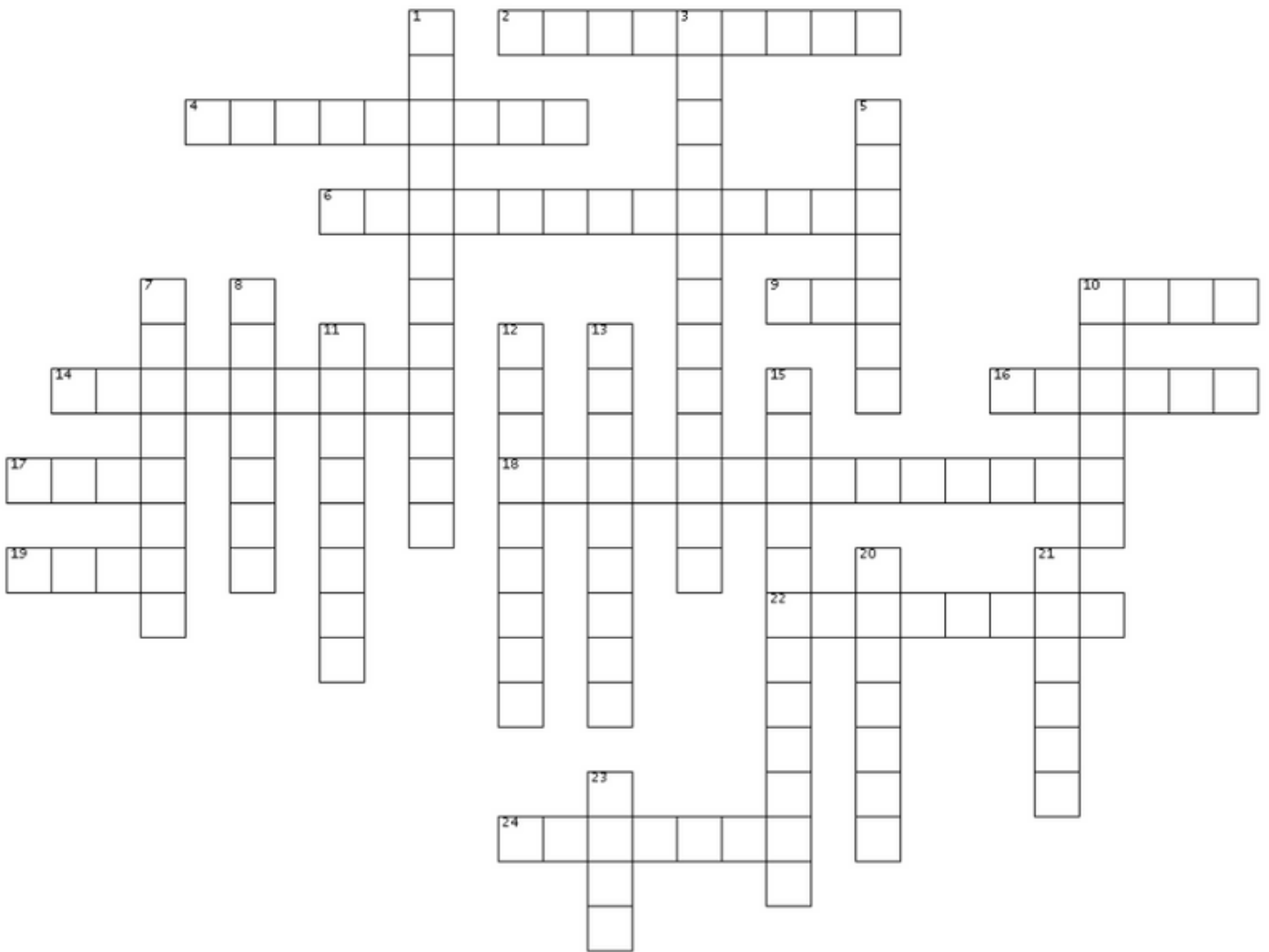
Powerful and haunting – *Asylum* is a must-read, whether that be for its poetic prose, gripping narrative, or just to help us take comfort in our current situation.

Written essentially as a collation of Barry's multiplicity of diary entries, and occasionally interspersed with fictional editorial notes, perhaps it follows that one of my favourite things about this book was the way in which Low blurred the lines between Barry's dreams, fantasies, and reality, giving the book an almost hallucinogenic quality. This is only extenuated by Low's lyrical and philosophical prose, occasionally interspersed by violent descriptions of Barry's ill health. Therefore, the dream-like quality of the book, where I was never quite sure what was real, what was narrative embellishment, and what was a dream itself, is only interrupted by the harsh reality of Barry's condition.

Whilst I must admit that I felt a little lost in the narrative at first, after the first few chapters, I began to settle into the story and, as I read on, I had a better understanding of what was unfolding.

Christmas Puzzles

Contributed by Piers C



Next page for the clues....

Christmas Puzzles

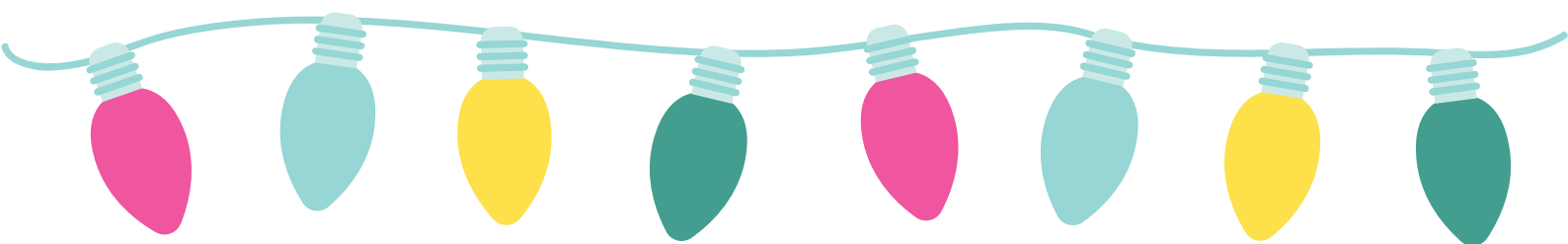
ACROSS

- In tradition, what does Saint Nicholas fill the stockings of the three sisters with (4,5)
- Which was the first Era to start making Angles tree toppers (9)
- In which American state was the song Jingle Bells written (13)
- What were the initials of the author of The Night Before Christmas (3)
- Where was the first documented case of a candy cane (4)
- As Santa's reindeer can't take the heat, ___ pull Santa's sleigh in Austria (9)
- Where was the first documented representation of a Christmas tree in what was Germany at the time (6)
- ___ was the actual month of Jesus's birthday, not December (4)
- ___ wrote the first Christmas Message that was given by King George V (7,7)
- ___ is another name for the three wise men (4)
- Surname of the artist behind Coca-Cola's Santa Claus (8)
- ___ was the name of the town where the first bauble was made (7)



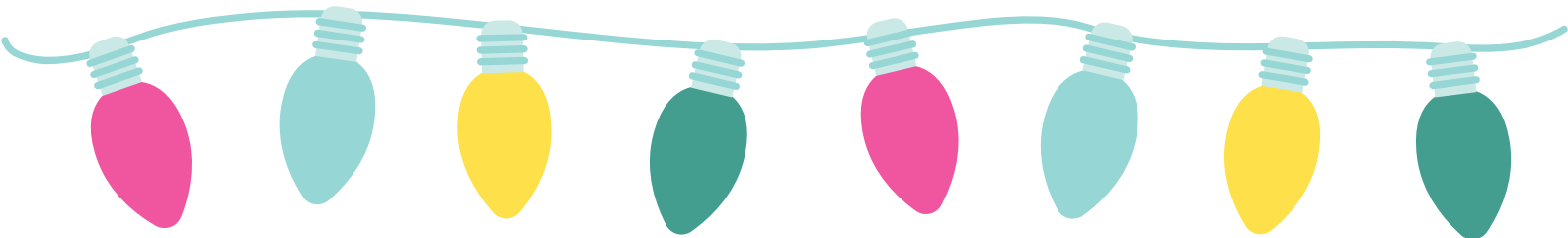
DOWN

- On what day do the Twelve Days of Christmas begin (9,3)
- Sir Henry Cole is known for being the first person to send a ___ (9,4)
- Because of their red uniforms, Victorian ___ were nick-named 'robins', causing the bird to appear on Christmas cards (7)
- It is said that if you eat a ___ for every one of the twelve days of Christmas, you will have good health for the rest of the year (5,3)
- Who was the Austrian half-demon who was known to punish naughty or misbehaving children (7)
- One Brussels sprout contains more vitamin C than one ___ (6)
- The inventor of the Christmas cracker (3,5)
- Which English king was the first person to eat turkey for Christmas (5,4)
- It's a ___ life (9)
- St Nicholas or, as they knew him, Sint Nikolaas was the patron saint of ___ (3,9)
- What were most probably first made as a means to scare away evil spirits (7)
- Because of bigger trees from ___, Christmas presents started to be put under the tree (6)
- ___ were the first ornaments that were specifically used on Christmas trees (4)

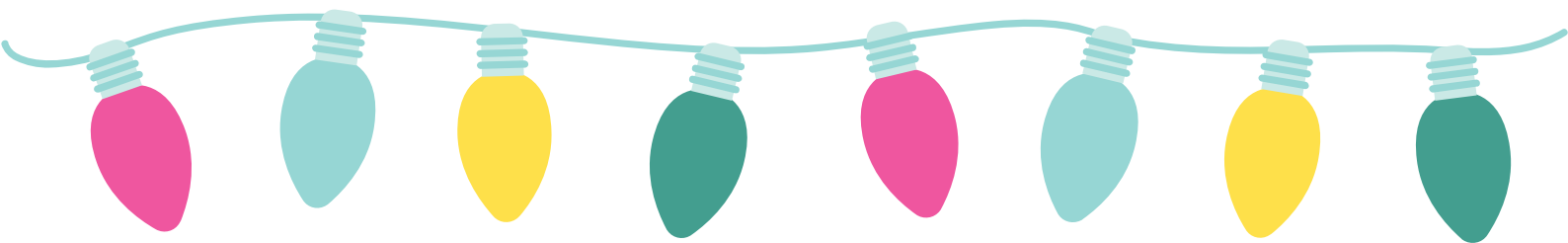
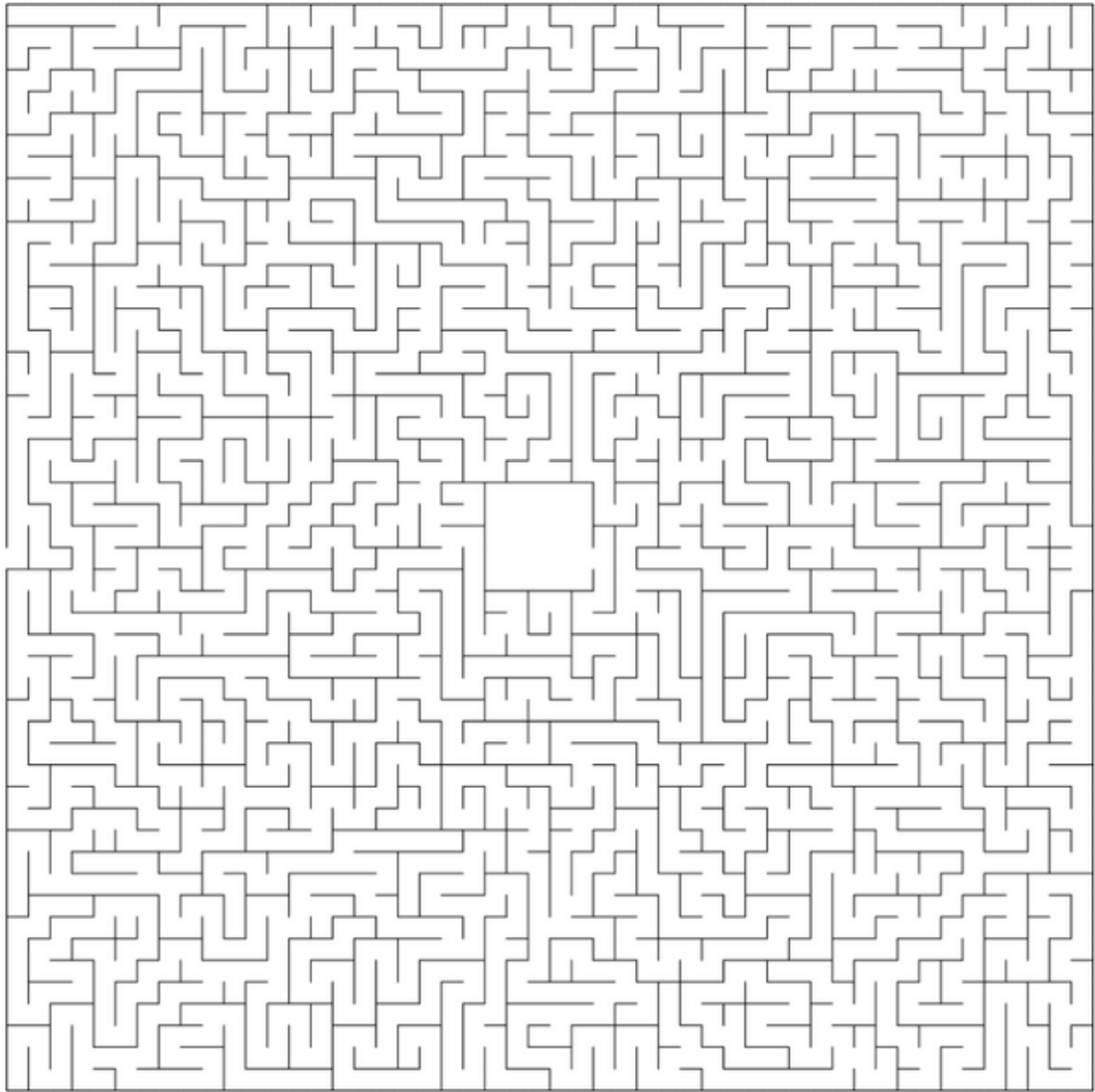


Christmas Puzzles

		5			7			
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Christmas Puzzles



A VERY
FESTIVE EDITION OF

BEST OF...BY CHLOE W



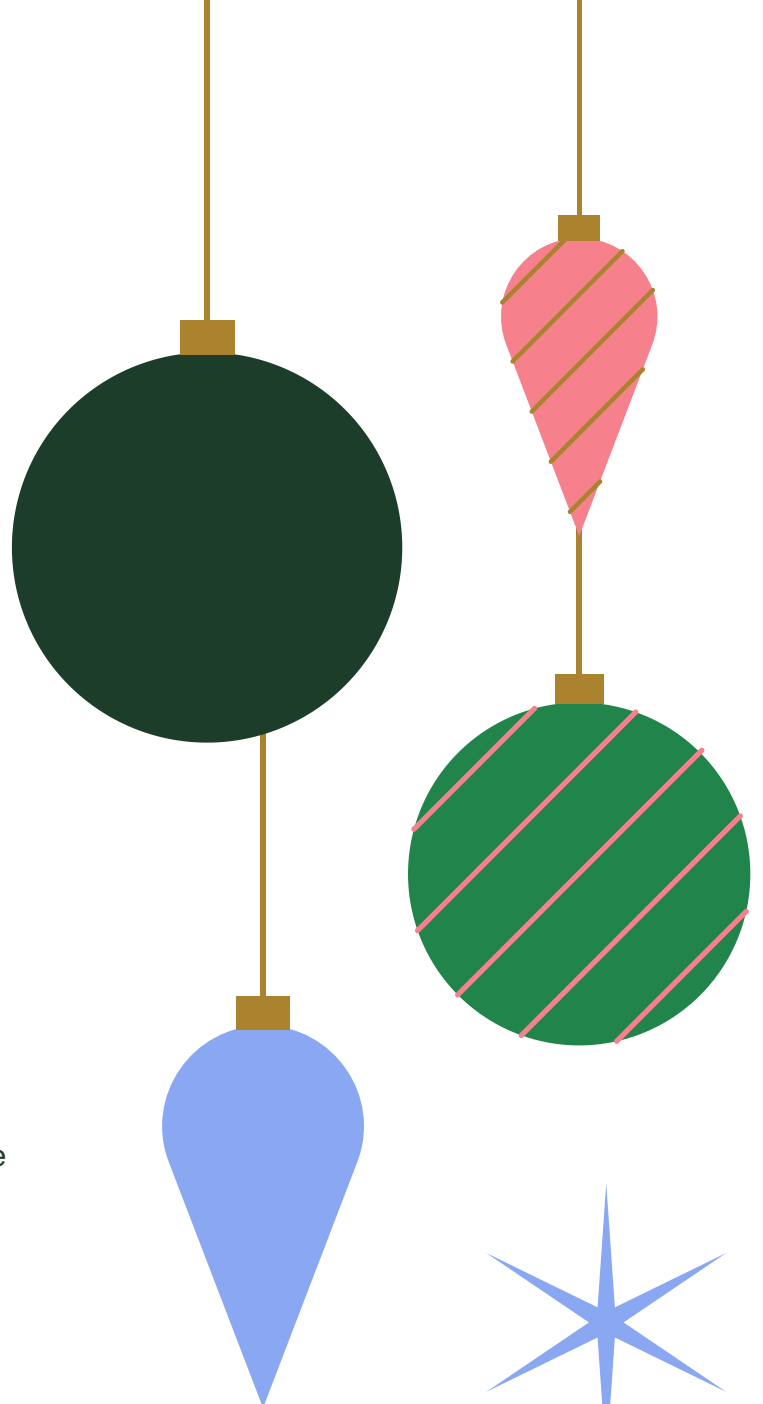
Best Christmas Films on Netflix

Although you may not like to admit it, everyone loves a trashy Christmas film on Netflix. After a busy first term at school, kick back and relax watching one of these classics:

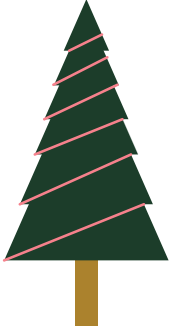
11-13 years

- The Christmas Chronicles
- Alien Xmas
- The Knight before Christmas
- Klaus
- Jingle Jangle: A Christmas Journey
- Deck The Halls
- The Nativity
- The Polar Express

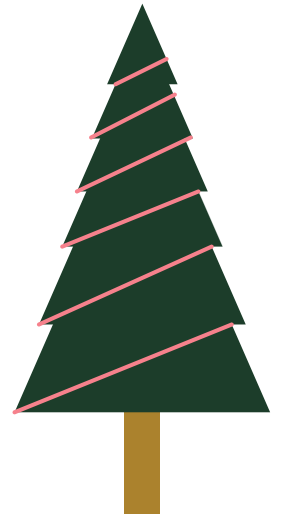
Embrace the Christmas cringe!



Best Christmas Films on Netflix



SNUGGLE UP ON THAT SOFA
AND LOSE YOURSELF IN A
FILM...



14-16

- The Princess Switch
- A Cinderella Story
- Unaccompanied Minors
- Let It Snow
- The Holiday Calendar
- I'll Be Home for Christmas

17+

- Joyeux Noël
- The Night Before Christmas
- The Ref
- Bad Santa
- Love Actually

A VERY
FESTIVE EDITION OF

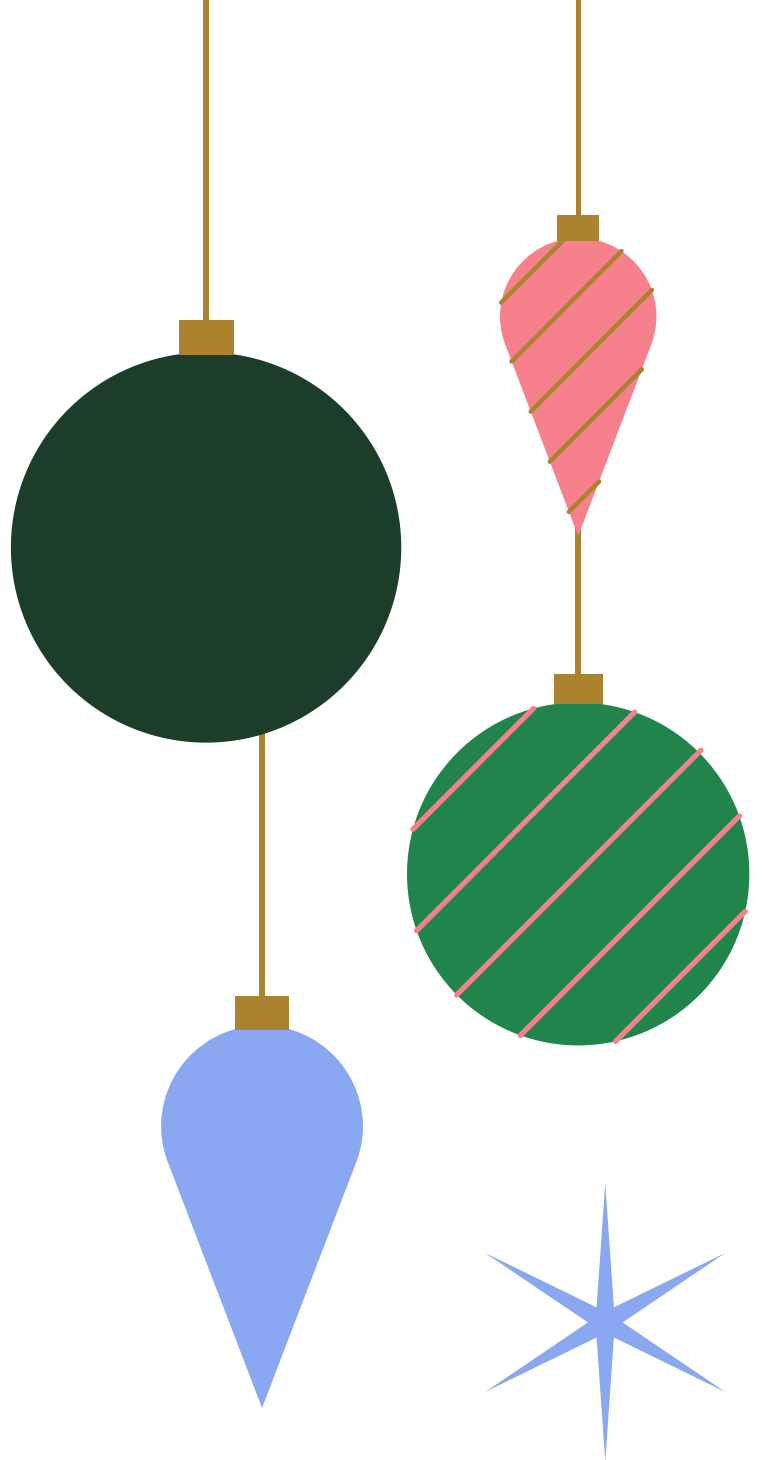
BEST OF...BY CHLOE W



Best Christmas Songs of all time!

Create your own Spotify playlist with these absolute classic Christmas hits:

1. Last Christmas
2. White Christmas
3. I Wish It Could Be Christmas Every Day
4. All I Want for Christmas
5. Merry Christmas Everybody
6. Driving Home for Christmas
7. Do They Know It's Christmas?
8. Jingle Bells
9. Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree
10. It's The Most Wonderful Time of the Year



HOW TO BE GREEN AND ECO FRIENDLY THIS CHRISTMAS



*Top tips to be
eco-friendly
this Christmas!*

by Tabitha B



So many people buy sparkly, glittery plastic wrapping paper every year. The type that looks great but can't be recycled. This not only poses a threat to global warming, but also to our seas and the creatures that live there. Who knows what would happen if that plastic paper ended up in the sea, sealing the fate of some poor, unsuspecting sea creature! The best paper to use is recycled brown which you can then decorate by hand. If you receive plastic wrapping, reuse it if it is not too crumpled or recycle it!



Plastic packaging

Avoid as much as you can!



Everyone loves a gift, right? But SO MANY gifts are purchased in plastic packaging. An estimated £42 million of unwanted Christmas presents were thrown away last year, ending up in landfills. So, before you buy that Secret Santa present, think about the environment. Perhaps you could upcycle something of your own, or you could gift a unique, handmade presents such as knitted scarves, or buy eco-friendly products in cardboard packaging that can be recycled. Things such as bamboo cups, and personalised shopping bags made from recycled materials are great!

Christmas decorations



Avoid cheap, plastic ones that will just be thrown away. Make home-made ones out of card, cardboard, pipe cleaners- even pompoms make a great addition to any Christmas Tree!



Artificial trees are not very good for the environment - it is better to get a real tree. However, instead of throwing it away, try choosing a suitable pot for it and keep it in the garden the rest of the year.





Christmas Puns!

- Why did Santa go to hospital? Because of his poor elf!
- What did the snowman say to the aggressive carrot? Get out of my face.
- What is one of the best Christmas presents to get or receive? Because you can't beat it!
- How did Mary and Joseph know that Baby Jesus weighed exactly 8lb 2oz when he was born? They had a weigh in the manger.
- What do you get if you cross Santa Claus with Sherlock Holmes? Santa Clues.
- Who is Santa's favourite singer? Elf-is Presley!
- What do snowmen wear on their heads? Ice caps.
- Why are Christmas trees so bad at sewing? They always drop their needles.
- Knock knock? Who's there? Hanna? Hanna who? Hanna partridge in a pear tree?
- What is a reindeer's favourite singer? Beyonsleigh.
- Why is everyone thirsty at the North Pole? No well. (like Noel)



by Tabitha and Riya

BEST CHRISTMAS BROOKIES



What's inside this holiday issue:

RECIPE: THE EASIEST BROOKIES EVER

CLASSIC GINGERBREAD RECIPE

A TWIST ON A CLASSIC - COCONUT MINCE PIES

CHRISTMAS STAR CHOCOLATE BROOKIES!

Recipes by Hugo J

Cookie

- 115g Unsalted Butter, Room Temp
- 200g Soft Light Brown Sugar
- 1 Egg, at Room Temp
- Vanilla Extract 1 teaspoon
- Plain Flour
- Salt ¼ teaspoon
- Bicarbonate of Soda ¼ teaspoon
- Dark Chocolate Chips 100g for more flavour
- 20g desiccated coconut





**THE BROOKIES
IN THIS ISSUE
WILL
SWEETEN
YOUR
HOLIDAYS
AND IMPRESS
FRIENDS.**

Brownie

- 110g Unsalted Butter
- 125g Dark Chocolate
- 2 Eggs
- 210g Golden Caster Sugar
- 1 tsp Vanilla Extract
- 1/4 tsp Salt
- 60g Plain Flour
- 2 tbsp Cocoa Powder

You will also need a star shaped cookie cutter

HOW TO BAKE:



- Preheat the oven to 180°C/Fan 170°C and lightly grease & line your tin.
- In an electric stand mixer or a large bowl with an electric hand whisk, beat together the butter and sugar until it's light and fluffy.
- Then crack in that egg and give it another beat until it's smooth.
- Drop in the vanilla extract and briefly mix again to distribute it. Now would be a suitable time to scrape the sides down if needs be.





HOW TO BAKE:



- Then sift in the flour, salt & bicarbonate of soda and mix again just until it comes together to form a sticky dough.
- Add in chocolate chips and desiccated coconut until your heart's content. Then mix a little more!
- Finally, scrape the mixture into your prepared baking tin and smooth out with a spatula.

BROWNIE!

- Slice the butter into cubes into a large glass bowl and break in the chocolate. Heat in 10-20 second intervals in your microwave (or set over a pan of barely simmering water if you don't have a microwave) stirring well between each blast until it's completely melted. Try not to overheat. If it gets too warm, allow to cool for a few minutes before moving on to the next stage or you will get scrambled egg brownies!
- Crack in one of the eggs and beat well until it smooths out. Then crack in the second and repeat until it becomes smooth again.
- Time for the sugar! Weigh it right into the bowl and give it a nice mix. The sugar should dissolve, so shouldn't feel grainy when you stir.
- Tip in the vanilla extract & the salt and briefly mix once more.
- Finally, sift in the flour & cocoa powder and fold in with a spatula. Keep mixing only until you can't see any more flour. Be Careful!
- Now pour the brownie batter completely over the cookie dough in your tin and smooth out with a spatula.
- Bake in the preheated oven for 45-50 mins then put a skewer into the middle only has a little amount of batter on the tip. The top will be nice and crispy. Now for the tough bit. Let this dish cool completely before removing it from the tin. When cool, use a cookie cutter to slice into as many stars as you have. If you have any left, store them in an airtight container at room temperature and consume within 4-5 days.



EVERYONE LOVES A GINGER BREAD AT CHRISTMAS

YOU WILL NEED:

- 150g plain flour
- 50g caster sugar
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- 100g butter cut into pieces
- Sprinkles

HOW TO BAKE:

- Step 1: Put the flour, sugar and ginger into a mixing bowl
- Step 2: add the butter rubbing tenderly with your fingertips until resembles fine crumbs
- Step 3: continue mixing to form a soft ball with your hands then knead and roll out and cut out different shapes
- Step 4: Move the shapes onto an ungreased baking tray and place into a preheated oven (350 degrees Fahrenheit) for 7-8 minutes.



Enjoy!

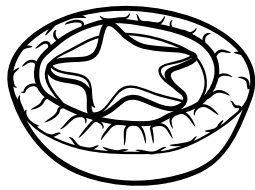


A TWIST ON A CLASSIC...



COCONUT MINCE PIES

Recipes by Hugo J



- 175g plain flour
- 1 jar of mincemeat
- 175g coconut flour
- 260g unsalted butter, softened
- 125g caster sugar, plus extra for sprinkling
- 1 large egg, plus 1 beaten egg for glazing
- STEP 1 - place flour and butter in a bowl and rub together to a crumb consistency.
- STEP 2 - add sugar and 1 large beaten egg and mix.
- STEP 3 - tip out onto a lightly floured surface and fold until the pastry comes together, be careful not to over mix.

- STEP 5 - scoop the large jar of mincemeat into a bowl
- STEP 6 - heat oven at 200C
- STEP 7 - roll out the pastry to 3mm thick
- STEP 8 - using a round cutter (about 10cm), cut out 16 bases and place them into muffin trays. Put 1½ tbsp mincemeat mixture into each. Brush the edge of each pie with a little beaten egg.
- STEP 9 - re-roll out the pastry to cut 7cm lids and press them on top to seal. Glaze with the beaten egg, sprinkle with the extra caster sugar, then make a small cut in the tops.
- STEP 10 - bake the mince pies for 15-20 mins until golden brown. Leave to cool before releasing them from the muffin trays and dusting with a tad more icing sugar before serving. Tell us what you think!

RGS Poet of the Year

TERE MARZJE BY SHIVALI V



'Tere marzje' means 'your choice' in Punjabi. My grandma speaks mainly Punjabi since her stroke 6 years ago and this is based on what she says to me.

'Tere marzje'
My grandma said to me...
'It's your choice'
What you choose to see.

There are a thousand suns.
There is a thorn on every rose.
When one door opens,
Another one has to close.

'Tere marzje'
My grandma smiled to me...
'It's your choice'
What you choose to be.

'Tere marzje'
My grandma smiled to me...
'It's your choice'
What you choose to be.

Into the horizon one runs.
Your destiny who knows?
Fairies disguise as goblins;
Friendship always grows.

'Tere marzje'
My grandma hugged me.
'It's your choice'
Today you're alive and free.

RGS Poet of the Year

MY DEAREST SUMMER BY NITHYA S



'It has been so long since I last
saw you,
Running down the lane, your
golden tresses swaying like
wheat in the fields.
I can still remember the warm
kiss you threw upon my cheek
Your mouth was sticky with
fresh honey from the hives.
I wish I could be more like you,
Always ready for the next
adventure-
To dance in the orchard,
before the apples had fallen,
And dip your toes in the stream
I could hardly keep up-

'Maybe catch a glimpse of your
cotton dress
And the warm glow reflecting
off your tan cheeks
Before you turned the corner.
My darling Summer,
I hope to see you again before
the days are short-
But I know you will not come
around till the new year.
And when you do,
We will make the most of your
joy again!

RGS Poet of the Year

OPHELIA'S CURSE BY NIAMH D

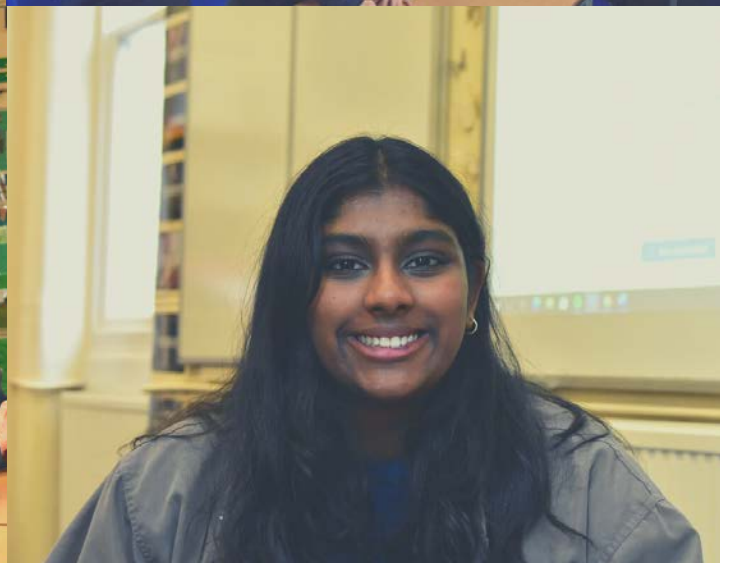


'Auburn red corn stalks sway in the watery river breeze
Between stems tadpoles skip like wisps
Roots stretch deeply down through the landscape of her scalp
And disappear into the steely blue eclipse

Ivory canyons struck across freckled plains
Open and peer in- she invites you in her silence,
All that remains is opal-cracked coloured cloudy iridescent
Veiled with a film of slate water over the iris

O, my poor child, nature coldly croons,
Weeping branches arching as her nymph turns to dust
Madness did not become her, but death cast her stony beautiful
And so, defective, she fell as she must

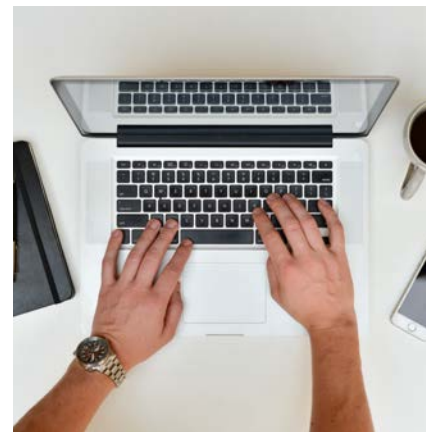
THANKS TO THE CASTLE TEAM!





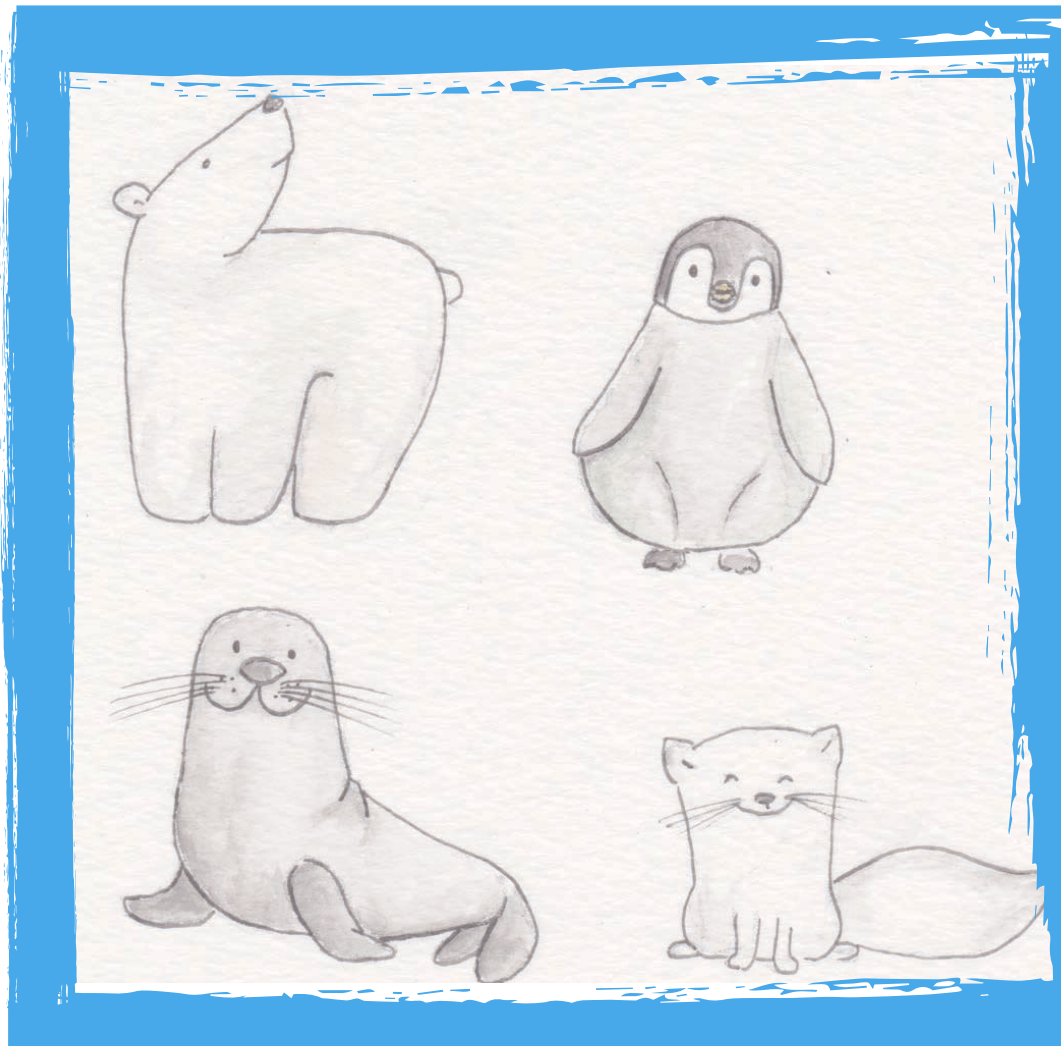
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Are you interested in representing student voice?
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Ms Harvey for more details: chh@reigategrammar.org



THE CASTLE

Merry Christmas



and a happy new
year!