

**MAY EDITION**

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**2023**

**WHAT THE HECK?**

**Number Two**

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## EDITORIAL NOTE

**Welcome** to the second monthly edition of ‘What the Heck?’

Our aims when compiling this paper were to inspire our readers to engage politically and socially with the issues they have strong opinions on, or perhaps consider different interpretations on such matters—this is mostly visible in the ‘News and Current Affairs’ section. We’ve also included lots of reviews of local events so you can explore the wider community.

I hope that inside everyone can find something they enjoy as this paper is for you, the members of Heckmondwike Grammar School’s community.

After much consideration, we’ve tweaked the overall formatting to better reflect the newspaper style.

I would like to take this space to thank my wonderful team who have worked tremendously professionally in order to produce this edition after the two-week break. Without every contributor, this project would not be possible.

If you would like to contribute to the next edition through adding to areas we’ve included or an idea of your own, email us on:

**[WhattheHeck@heckgrammar.co.uk](mailto:WhattheHeck@heckgrammar.co.uk)**

Thank you,

Alyssia—Editor

P.S. Check the entertainment section for the answers to last edition’s games.

## ‘KNIFE ANGEL’

### Bradford's attempt to reverse its concerning knife crime statistics

By E. Hoyland - Contributing Writer

**Standing at eight metres tall, the National Sculpture against Violence and Aggression, also known as ‘Knife Angel’, has recently been moved to the streets of Bradford.** Created by sculptor Alfie Bradley, it is made of around 100,000 knives acquired from 43 different police amnesties, a remarkable 30% of which were bloodied and in need of sanitation, highlighting the scale of the issue it seeks to tackle. Bradley says that he has seen first-hand the “devastating impact” of knife crime on both victims and indeed perpetrators, thusly, he wishes to not only “open a conversation about all forms of violence and their impact, but also educate... reducing instances of violent behaviour”. It aims to show those veering down routes of knife crime and violence that there is “a light to follow” and it is itself an artistic and peaceful use of knives, showing that they needn’t be used for harm and aggression. Located in the very middle of the city, in Centenary Square, it is a beacon whose light will reach out across the area certainly, and hopefully reach all corners, giving those wavering on the edge of violent crime a nudge in the right direction. However, this is just one part of Bradford’s multifaceted approach to the burdening issue of violent crime.

Over 38,000 violent crimes were reported last year in the Bradford postcode district – not only is this a 4.1% increase on the previous year, but a national high. These violent crime rates have been steadily increasing since 2013 and are now over six times higher than they were ten years ago. Admittedly, these figures have plateaued in recent months, but this is more due to reaching an unsustainable peak than as a result of any policy implementation. This then is the scale of the challenge, the worst in England and getting worse... so what exactly is Bradford doing about it?

Well, the arrival of the sculpture marks the start of Bradford’s anti-violence month where, to add to this more creative approach of dealing with knife crime, art competitions are being run: any budding artist can submit work that promotes a message of peace, and the goal of these competitions is to try and deter young people away from violence. Tackling the issue more directly, the Youth Justice Service for Bradford will be delivering assemblies to over 12,000 school children, making them “anti-violence champions”, again with the aim of spreading this amicable message among Bradford’s youngest generation, hoping to evoke a lasting change for the future.

This campaign is also targeting those whose job it is to try and reduce knife crime now, and as such a recent anti-violence conference was held, directed at professionals. With guests from West Yorkshire Police’s Restorative Justice Programme, a BRI trauma surgeon, one



of the University’s DNA profiling experts and Christina Gabbittas, author of ‘No More Knives or County Lines’, the goal of this event is to facilitate those already trying to tackle this worrying issue head-on by giving them the latest and most useful tools available to stop current trends and problems.

So, ‘Knife Angel’ is just a part of Bradford’s multifarious approach to a burdening and concerning problem, but one that they are seeking to solve now and for future generations. Only time will tell us of the success of this striking sculpture but what is certainly clear is the local council's proactive approach to arguably their biggest challenge.

*‘Knife Angel’ will remain in Bradford until the end of the month before moving to Crewe in May.*

# SPARE HIM HIS LIFE FROM THIS MONSTROSITY!

## Can Humza Yousaf save the sinking SNP ship?

By Sam Walshaw - News and Current Affairs Editor

*It is safe to say that incoming SNP leader Humza Yousaf has a difficult task on his hands.*

**In mid-February, Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon surprised many by announcing her resignation, sparking a protracted and somewhat divisive Scottish National Party (SNP) leadership contest.**

Various reasons have been suggested for Sturgeon's decision to resign, including the party's stalling plan for a second referendum on Scottish independence. The SNP claim they have a mandate from the Scottish people to hold a vote, but the UK Government have so far prevented all attempts to make it happen.

Another contributing factor in her resignation could be the controversy surrounding the Scottish Government's Gender Recognition Reform bill. Despite it being heavily debated in the Scottish Parliament, and passed in December by a margin of 47 votes, the new law was blocked by the UK Government – the first time this has happened since the devolved Parliament's creation in 1999.

Questions were also asked at the time about a loan that the SNP's former Chief Executive, Peter Murrell, (who is also Sturgeon's husband) gave the party in 2021, in order to fix a "cash flow" problem - more on that later. A very credible possibility is that Sturgeon was simply tired out from a lifetime in politics – including a record eight years as First Minister, and seven before that as Deputy First Minister. Perhaps, like New Zealand's former Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, she suffered from burnout after such a long time in the upper echelons of UK politics.

Three candidates put their names forward for the leadership race: Finance Secretary Kate Forbes, Ash Regan (former Community Safety Minister) and Humza Yousaf, the Health Secretary. Regan, in truth always an outsider in a two-way fight, secured only 11% of the vote in the first round, and was duly eliminated. Expressing socially conservative views during the contest on issues such as abortion and the LGBT community did not help her cause. After Regan's second preference votes were distributed between the remaining two candidates, Yousaf was announced as the new First Minister of Scotland. The winning margin was described as "razor-thin" by the BBC, and for good reason: only four percentage points separated Forbes and Yousaf after the second and final round.

The contest is widely seen to have exposed deep divisions in the SNP, and the high of Yousaf's election to power was very quickly followed by a considerable low. The new First Minister had barely selected his new cabinet when Murrell (remember him?) was arrested as part of a police



Picture credit: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-04-18/troubled-snp-s-new-leader-yousaf-faces-daunting-economic-reality>

investigation into the party's finances. Everything seemed very unclear, with serious questions about who knew what and when the ongoings occurred. Had Sturgeon's resignation been in full knowledge of the coming arrest? She strongly refuted such suggestions.

Later the same day, Murrell was released by the police without charge, "pending further investigation"; the party's headquarters in Edinburgh were also subject to a search. Further controversy erupted when a luxury motorhome bought by the party (for use as a campaign vehicle) was seized from outside the house of Murrell's mother. The police investigation will take time, and the way in which party donations are used is a very serious issue. All this detracts from the SNP's entire purpose: to achieve independence for Scotland. The party's President, Mike Russell, believes that they are facing their biggest crisis for fifty years, and has said that he does not think independence can be achieved in the near future.

Contemporary polls reflect this assertion: only 41% of people would vote "yes" in an independence referendum tomorrow, rather than 48% back in December; public support for the party itself is gradually dropping. All this leaves Yousaf in limbo, offering a great opportunity to both the Scottish Conservatives and Scottish Labour to make gains north of the border. Labour increasing leverage in Scotland at the next General Election could be a key part of a possible, but by no means certain, return to power after more than a decade away.

After a long and often successful term in office, Nicola Sturgeon has left her successor with a very difficult task on his hands. Humza Yousaf's problems are not going away any time soon; in fact, they are likely to worsen.



LET'S  
CONSIDER...

## ARE JUST STOP OIL RIGHT TO PROTEST IN THE WAY THEY DO, OR SHOULD THEY JUST STOP IT?

By E. Hoyland - Contributing Writer

**Just Stop Oil** have hit the headlines recently with well-reported protests at the World Snooker Championship in Sheffield, adding to their accumulating list of events targeted, the most high-profile of which include protests at last year's Formula 1 British Grand Prix, at Premier League football matches and, in a non-sporting context, a can of soup being thrown at Van Gogh's

"Sunflowers". The goal of these demonstrations is not necessarily to target these events and the reports of some football clubs' air miles may well have been something they sought to highlight), but to use these large platforms to raise awareness and get their dissident voices heard – something one must admit they have achieved, irrespective of your views on their actions.

The issue that they wish to raise awareness of is one, evidently, of climate change, but more specifically they want "to ensure the Government commits to halting new fossil fuel licensing and production". Many have labelled their protests dangerous, saying that they are reckless and unsafe; for example, dozens of protestors on a high-speed Formula 1 track has obvious risks and dangers, and gluing oneself to a road has similar potential consequences. Another criticism of their actions is their irrelevancy: how does throwing soup at a piece of art highlight issues linked to climate change? And, in a similar vein, people have been frustrated by disruption, be it a failure to get to work on time or the delays to live sporting events – frustrations augmented by the perceived insignificance of the demonstrations. The group are currently planning a legal slow march through London later this year and this threatens to be yet another event that will incite exasperation and anger as the protesters continue to urge the government to act to save our planet.



Picture credit: <https://inews.co.uk/sport/snooker/snooker-protest-what-about-just-stop-oil-protester-why-crucible-2280746>

*"For me, straight away as a snooker player I am thinking: 'Is the table recoverable?' We don't know what that is on the table," said BBC commentator Stephen Hendry as a Just Stop Oil protestor demonstrated at the Crucible in Sheffield.*

However, despite such resentment and opposition, we are talking about it – I am writing about it and you are reading about it – and so they have succeeded. We are discussing the rights and wrongs of their actions, meaning we are talking about climate change and meaning that their name is everywhere, a name that in itself conveys a very conspicuous message. The reason that their protests seem irrelevant is because they are simply choosing the biggest stages, to get themselves heard as much as possible: if these climate change protestors had shown such vexation next to a wind farm it would hardly have been breaking news. And as for the inconvenience? Well, the way to stop them is to stop using oil, which is, I suppose, a win-win.

And so it is a trade-off: are their actions vindicated and necessary, or simply heedless and irritating? On their official website, Just Stop Oil quote Sir David King, the former Chief Scientific Advisor to the UK Government, as saying "What we do over the next three to four years, I believe, is going to determine the future of humanity", and it has recently been declared by the

United Nations that we have a "50:50" chance of exceeding the 1.5°C target for global temperature change by 2026, which is a morbidly horrifying statistic .

The facts are straightforward: in terms of global warming, we are quite simply doomed. As it stands, global governments are not doing nearly enough and frankly, neither is ours because, the way trends are shifting, our goal of 'net zero' by 2050, though relatively proactive, will be futile as we will all already be suffering hugely from climate change: up to our ankles in water with little to eat and being bombarded by extreme weather on a weekly basis. It is not hyperbolic to say that climate change is the likely cause of death for you and me.

To conclude, something absolutely needs to be done and if we have not already passed the 'tipping point', we need to do that something now. Therefore, the validity of Just Stop Oil's cause cannot be questioned, not even slightly – it is just a question of whether or not the nature of their demonstrations is just and if they are trying to spread their substantiated message in the right way.

## THINKPIECE

### The coronation of King Charles III - What do YOU think?

*By Mr J. Barnett - Assistant Head Teacher*

**Saturday 6 May is a day that will be remembered for many years to come as the coronation of HM King Charles III in Westminster Abbey and will, undoubtedly, be a moment of history.** After all, the last time we witnessed a British monarch being crowned was in 1953 for Queen Elizabeth II, and this truly was a national event. The coronation was planned in such a way that, for the first time, it could be televised. The coronation was one of the first opportunities many people had to witness such an event. People who had not seen the Queen before would be able to see her, albeit on a small screen in grainy black and white. It was, nonetheless, a national event and celebrated as such.

Can the same be said of King Charles? It is true that moments of constitutional history and tradition do happen fairly regularly – the state opening of Parliament, the changing of the guard, the bestowing of titles all occur without much fanfare. As a moment of history, a coronation of a monarch is different. When Queen Elizabeth II died the crown passed to Charles immediately. Succession was instantaneous. The Queen is dead; long live the King! Because there is an inevitable gap between succession and coronation, the monarch has time to make the event their own, as they may view this as an opportunity to define the new era.

Traditions that have not seen the light of day for 70 years – longer than most of us have been alive – will be reimagined. Some will remain the same, others will change. This is to be expected. As in any family event, the main players want this to be their day and the dynamics between family members will be under scrutiny.

The difference is that this is not a regular family, nor is this a regular event. They are a publicly funded body. It is also fair to say that in times of financial hardship the outlaying of vast sums of money to host the coronation must be justifiable. Remember, though, that in 1953 the country was barely out of the ravages of the Second World War, and many basic foodstuffs were still subject to rationing.

The challenge for the Royal Family is make the coronation meaningful for the nation. However, questions about the relevance of the coronation are interspersed with those about the purpose of the monarchy as an institution. Some believe that the monarchy is as relevant as it always has been, and we should show deference to the Royal Family. The King is our monarch, and he has a constitutional right to be crowned. Those who value the Royal Family will see this as an opportunity to celebrate, to share the day with family and friends, and to celebrate with neighbours.

This will not be the case for everyone. Those who are under extreme financial hardship, others who are on hospital waiting lists, or who are struggling to pay spiralling energy and food bills, or suffering from poor public services may see this as less of a priority and feel the sums would be better spent elsewhere.

It is true to say that national events have the potential to unite the country. The question is, do the people of the UK want to come together and celebrate the crowning of the new monarch? The answer depends on what we as individuals decide to do to mark the event. After all, 6 May 2023 marks the start of a Bank Holiday!



THINGS TO  
SEE AND DO...

## LEEDS ARTISTS SHOW 2023

The latest in this years 'city of culture'

*By Alyssia Evans - Editor*

**After an open call to local artists, Leeds Art Gallery is displaying a range of submissions - this includes sculptures, videos, photography, drawings and paintings.** One display consists of 21 works from local school children. As this is the first element of the exhibition you're greeted with, it will set the tone for the celebration of the modern art that contributes to the vibrant atmosphere that Leeds city centre has to offer.

In each exhibit space, a booklet is provided which can be taken as you investigate the pieces on display. Written inside is more explanation to be the meaning behind what you're viewing, as well as the artists inspirations and some include details about their personal journey as an artist, including their connection to Leeds. Being able to read personal accounts from the artists themselves enabled me to feel immersed into the exhibition because I could feel connected to their works and relate in some cases.

The range of styles, techniques and stories in the exhibition enhances the experience tremendously because of the sheer mass of work to digest. Whilst there were some pieces that initially "didn't do much for me" as my grandad noted, I was still able to appreciate the motivation for the art. After further reading and chatting, I could enjoy an initially off-putting piece because I was interpreting it from a different perspective.

Personally, the appeal of art comes from the foremost ability to identify with a piece or artist and build that relationship with works because you feel expressed through the creativity. You're then able to expand and develop opinions about movements and styles, or even learn more about a situation you had not considered. The best thing about this exhibition is that all that experience is available. Whether you're a frequent art enjoyer or lacking knowledge, the opportunity to absorb art forms is there.

Particularly as I visited during the school holidays, the venue was packed throughout my duration, meaning that the atmosphere was bubbling with different groups. It was fantastic to hear snippets people's discussion around the work as well as the sounds coming from the upstairs interactive display. This piece explored vibrations in cymbals depending on a range of

factors and were rolled on the floor by viewers to experiment with the sounds produced. Whilst this was noisy, it was incredibly fascinating to see and partake in because it broke the ever-present disconnect with high-value pieces that are kept locked behind glass. I can only imagine the enjoyment this would bring to younger people, preventing them from feeling bored and actually allowing them to engage thoroughly, perhaps without knowing.

As a young artist, it was inspiring to see so many examples of work similar to my style being displayed in a museum and celebrated by those visiting. This highlights the significance of praising the next generation of key artists because it sends an important message to the youth – it is possible to do what you love.

*Leeds Artists Show 2023 is a free exhibition that is available to visit until 30<sup>th</sup> April in Leeds Art Gallery*

## OVERLOOKED

**Leeds City Museum celebrates communities that have, till now, been left out of the history books.**

*By Alyssia Evans – Editor*

**With inclusivity, accessibility and celebration at the forefront, the Preservative Party has delivered this exceptional display of overlooked communities in Leeds.**

As our Arts and Culture Editor is a member of the Preservative Party and contributed to the exhibition, I was fortunate enough to attend the opening. This was a great insight into the hard work that developed into the varying displays and showed the passion that the Preservative Party have for inclusivity, as there was an opportunity for silent viewings and interpreters for those needing to access this to engage with the speeches.

I have visited again since the opening and was amazed by how much I had missed the first time due to the amount of information to consume. The reason why this exhibition is so great to re-visit is because you will always find more – especially when it comes to interpreting and connecting to the real stories. I felt more impacted by displays, such as the section focusing on transatlantic slavery, where I had missed some details on the text panels due to the busyness of the opening. I would view the exhibition a third time to see what else I've missed!

When seeing what's on display, you'll be astonished at the sheer range of mediums used, as well as artifacts that have been collated. Most memorably for me were the videos that explored deafness and stimming in neurodivergent people, because they gave me examples on what was being discussed. I found this enabled me to connect more, because I was experiencing the communication of real people affected by the issues discussed, rather than solely reading. The same can be said for the audio files that delved into the journey of autistic people navigating their differences. Particularly I enjoyed the array of objects, such as vinyls, sheet music and photographs, taken from the times discussed in the panels because they added an

element of authenticity. This includes the queer badges as well as vinyl records from the works of Angela Morley as they helped to immerse me into the discussion.

The intentional focus on accessibility shone throughout the displays, because the reality is that visiting a museum is so much more than seeing facts – it's an interaction. The inclusion of a well-being corner, consisting of beanbags, books, ear defenders and a feedback box being located at the end of the exhibition makes it a great space for people who may become overwhelmed to readjust. When first walking into the exhibition, you're greeted with codes that alert you to the symbol to look out for if needing trigger warnings. This sensitivity to delicate topics is needed through all museums because it prepares the viewers for when they may be about to consume upsetting content that they may not be in a place to digest. I'm especially thankful that the Preservative Party took such care of its audience as this shows they are actively considering their message in their work.

Whilst of course there are displays within the exhibit that may be tricky for everyone to experience, there is something for everyone to connect with at 'Overlooked' as well as a struggle or community they may never have had the opportunity to be educated on. This is why the exhibition is so important - it has the potential to draw essentially anybody in. These displays are still available to view and are excellent to visit as a part of a day out with family, or a quick look around when in the city. I strongly encourage everyone takes a look at the extraordinary efforts of the Preservative Party as they have produced a fantastic display of community, inclusivity and accessibility. The display has also gained them national and international recognition, being nominated for awards at the Museum + Heritage Awards and the Eurocities Award in Brussels!

## ALLELUJAH!

### Heidi Thomas adaptation leaves Alan Bennett play on life support

By N. Roberts – Arts and Culture Editor

*Please note: This film contains themes of grief and death which some may find upsetting.*

**Allelujah! began in 2018, as Alan Bennett's inaugural play in his creative partner Nicholas Hytner's new Bridge Theatre.** The state-of-nation piece was a witty and, at times, dark jab at the crumbling foundations of the National Health Service and the government intent on destroying them, while satirising the treatment of the elderly and idea of duty of care. It used Bennett's classic method of taking a familiar space, not often seen as political – in this case, a geriatric ward in the North of England – and exposing its underbelly

with undeniable humour, sadness and quiet anger. It is this technique of subverting Middle England that often leads to the mischaracterisation of Bennett's work as harmless, twee comedies written by a dry, elderly man, allowing people to ignore the intense social themes and almost grotesque characters of his works. To quote the man himself, 'Were I to stab Judi Dench with a pitchfork, I should still be a teddy bear'.

It was with this fear of mischaracterisation in mind that I nervously approached *Allelujah!*, the first time an Alan Bennett work hasn't been adapted by him and Nicholas Hytner since 1984's *A Private Function*. Instead, this adaptation has *Call the Midwife's* Heidi Thomas behind the wheel – and to put it frankly, she's crashed the car.

The film is not without positives. Judi Dench and Derek Jacobi shine in an all-star cast, featuring legends of British screen like Jennifer Saunders, David Bradley and Russell Tovey. *Allelujah!* is undoubtedly funny, shot through with sparks of genuine, and frequently dark humour. George Fenton's scores and arrangement are fantastic. It is, at times, heart-wrenching and uncomfortable, raising important questions around our treatment of those around us. But the attempts to emulate Bennett's signature style just don't land, and this is where the problem lies. This doesn't feel like an Alan Bennett piece. This is essentially an hour and forty-minute episode of *Call the Midwife*, complete with vaguely patronising monologues about care – just being delivered by Bally Gill instead of Vanessa Redgrave.

References to the North throughout the play are deeply overwrought and go so far as to be incorrect, with a humourless reference to the moors, despite the scene being filmed at Wakefield Westgate railway station - hardly famous for its proximity to the Peak District. This results in genuine, serious moments being undermined by stereotypical jokes, such as dialogue on the hard-hitting effects of NHS cuts being immediately followed by the phrase 'And that's a tricky bus route!'. It's almost as if Thomas has been given a list of 'Northern complaints' and told to air them out one by one for laughs, complete with a grumbling former miner at the helm. Where the character was used previously to lash out against the so-called 'death of England', now he is nothing more than a comedic stereotype.

However, the real shame is Thomas' eventual and inevitable drop into 'twee'. Forcing in an out-of-character speech on how the real NHS was the friends we made along the way undermines the essential message of Britain's political stagnation, while removing the theme of immigration almost entirely causes the anger that underlines the play to seep out of it. Even the final Covid monologue lacks the real punch it needs to drive home the righteous fury in Bennett's work, leaving it instead with a strange and uncertain place in the canon of British film.

*Allelujah! is currently showing in local cinemas.*

## COUNTING 7S REVIEW

### Band plays their best gig yet at local venue

By Will Hodgson - Arts and Culture Correspondent

**‘The Counting 7s’ were on form for their recent supporting performance for headliners ‘The Dassins’ at the Lending Room in Leeds.** With the loss of bassist Bill Memphis, replaced by Dominic Kenworthy alongside original member Morgan Duffy (both HGS students), the gig put on was still quite strong.

What struck me about the band’s performance were the original tracks, rather than the heavy focus on covers like past gigs. 5 original singles were played by the 7s, including ‘Wired’, ‘Not so Hard’, and most recently the song ‘Fulla B\*\*\*\*\*s’, yet all saw their best plays to date. Personally, my favourite track, both released and played live, is ‘Not so Hard’; a tune which has the essence of Barbarism Begins at Home by The Smiths. It has an electric rhythm which is hard to ignore, nor dislike, and musically speaking it is certainly the most enrapturing. Though I can’t say I enjoy ‘Wired’ as much as I do ‘Not so Hard’, I think it has caught on as the most staple tune for the 7s - maybe because it was the first single released, but also because it can be difficult to sing or properly feel the other two singles compared to it. Finally, there was also ‘Fulla B\*\*\*\*\*s’. I don’t find this track as enthralling as ‘Not so Hard’, not really being able to top its rhythm or sound, yet I thought the vocal and lyrical performance was an improvement.

There were the standard covers, still sounding solid as always and had everyone singing along. As an audience member has said “The great thing about the inclusion of covers is that people first discovering a band can still absorb the atmosphere of the gig and feel the unique style of a band since this is most obvious in the changes made to a song you’ve heard before. We certainly got a feel for their inspirations and the music they enjoy.”

As mentioned, there was the introduction of bassist Dominic Kenworthy, who came in as the former bassist recently left the band due to “creative differences”. Certainly, he did not disappoint, looking as if he had adjusted to the band and the music rather quickly. The rest of the band were again on form, sounding far more composed than previous gigs I had attended. Though I do like the chaos, I can say that the composure did give the band a far better edge, which I do rate highly apart from the ending of the gig – Weezerbaiting. Although stopping Weezer is always a good thing, it was done somewhat of an awkward fashion at the end which I wouldn’t like to see in future.



Photo Credits: Will Hodgson

*Note from the Arts and Culture Editor – as a fellow attendee of the gig, I also found it to be one of the strongest performances of the night. We are proud to support such a successful band from our school, and their strong signature style as they break out into the music scene. Updates on the band, including upcoming gigs, can be found on their Instagram @counting7s*



CREATIVE  
WRITING...

## AFTERMATH OF THE END

*By H. Batley – Contributing Writer*

It had been strange, seeing the end of the world almost happen. The explosions and flames that came from the great beasts who wanted to claim this plane of existence as their own was one strange thing, but to see a group who were practically ants compared to the great beasts make it come to a stop was even stranger. What was even stranger than this though was the group who stumbled into the village not too long afterwards, wounds still open and leaning heavily on one another just to stay upright. One could easily see that they were nothing more than kids who had been through more than most of the village folk would throughout their whole lifetime - and may have even seen the near end of the world much closer than everyone else. One could also see how close the group were, silently conversing about their next move and what they were supposed to do, quietly shuffling away from anyone who came too close, even if it was to help.

After only a few weeks, they took to creating their own contributions to the community. One, an aarakocra, ended up building a new public school which taught basic knowledge about the vast world and the creatures which could be found in it. Alongside this they also taught the children to protect themselves against such creatures. Another, a half elf, opened a small tavern serving food and drink to those who passed through with a smile, and the reassurance that they would visit again once they had completed their adventure safely. They never really talked about whatever they faced but seeing them evolve into a peaceful life, helping bring that peace to others, was something of a wonder to watch. It was like they had finally achieved a chance to have their own chance - to have a new beginning, a new start.

## LOBSTER LOVE

*By Juliet Scott – Contributing Writer*

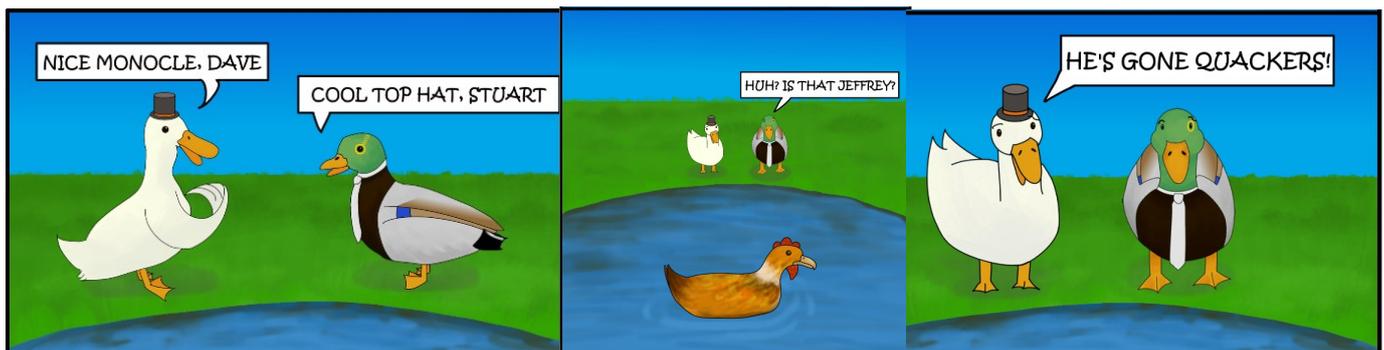
It's complicated,  
We don't mate for life.

It's serial monogamy,  
I've got done by the lobster I love.

We didn't fit each other's exoskeletons,  
It's complicated.

## COMIC STRIP

*By E. Hoyland – Contributing Writer and Jack Wharton—Illustrator*



# HOUSE BAKE OFF REVIEW

*By James Wilding - Student Life Editor*

*With additional quotes from Juliet Scott—Contributing writer*

**On Monday the 24th of April, I had the chance to go to the second annual Staff House Bake Off, an event I missed the first time round due to having finished school at that point.** As I arrived in the Swann Hall, the judges were already surveying the bakes, judging the appearance first. After the judges wrote down their first impressions, tasting started, split into two categories- cakes and traybakes. The judges then ranked them. After this had been done I talked with one of the judges - a rather critical one. He had declarations on the cakes such as “Tastes nice, looks like a hot mess”, “Tastes like old tired” and for one poor baker, just “Dreadful”.

‘What the Heck?’ contributing writer Juliet Scott also attended the staff bake-off and thought everything was delicious. However, it’s clear that one item really sealed the deal for her: Mr Tipler’s bread. In a comment for the article, she declared “Oh my goodness! The bread was delicious. So fluffy and divine! And the butter – don’t get me started! It was brilliant. It was spreadable and salty and paired so well with the bread. I would say that the bake off was fabulous, but especially the bread!”

Congratulations to Mr Tipler for his glowing review and his impeccable bread-making abilities, and another congratulations to all involved in the event – what a treat for the school community! The winning bakes ended up belonging to Mr Currie, Mrs Swann and Mrs Carter especially, so congratulations to those three as well!

## ENRICHMENT FOCUS

### Well-being Club

*By Charlie Sutherland – Member of Well-being Club*

**Well-being Club is a new enrichment that takes place on Wednesday Period 5.** The activities are diverse ranging from juggling to audiobooks. This week we have been working on journaling, a much more down to earth activity. We are following the suggestion by Miss Maguire in trying to find the good in everyday life, some days being easier than others. When the club was first formed, the aims of what we would use it for were discussed. We hope to improve some problem areas in school regarding wellbeing, which is why interviews are slowly underway about the issues that take place (see contact details below). We are also collecting data from universities and general mental health/wellbeing sources as basic ideas for systems to implement into our lives, to test out their effectiveness.

Most sessions take place in Miss Maguire’s office, formerly with Mr Currie in the drama studio, whom it turns out is an avid juggler. The club is, of course, open to anyone wishing to join and to make suggestions for what the club could discuss, or anything you think would help your wellbeing.

If you have any suggestions for us, please email me at:  
[17lsutherland@heckgrammar.co.uk](mailto:17lsutherland@heckgrammar.co.uk)

## CLUB FOCUS: YOUTH THEATRE

*By James Wilding - Student Life Editor*

**One of the clubs that is a cornerstone of KS3, Youth Theatre is one of the longest running clubs in the school’s history.** The premise is, of course, drama, with anyone from year seven to year nine able to join. Each year, they will perform two shows. This year we have enjoyed The Snowman which received glowing reviews. Still in the works is the Railway Children. There are many opportunities to take part for KS4 and 5 students as they’re welcomed along and can help with some organizational or directorial roles.

The first production I saw and helped with this year was The Snowman, a production based off the animated Christmas film. Each scene had a different cast in the roles, as there were so many people interested. Each group was told their context and devised together the script. What was particularly was how many separate parts had been built and came together for the performance. As well as that, the cast was majority year sevens, who hadn’t even completed a full term. Their production highlighted their immense work ethic, passion and professionalism.

The upcoming performance has a pre-written script. This gives the children a new challenge as they must embody and deliver the text as intended by its writer. While I cannot reveal anymore, I can assure you that it isn’t a performance you want to miss! Anyone who wants to work with costume, set or lighting need only to come along and ask, giving various opportunities to become a member of the backstage crew.

# CLUB FOCUS

## Interview with ‘Eco-committee’ member

*By James Wilding – Student Life Editor*

*Interviewee—Sam Walshaw*

### What do you do at Eco Committee?

“We do a range of activities with a focus on the environment. For example, we have recently planted a number of trees and shrubs up by the school tennis courts. We also hold sessions inside, discussing topics like environmental footprints. Meetings are very relaxed and are often practical – e.g. cutting up bottles to grow plants in them. The Committee also hosts book swaps and litter picks throughout the year.”



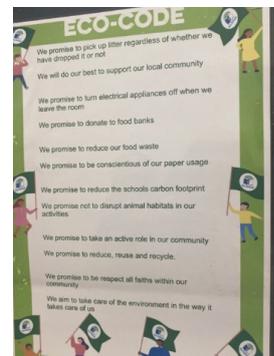
### Does your club have any specific aims or objectives that you want to achieve at your club?

“The Committee achieved a big goal last summer when we were awarded the prestigious Eco-Schools Green Flag Award. This involved, for example, the creation of an Eco Code (which can be seen on a poster at the back of the Swann Hall, near the Staff Room). I cannot claim any credit for this great achievement – it was before I joined! This year, one big project will be working with Mr Walker and the PE department to improve the school playing fields. This may involve creating an allotment, further tree planting and even a green roof! We also aim to host a textbook and revision guide sale in the near future: thank you to everyone who has donated books so far.”



### Who runs the club?

“Until very recently, the club was led by Year 13 student Martha Currie. However, responsibilities have gradually transferred to myself and Isaac Donovan, due to Martha’s upcoming A-Levels. Mr Currie attends most sessions but generally lets us students dictate the direction of sessions.”



### When and where does your club meet? Who can join your club?

Our club meets every week, on a Tuesday lunchtime. We usually meet in Mr Currie’s classroom (A105); if there is a change to this, it is posted on the Eco Committee Teams page. We sometimes stay after school to do things like planting trees. Anyone from across the school is more than welcome to join the club and you do not have to coming every week. We are a friendly bunch and always appreciate new members. Updates and photos from the club can be seen on our Twitter page.

### What has Eco Committee done so far this year?

Back in October, we looked at what an environmental footprint is, and what we can do to reduce it. Before Christmas, we “healed in” some saplings near the tennis courts for the winter. We have then been planting them out over the last few weeks. The Committee collected plastic bottles from across the school earlier this year: the aim is to convert them into planters to grow seeds in. We also had a drive to collect textbooks and revision guides, in order to hold a sale later this year. In March, several of our students joined a litter pick led by Batley and Spen MP Kim Leadbeater. Together with various members of the local community, the group managed to collect 56 bags of rubbish in a single hour!

# The Travelling Student's Guide to Rome

*By James Wilding - Student Life Editor*

**Over the break, I visited Italy, staying just an hour away from the capital of the country, Rome.** We went into Rome quite surprised as we didn't visit arguably the most famous of Roman landmarks – The Colosseum. Our tour guide told us about how as grandiose as it may look, the inside is mostly just rubble with a ridiculously long queue to get inside of it. Instead, we stopped by the Aventine Keyhole. In a large green door, it is interesting because you can see through three separate countries at once - Malta, the Vatican City and, of course, Italy. While unassuming at first, once you look through the keyhole, you can understand why it's something recommended for us to see.

We then headed into the Vatican City. We stopped in front of St Peter's Square and looked at the different structures around that area whilst learning about the surrounding art. He told us all about how the modern idea of what the Christian God looks like come from Michaelangelo's work. Particularly, the design of the square was interesting – when standing in certain spots in the square, the columns, which are four layers thick, all seem to just be one column, each one with a saint stood atop it.

Pointed out was the Castel Sant'Angelo which was commissioned by the Emperor Hadrian. When the emperors stopped using it, several popes did, creating an escape route straight from the Vatican to this fortress. Later was an open Plaza, with three fountains throughout it, each with a different design, overall called the Piazza Navona. The largest, central fountain, called 'Fountain of the Four Rivers' represents each of the different major rivers in the continents where the Pope's authority had spread - the Nile, the Danube, the Ganges, and the Rio de la Plata. The southern fountain in the plaza was of a man wrestling a dolphin, and to the north was of Neptune, the Roman god of the sea. Below is the plaza where there was once a stadium that fell into disuse, with arches still visible for a small fee.

Our next big stop was at the Pantheon, a building that was at first a Roman temple to all the gods, and then a Catholic church. It's one of the best preserved of any Ancient Roman buildings, mostly because it has had continual use throughout history, so people have kept maintaining it. Made from concrete, the roof was constructed before most modern building technology. Instead of having electric lights it has an open skylight. Wondering what happens when it rains? The floor is at a gentle slope and that there are twenty-two hidden holes in the floor, allowing them to drain off any water that gets in.

The Church of St. Ignatius seemed relatively plain from the outside but has many astounding murals and paintings of this specific saint inside. The main attraction is the giant painting across one section of the roof. It seemed to display heaven, with four separate areas, once again representing the four continents of the church's rule. Due to the way it's painted, it looks



*Photo credits to James Wilding*

three dimensional. Inside the dome is the other main piece of artwork, that appears to be golden wood and panels, while it is simply stone.

Our fifth and sixth stops were at the Spanish Steps and the Trevi Fountain, respectively. The Trevi Fountain was just as momentous as the other statues we'd seen, showing Oceanus, a figure from mythology, along with tritons (merpeople). We watched as people tossed coins in for luck, where over a million euros are thrown each year!

Finally, we saw the Roman Forum. Mostly made up of stone ruins now post-deterioration, the walls have survived, clearly once an important building capable of holding the masses.

Overall, it's an experience that I very much appreciated being able to have, seeing so many unique, separate historical places, especially from the domineering empire that still shapes how we live. There is certainly enough for everyone to see and do! As they say, when in Rome...

## HAVE A SPARE LUNCHTIME?

Check below the clubs that are looking for new members!

### LGBTQ+ SOCIETY

Working collaboratively to develop understanding and community

#### JOIN US FOR:

- Group discussion
- Kahoots, quizzes and games
- Arts and Crafts
- LGBTQ+ History sessions

WHERE? - B109  
WHEN? - Monday Lunch

(arrive promptly for lunch passes)



Any queries Email/message on Teams below:  
[17AEvans@heckgrammar.co.uk](mailto:17AEvans@heckgrammar.co.uk) (She/Her)  
[17nroberts@heckgrammar.co.uk](mailto:17nroberts@heckgrammar.co.uk) (They/Them)

ALL years are welcome – a range is important for differing perspectives!

SEE YOU THERE!

A collage of various famous artworks, including 'The Starry Night', 'The Mona Lisa', 'The Persistence of Memory', 'The Kiss', and many others, arranged around the text for the Art History Society.

### ART HISTORY SOCIETY

JOIN US FOR:

- Informative presentations
- Open discussion
- Creating studies inspired by our research
- Videos/live talks with special guest speakers in the field

Contact [17AEvans@heckgrammar.co.uk](mailto:17AEvans@heckgrammar.co.uk) for any questions



## BIOLOGY CLUB



- ☞ Come and look at things under microscopes - make your own slides with whatever you want!
- ☞ Do fun practicals and experiments - we are open to any requests
  - ☞ All hands on with no books or written work
  - ☞ Open to all year groups



12:40 on Thursday lunchtimes on the top floor of Crellin (room tbc)

Email or Teams message [17ehoyland@heckgrammar.co.uk](mailto:17ehoyland@heckgrammar.co.uk) or [22jscott@heckgrammar.co.uk](mailto:22jscott@heckgrammar.co.uk) to register your interest or ask any questions  
AND claim your **FREE EARLY LUNCH PASS**





# HOROSCOPES...

By Alyssia Evans – Editor



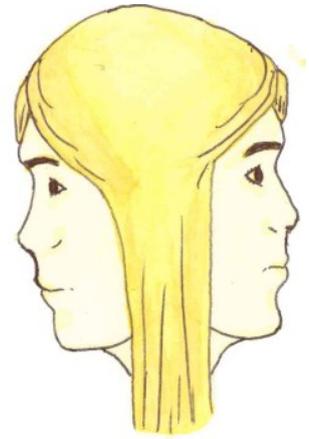
**ARIES** Mar 21<sup>st</sup> – Apr 19<sup>th</sup>

You're represented by the ram, making you confident and assured. May will bring you prosperity in all areas of your life, enabling you to seek your purest of dreams. Now is the opportunity to invest your time and efforts into what you love, whether it be socially or academically to secure your bright future.



**TAURUS** Apr 20<sup>th</sup> – May 20<sup>th</sup>

You're represented by the bull – powerful and strong. Now is the time to be honest with yourself about what the future holds. Are you putting in the work needed to meet your desires? You have been granted the opportunity to express something that you've needed to for a long time, but it is fleeting. Fight the fear and open up this month!



**GEMINI** May 21<sup>st</sup> – Jun 20<sup>th</sup>

You're represented by the twins – adaptable and capable. This month you are feeling frustrated and hesitant, despite usually being social. You're an interesting person to many who want to know more about you and your aspirations, tell them! Don't become bogged down by insecurity.



**CANCER** Jun 21<sup>st</sup> – Jul 22<sup>nd</sup>

You're represented by the crab – devoted and protective. At the moment, you're becoming frustrated by not seeing the work that you're putting in paying off, however, it's not over yet. You're having to labour now for the high reward later. Don't give in to procrastination and power through!



**LEO** Jul 23<sup>rd</sup> – Aug 22<sup>nd</sup>

You're represented by the lion – passionate and vivacious. You may feel that you've been crossed or backstabbed by someone this month. Instead of seeking revenge, you should resist the urge and focus your energy into positivity that will fuel your independence. Take some time to focus on you and the people that will stick by you.



**VIRGO** Aug 23<sup>rd</sup> – Sep 22<sup>nd</sup>

You're represented by the virgin – logical and systemic. You may be feeling a little bit bored by the structure of everyday life this month. Perhaps it is time to sit with your feelings and fully understand why you have them, but most importantly how you can use them to better yourself. Treat May as the month of reinjecting that energy and colour into daily life!



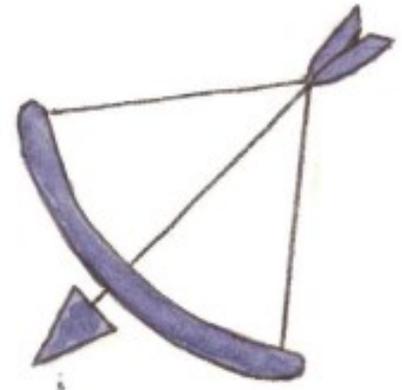
**LIBRA** Sep 23<sup>rd</sup> – Oct 22<sup>nd</sup>

You're represented by the scales – balanced and harmony. At the moment, you're focused on what you have – health, wealth and work – in order to achieve those aspirations you're working so hard towards. To enhance your confidence and sense of control over your destiny, continue to make that effort to develop this material world.



**SCORPIO** Oct 23<sup>rd</sup> – Nov 21<sup>st</sup>

You're represented by the scorpion – observant and mystic. It is clear this month that you are mourning a loss that has occurred due to a big change, which could range from a friendship to a hobby. Consider what this meant to you and how it fuelled fun into your daily life. Is there a way you can supplement this? Learn from the regrets you may have and use the energy found in sadness to spark something new that will propel you forwards.



**SAGITTARIUS** Nov 22<sup>nd</sup> – Dec 21<sup>st</sup>

You're represented by the archer – intelligent and grounded. This is your sign to properly weigh up the pros and cons of that big decisions you're considering. Resist temptation and peer pressure, instead consider how this action serves you and enriches your life long-term. Every action has a reaction!



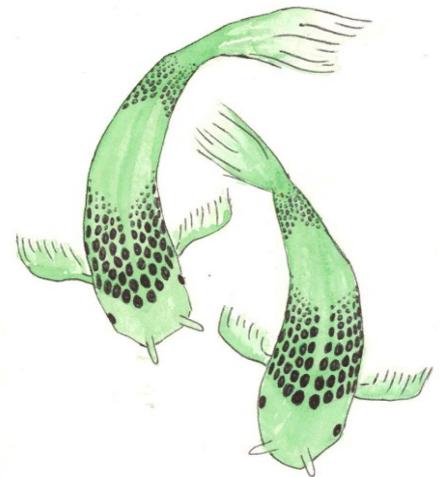
**CAPRICORN** Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> – Jan 19<sup>th</sup>

You're represented by the goat – stoic and pragmatic. It seems that there is much for you to realise this month. Maybe some tough love is required for you to get over your stubbornness and help clear up your confusion. This is the time to think clearly, logically and objectively so that your future is secured.



**AQUARIUS** Jan 20<sup>th</sup> – Feb 18<sup>th</sup>

You're represented by the water bearer – original and independent. There may be some necessary adjustments on your part to ensure that you are maintaining the relationships that matter to you. The true danger is that you may find it easy to slip into old habits you've recently corrected. Don't allow yourself to self-destruct, these habits needed changing for a reason!



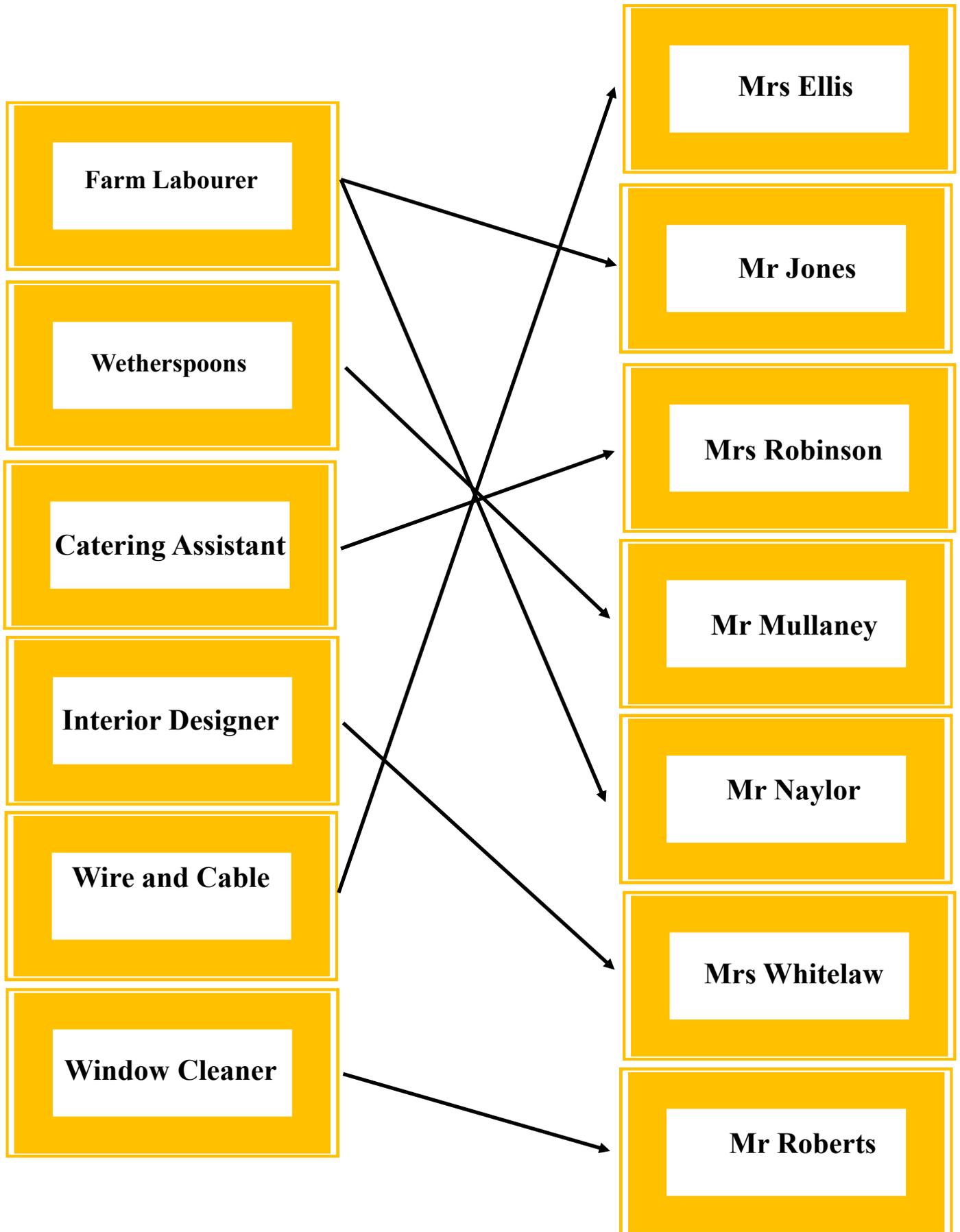
**PISCES** Feb 19<sup>th</sup> – Mar 20<sup>th</sup>

You're represented by the fish – sensitive and gracious. This month is all about making your dreams a reality. This could be a link to your past, perhaps something you've lost that you've been missing. Whatever it is you've been hesitating to act on, do it!

## CAREERS CHAOS—ANSWERS

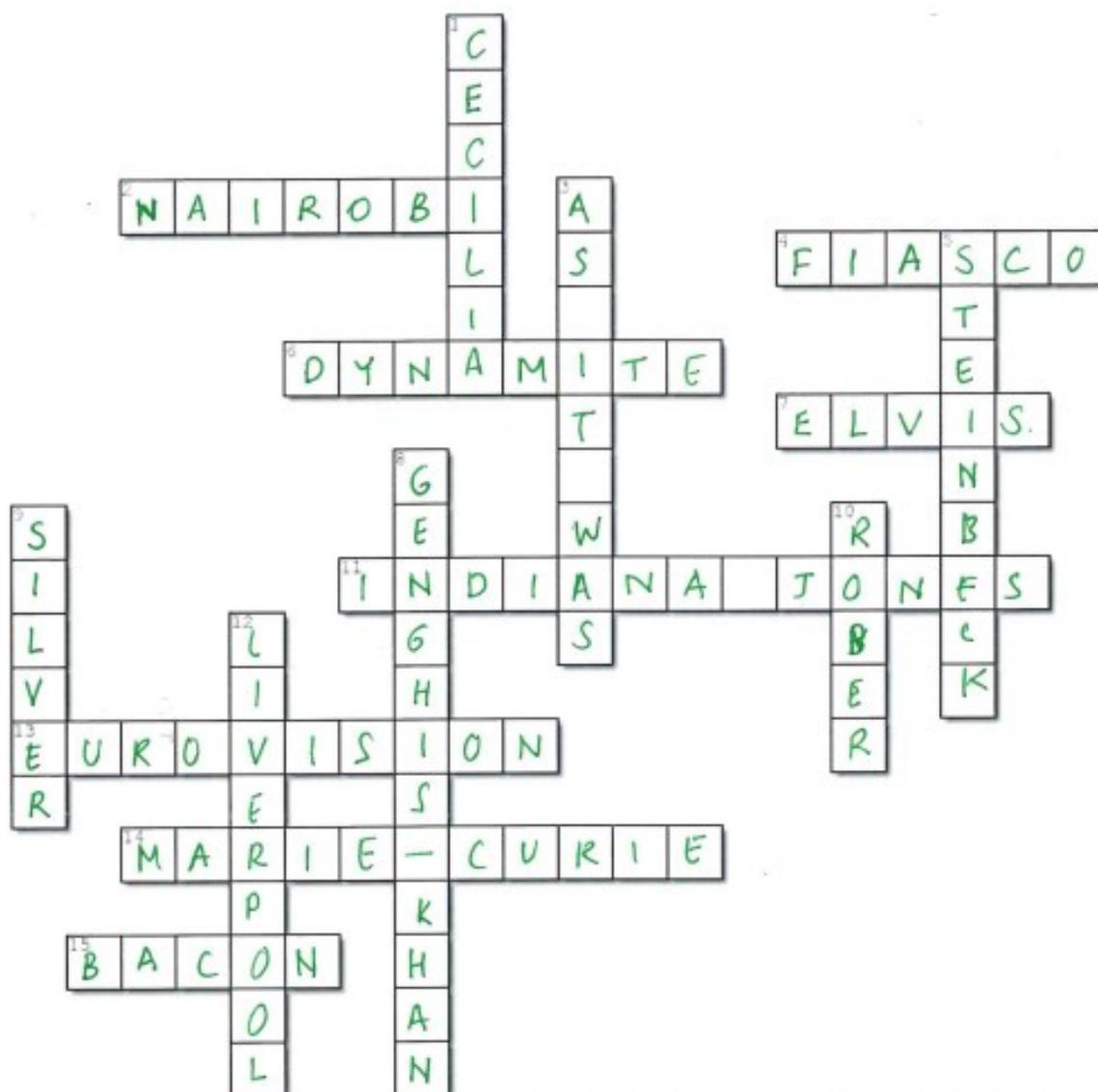
Can you connect the teacher with their past job?

*By James Wilding – Student Life Editor*



# CROSSWORD—ANSWERS

By N. Roberts - Arts and Culture Editor



Created using the Crossword Maker on [TheTeachersCorner.net](http://TheTeachersCorner.net)

### Across

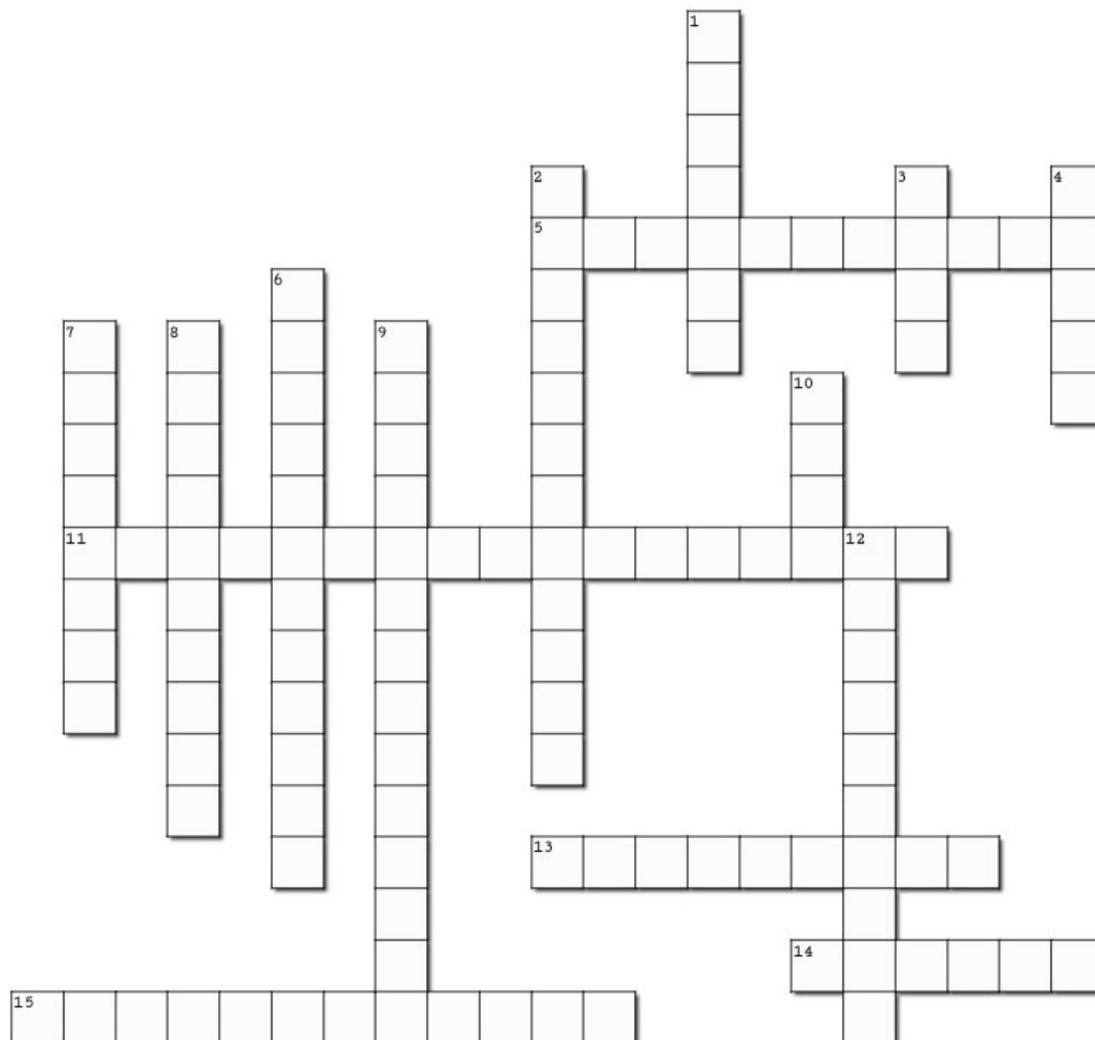
- 2. Capital city of Kenya
- 4. Word meaning complete failure or collapse
- 6. Alfred Nobel invented this explosive substance
- 7. Film that won 4 BAFTAS this year, including Leading Actor for Austin Butler
- 11. 'Dial of Destiny' will be the long-awaited fifth film in this eponymous adventurer's series
- 13. International song contest soon to be held in Liverpool
- 14. Polish physicist and chemist; first woman to win Nobel prize
- 15. Artist famous for his work with Maggi Hambling; popular meat product

### Down

- 1. Song by Simon and Garfunkel, covered by The Vamps and Shawn Mendes
- 3. Song by former One Direction member that spent 15 weeks at number one
- 5. Author of Of Mice and Men and Grapes of Wrath
- 8. Famous Mongolian leader who had the largest continuous land empire in history
- 9. Ag is the chemical symbol for...
- 10. Surname of former NASA scientist and YouTuber famous for his science and DIY gadget videos
- 12. Anfield is the home stadium of this team

## What the Heck Crossword Two

By N. Roberts - Arts and Culture Editor



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

### Across

- 5. Author of 'Wuthering Heights'
- 11. Keira Knightley stars in 2005 adaptation of this famous novel...
- 13. Female pharaoh who married Mark Anthony
- 14. Na is the symbol for...
- 15. The second 'B' in BBC stands for...

### Down

- 1. Last name of 'Someone You Loved' singer
- 2. Football club promoted from League Two
- 3. Yoga practitioner; not your average bear
- 4. Name of eight English kings
- 6. Female superhero at the centre of 'Wandavision'
- 7. Capital city of Hungary
- 8. Famous bear from darkest Peru
- 9. Netflix series starring Millie Bobby Brown as Eleven
- 10. Surrealist best known for his lobster telephone
- 12. Famous street; event on May 6

# SUDOKUS

*By Sam Walshaw - News and Current Affairs Editor*

## Sudoku 1 (Easy)

			5	8		4	6	
4		6	3	9	2	5	7	8
	5	8	6	7	4	3	2	1
3		1	8	6		9		
	4	9		2		6	1	
		7		1	9	2		3
6	3	5	1	4	7	8	9	
1	8	2	9	5	6	7		4
	9	4		3	8			

### Instructions

To solve a sudoku, you need to fill in every missing box with a number between 1 and 9. Each row, column and 3x3 square should contain the numbers 1 to 9 once, and only once.

## Sudoku 2 (Medium)

				8	4	5		1
8		5	1	3	7			
			6	5	9	4		
		8						4
	2	7	8		3	1	5	
1						8		
		4	3	9	8			
			5	7	6	3		2
5		3	4	1				

## Sudoku 3 (Difficult)

6			5	7			1	
				6	4	8	2	
8				2	1	3		
	2			3	7			
3								6
			4	8			3	
		9	7	4				2
	8	7	1	5				
	5			9	6			1



## WALSHAW'S CRICKET MONTHLY

### MONEY TALKS

#### Lengthy IPL yet to reach its half-way point

By Sam Walshaw - News and Current Affairs Editor

**T**he IPL commands a global audience envied by rival T20 leagues – but at what cost to Test cricket?

In the world of cricket, one domestic competition has since 2008 reigned supreme above most others: the Indian Premier League (IPL). Last season saw an expansion to 74 Twenty20 matches, with two new teams – Gujarat Titans and Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) – taking the number of franchises to ten. The

former, based in Ahmedabad, ran out surprise winners in the final against Rajasthan Royals, much of which was due to talismanic captain Hardik Pandya. That match also set a new world record for the number of spectators at a cricket match – an extraordinary 101,566.

This year, the IPL follows a new sister competition known as the Women's Premier League (WPL), which was held over March and was a general success. Captained by the brilliant Harmanpreet Kaur, Mumbai Indians became the inaugural WPL champions, defeating Delhi Capitals. The Capitals' own captain, the mercurial Australian Meg Lanning, was the tournament's highest run scorer; three wickets in the final took West Indies spinner Hayley Matthews to joint-first in the leading bowlers table (equal with England's Sophie Ecclestone). Matthews was duly selected as player of the tournament. Hopefully, this long-awaited new series will go from strength to strength over the next few years.

In December, the player auction for this year's sixteenth iteration of the IPL took place. Following England's T20 World Cup win, Player of the Tournament Sam Curran was bought for a competition-record £1.85 million by Punjab Kings, reuniting him with former England

coach Trevor Bayliss. Despite only having played T20 internationals for a year, Harry Brook was bought by Sunrisers Hyderabad for more than £1.3 million, ruling him out of another chunk of County Championship matches for Yorkshire.

The tournament proper began at the very end of March, with the second day of action seeing Lucknow and England pacer Mark Wood take five wickets for just fourteen runs against Delhi Capitals. At the time of writing, it is still the tournament's best bowling performance. As ever, there has been a mix of nerve-wrackingly close and hopelessly one-sided matches. A good example of the former was Lucknow's one-wicket victory over Royal Challengers Bangalore, in which the winning run came off the very last ball. Player of the match was Nicholas Pooran, who struck a devastating 62 runs from just 19 balls.

Match 19 is worth mentioning not for its closeness, but for a brilliant knock by Brook – unbeaten for Sunrisers on 100 from only 55 deliveries. Two days later, his effort was bettered by Venkatesh Iyer of Kolkata Knight Riders (104 from 51) – currently the highest individual score of the tournament. After



[Picture credit: <https://news.abplive.com/sports/ipl/david-warner-called-back-after-being-declared-out-in-ipl-2023-rr-vs-dc-match-here-s-why-1594233/>]

six games, Rajasthan Royals again appear one of the teams to beat, top of the table on net run rate. However, they are by no means running away with it: the IPL can be notoriously unpredictable and only Delhi Capitals are yet to win two games.

This year's marathon of a tournament does not conclude for another month but nonetheless, the IPL's stranglehold over the cricketing conscience looks set to continue for a while longer. Although I have a duty to report on major events like the IPL, I cannot ignore the broader damage being imparted on Test cricket, which has been remorselessly and wrongly cast aside by international boards in favour of the limited overs game. In my view, England captain Ben Stokes and his buccaneering band of brothers must do all they can in this summer's momentous Ashes series to safeguard the authority and future of the longer format.

Elsewhere in the cricketing world, the much maligned (and yet still strangely captivating) County Championship got under way at the start of April. Last year was surely Yorkshire's *annus horribilis*: the investigation into Azeem Rafiq's claims of institutional racism continued and the club were ignominiously relegated to Division Two on the final day

of the season. This year, they will look to make a swift return to the top division, and go again in search of a maiden T20 Blast title.

Early results, however, suggest that is far from a certainty: the first game of the season was lost to Leicestershire after the Running Foxes improbably managed to chase down 389 on the final day. This was Yorkshire's first Championship loss to Leicestershire at Headingley for 113 years. The second match of the campaign was a frustrating washout; more recently, further rain meant their game away at Sussex was drawn, with no play on the final day. With the season very much in its early stages, Hampshire head the Division One table and Durham are currently top of Division Two.



Image credit: <https://www.htafc.com/news/2019/june/>



## CRUNCH TIME FOR LEEDS AND TOWN

**Latest as West Yorkshire clubs' seasons near their climax**

*Huddersfield Town by Sam Walshaw - News and Current Affairs Editor*

**At the end of March, Huddersfield Town confirmed that American businessman Kevin Nagle is the club's "prospective new owner", with an "approval process" now underway. On the field, the club returned after the international break at home to high-flying Mid-**

The Terriers matched the Teessiders for most of the first half, only to frustratingly concede in the 43<sup>rd</sup> minute. Manager Neil Warnock's team talk must have been good: Town came out after the break and scored after just twenty seconds. This kick-started a frankly incredible twelve minutes in which Boro completely collapsed and Huddersfield went 3–1 up. Ten minutes later, centre back Matty Pearson scored his second to put the game to bed. The visitors did score a consolation through the prolific Chuba Akpom, but the Terriers earned three massive points with a final score of 4–2.

Town's next engagement was a trip down to Vicarage Road to face Watford, and another high-scoring game was in prospect. After just over half an hour, Huddersfield again conceded first, but cancelled the deficit with five minutes to go to make it 1–1 at the break. Pearson continued his impressive form with a 55<sup>th</sup> minute goal; Town then defended resolutely before substitute Kian Harratt headed in with ten minutes remaining. The hosts scored late on to give the game an exciting finale, but the Terriers managed to hold out for a deserved 3–2 win which at last took them out of the relegation zone.

The biggest home crowd of the season was in attendance for an Easter Monday clash with Blackburn Rovers, and the Town fans were in dreamland after 22 minutes with the team 2–0 up. However, Rovers reduced the deficit to one just after half-time, before knocking on the Terriers' door throughout the second half. Infuriatingly, Huddersfield could not hold out, throwing two points away when Ryan Hedges scored in injury time.

A poor-quality game away at Swansea City saw the Terriers succumb to a 1–0 loss, in a contest best described as forgettable. Three days later, on the other hand, Town performed much better against Sunderland, conceding to the hosts in the first half before equalising fifteen minutes into the second. A well-earned point puts the club 21<sup>st</sup> in the league – just one place above the dreaded drop zone. It seems that, with three games left, the "glimmer of hope" I suggested last month of maintaining Championship status has transformed into a genuine, but nonetheless difficult, opportunity.

Image credit: <https://www.examinerlive.co.uk/sport/football/news/huddersfield-town-nagle-middlesbrough-win-26612553>

*Masterminded by Warnock, executed by Pearson... a brilliant win over Middlesbrough.*

*Leeds United by Elliot Hoyland - Contributing Writer*

**L**eeds United find themselves deep in the mire of (another) relegation battle and, after a draw against relegation-rivals Leicester on Tuesday night, the situation seems to be only worsening.

But where did it all go wrong? Gracia got 10 points out his first 6 games - a healthy return that saw them beat similarly lowly teams like Southampton, Nottingham Forest and Wolves – and when Patrick Bamford put Leeds 1-0 up against Crystal Palace in front of a jubilant Elland Road crowd, things were looking good for the Spanish manager. Since then, however, Leeds have spiralled, losing that game 5-1 after being demolished in the second half, followed by a 6-1 thrashing at the hands of Liverpool who were yet to beat a team placed below them away from home all season. Next up was Fulham and Leeds needed to steady the ship but, despite a much less devastating 2-1 defeat, Yorkshire's only Premier League team looked uninspired and bereft of confidence, with young 'keeper Illan Meslier the latest to come under fire.

That meant that Tuesday night's six-pointer at Elland Road was huge, against a Leicester City team that looked on the up under the management of recently appointed Dean Smith. The crowd were up for the game, but the team sat back and conceded inside ten minutes, saved only by a fortunate offside call at the hands of the VAR. On the 20<sup>th</sup> minute however, a brilliant Jack Harrison cross was headed in by Luis Sinisterra to give Leeds a huge boost that saw them see out the first half confident and as much the better team. They came out for the second half though and all changed, once again they sat back, inviting Leicester pressure and although Meslier answered his critics with a wonderful double-save, he could do nothing to prevent substitute Jamie Vardy's 80<sup>th</sup> minute equaliser that was soon followed up by what looked like the winner for Leicester, but once again the offside flag saved Leeds. Bamford missed a gilt-edged chance at the end but frankly, Leeds were lucky to escape with a point.

Leeds were exploited for being overtly defensive, lacking inspiration, not from the players whose effort was visible, but from the coaching staff. At 1-0 up with the crowd behind them, this was a game Leeds could and should have won, and even at 1-1 the game was crying out for the fresh legs of energetic and charismatic Willy Gnonto, perhaps not a struggling Brendon Aaronson. And so, with plenty of questions swirling around Gracia, he simply has to win against Bournemouth on Sunday – Leeds have to win, it is as simple as that.



*Gnonto has started just two games under Gracia, much to the frustration of many Leeds fans.*



*Photo Credits: <https://logos-world.net/leeds-united-logo/>*

## CAN REMCO MAKE IT TWO GRAND TOURS IN A ROW?

**One of cycling's hottest prospects is the favourite for this year's Giro d'Italia**

By Sam Walshaw - News and Current Affairs Editor

**May is upon us, and for cycling fans that means one thing: the Giro d'Italia, the first of the three annual three-week-long stage races known as Grand Tours.** Together with July's Tour de France – the most famous Grand Tour – and the Vuelta a España, (which takes place in August and September) these races are generally seen as the ultimate proving ground for professional cyclists.

After beginning in Budapest, Hungary last year, the Giro returns to more familiar territory this time, with the start set to be held in Ortona, a small town next to the Adriatic Sea, on the 6<sup>th</sup> May. Two heavyweight names are on everyone's lips for the 106<sup>th</sup> edition of the race: Remco Evenepoel of Belgium, and Slovenia's Primož Roglič. The two will resume their battle from last year's Vuelta, which was interrupted after Roglič crashed at the very

end of Stage 16. Evenepoel went on to secure first Grand Tour victory, at the scarcely believable (but no longer unheard of, as it might have been a decade ago) age of 22.

Evenepoel and Roglič have been inseparable recently, with their trade teams (Soudal-QuickStep and Jumbo-Visma respectively) both training at altitude at the same

Tenerife resort in April. Apparently, the teams would sit at opposite ends of the dining room before and after training, such is the fierce competition between the two. This year's route – unveiled back in October – seems tailor-made to Evenepoel, with 70 kilometres of time trialling that are well-suited to the 2022 Belgian National Time Trial Champion. However, despite his crash at the Giro and resultant surgery, Roglič is himself a world-class time trialist, as proven by his win in the Olympic Games Time Trial of 2021.

Nethertheless, Grand Tours are often unpredictable, and it is conceivable that another pretender could usurp the two main challengers. Defending champion Jai Hindley has opted not to enter this year's Giro, instead going for a hilt at the Tour de France. The main protagonists, then, are likely to include Evenepoel, Roglič, 2020 champion Tao Geoghegan Hart of Great Britain, fellow Brit Geraint Thomas (who also races for the

Ineos Grenadiers), Russia's Aleksandr Vlasov (Bora-Hansgrohe), the Italian Giulio Ciccone (Trek-Segafredo, if he can make it) and Portugal's João Almeida (UAE Team Emirates). Neutrals will be hoping for a strong showing from the brilliant Frenchman, Thibaut Pinot (Groupama-FDJ), in his final season as a professional.

The general classification is just one part of any three-week long stage race: we will hopefully also see an intriguing race for the sprint stages of this year's race. Can the greatest sprinter ever, Mark Cavendish, (now at Astana Qazakhstan) continue his quite impossible revival after various awful injuries and illnesses? Or will others like Movistar's Fernando Gaviria prevent further fairy tales? This, too, will be intriguing to see.

My pick for this year's race? Evenepoel. Let's wait and see if he can

*A review of the 2023 Giro d'Italia will appear in the June edition of What the Heck?*



*It seems nothing can stop the 2022 World Road Race Champion, Belgium's Remco Evenepoel.*

[Picture credit: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Remco\\_Evenepoel#/media/File:20220925\\_UCI\\_Road\\_World\\_Championships\\_Wollongong.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Remco_Evenepoel#/media/File:20220925_UCI_Road_World_Championships_Wollongong.jpg)]

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