

# What The Heck?

March – Easter Edition



**Inside: Special Interview with  
Ms Kim Leadbeater MBE**

In association with Sixth  
Form newspaper enrichment

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**Welcome back!** It is officially our second edition, and despite having a one week break to recuperate, we have discovered that it really is quite difficult to put together a newspaper in a month. This edition is easter 'themed' although we haven't got any articles regarding the subject. I hope you can enjoy finding the easter eggs that have been hidden amongst the pages.

**As ever,** if you wish for something of yours to be published in the newspaper, please email [WhattheHeck@heckgrammar.co.uk](mailto:WhattheHeck@heckgrammar.co.uk) - and we will confer with you further from there! At the moment, we would be very interested in students' writing for STEM – of any topic you choose.

**Thank you** for the feedback from our first edition, we have worked to incorporate some suggestions into this edition and will continue to alter the style as requested.

**With the notices done,** please enjoy our second edition of What The Heck, your support is greatly appreciated. And **Ramadan Mubarak** – to those who observe the fast.

Your editors,

**Emma Dye & Alice Cheesbrough**

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## Student life - House Update

1 Priestley – 93 points

2 Houldsworth – 87.5 points

3 Clarke – 79 points

4 Bronte – 65.5 points

### Upcoming events

- Senior E-Sports
- Junior House Maths (Y7/8)
- Staff Bake Off
- Junior Boy's Cricket
- Senior House Chess
- Senior Girls Rounders
- +  
• Creative writing results



### House Art

Overall Winner: **Sophia Vu**

The final results of this event will be posted in the Heckler – in the first edition after the break.

Well done to everyone who took part – the work was incredible.

Thank you to Governor Mrs Doubell, Mr Roberts, and Mrs Cheesbrough for judging the event.

### Senior Spelling Bee

1st

2nd

JOINT 3rd

JOINT 3rd

### Junior Girl's Football

1st

2nd

3rd

4th

### Year 7 Boy's Rugby

1st

2nd

3rd

4th

Last week marked a jam-packed week of book day activities, including book hunts, quizzes, special guests, the spelling bee and so much more in an exciting celebration of the joys of books and the wonderfully talented authors that create them. On Thursday, which was World Book Day itself, many of you dressed up in fun and creative costumes, an incredible show of talent and creativity!

Only a few of the massive variety of costumes and characters on display on Thursday, congratulations to everybody for being so creative!



Special thank you to guest speaker and alumni, author Nikki Young for her inspiring presentations, as well as to the entire English department, library staff including Mrs Whitelaw, head student Elliot Hoyland, Miss Genneviève and Mr Tipler for participating in and helping to organise this impressive event – and thank you to everyone who joined in the festivities!





**We** had a week of celebrations that began on Monday with a visit from Heckmondwike alumni and children's author Nikki Young. Nikki grew up a couple of streets away from the school and attended in the 1980s. She was amazed that some of her teachers are still teaching and remembered Mrs Dare and Mr Fraser who were just embarking on their teaching careers when she was a student!

**Nikki** gave a talk to year 7 students about her 'Time School' series which is set in a school based on Heckmondwike Grammar School. She talked about her inspiration from the area and how she had a vivid imagination, even making up stories about what she perceived was a spooky house at the end of the street. She enjoyed English and languages and even co-wrote and directed the house drama.



**Year 7** students were able to practice creative writing at Nikki's workshop. They tried different techniques such as picking a random object, character and place and then using these to write a story. There were some very funny stories and heart-racing adventures.

**On** Tuesday there were more creative writing workshops for year 7 and talks to years 8 and 9. In the talks, Nikki explained that whilst she had enjoyed English, she took 2 sciences and maths for her A-levels. After this she went to university to study food science and then worked for the ministry of food and fisheries where she wrote reports for government ministers. Throughout her early career she was always writing, even though for a lot of it, she was writing about science. She then became a copywriter for websites and began writing children's stories in her spare time until eventually she was able to make it her career. Her advice was to "follow your dream" and that sometimes you must go in a different direction before you get to where you want to be.

Article written by **Mrs Whitelaw** and edited by **L.Hatherly**

**Following** this there were book readings at break time with Head student Elliot, sat on the stage in front of roaring fireside flames reading 'The Outsider' by Albert Camus. After this, Miss Genneviève braved the metaphorical heat and read from the first book in The Time School series, 'We will remember them'.

Lunchtimes on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday were taken up with the spelling bee. This is arguably the most nerve wracking of all the House competitions for the participants, and the audience were very apt, keeping with the literary theme. Mr McLaughlan making an excellent quiz master with some excellent spellers in action.

**Thursday** saw some wonderful literary costumes from students and staff and a fashion show at lunchtime. Students represented their houses, showing off their inventive and unique costumes to an excited crowd, with two awards per house for best costumes and three for best staff costumes. Members of SLT were dressed up as Harry Potter Characters, as well as Mrs Whitelaw dressed as the high priestess from Roald Dahl's "Witches", and many more! Money raised from this was donated in support of the "Give a book" charity, promoting reading for children in disadvantaged schools or prisons, ensuring everyone has the opportunity to read and enjoy books.



**Friday** saw 'The case of the missing book' competition which started from the library and students had to solve the clues until they identified Mr Roberts's missing book, stolen by the sneaky Mr Tipler! The winner was the group of detectives who found the book in the shortest time. This overall winner were Sajani Sasikaran and Ruby Swift, who solved this challenge in a mere 16 minutes and 25 seconds! Well done to everyone who took part and solved the puzzle.

**Friday** also saw the judging of the bookmark competition. It is clear that a lot of time had been spent on the entries, which were of an outstanding quality. Of particular note was the stunning artwork in the entry from Sophie Vu which depicts scenes from Alice in Wonderland. All winning entries are being made into bookmarks and will be available from the library.

**World Book Day may be over for this year but it's never too early to start planning your costume for next year so get reading and start coming up with ideas!**

# 6 Sport - Who is the favourite for the Premier League title?

Article written on 26/02/2024

	Team	P	GD	Pts
1	Liverpool	26	38	60
2	Man City	26	33	59
3	Arsenal	26	39	58

(Information via: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/football/tables>)

Over two thirds of the football season have passed, and there is still very little to separate the three frontrunners – Liverpool, Man City and Arsenal – with only two points separating Liverpool in first and Arsenal in third.

Table based on fixture difficulty:

1	MANCHESTER CITY
2	ARSENAL
3	LIVERPOOL
4	Newcastle United
5	Tottenham Hotspur
6	Manchester United
7	West Ham United
8	Brentford
9	Chelsea
10	Aston Villa

This table shows all the Premier League teams, ranked in terms of fixture difficulty, from the 21st of February to the end of the season on the 19th of May. Those at the top of the list, represent the teams with the 'easiest' fixtures, while those at the bottom have the 'most difficult' fixtures. It suggests that Manchester City have the most favourable run-in, followed by Arsenal and then Liverpool. As well as having the nicest fixtures, Manchester City have won the Premier League title for three consecutive seasons.

So unsurprisingly, this makes them the team most likely to lift the Premier League trophy. This is according to the bookies and Opta probability, come the end of the season.

TEAM	OPTA PROBABILITY	TITLE ODDS
Man City	51.77%	11/10
Liverpool	36.17%	2/1
Arsenal	11.97%	3/1

Article written by **G.Heald**

Jürgen Klopp announced that this will be his final season as Liverpool manager, after a long nine-year spell at the club. In this time, he has won many major honours, including the Premier League title in 2020. This shows that he has already been there and completed this challenging feat before. It proves that they can get over the line in this competition, and there is no reason why they can't do it again. More recently, on the 25th of February 2024, Liverpool won the Carabao Cup final, defeating Chelsea 1-0 late on in extra time. This demonstrates recent success they have had under Klopp, and shows they are still playing well and have the capability to win the league



On this day last season, Arsenal were leading their way in the Premier League, two places above where they are now. However, the club then went on to relinquish their lead to Manchester City. So, if they were in a better position last season and didn't go on to win the title, surely their chances this season are slim?

Unlike the managers of Man City and Liverpool, Pep Guardiola and Jürgen Klopp. The Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta hasn't won the Premier League title yet. Therefore, it can be argued that Arsenal are a big outsider for the title, this is when you consider their current league position and their inability to win the league in more recent seasons.

There are still 12 rounds of fixtures to come in the Premier League season so who wins the title is very much anyone's guess. Manchester City have both Liverpool and Arsenal still to play in the season, so look out for these games, as the results of these games could be crucial in determining who wins the trophy.

	Team	P	GD	Pts
1	Arsenal	24	29	57
2	Man City	25	39	55
3	Man Utd	24	13	49



On the first of February 2024, it was announced across social media that Lewis Hamilton signed a contract with Scuderia Ferrari to start the 2025 season. Is this a good move for Hamilton's career? Who will fill the now open spot at Mercedes? And what is the future of Carlos Sainz in Formula one, with no contract signed for the next season?

This move was an unexpected announcement as he had hidden it from the media, his current team and even his own family to protect the secret. This move will be Hamilton's first team change in 10 years as he has stayed loyal to Mercedes for a large portion of his career. People have questioned if this is a good move for his career as people had expected that he would retire in the upcoming years, so this could be a detrimental decision.

This change, however, may not come as a surprise to many fans of Mercedes, as Ferrari had taken Mercedes' spot as second fastest team on the grid. With this, alongside Lewis having made comments about the Mercedes cars not being good enough.

Lewis Hamilton commented on making his deal with Ferrari that "I didn't have a lot of time to think, and I had to just go with my gut feeling and decided to take the opportunity." It may even be that he felt like his career was stagnating and he wanted a change to try claim his 8<sup>th</sup> championship before retirement. However, it seems that the choice was hard for him due to his loyalty to Mercedes and Wolff.

Although, this contract will cause major shifts in Ferrari, with Sainz no longer having a contract with them, and Charles Leclerc's position as primary driver being on the line (Leclerc is the current primary driver for Scuderia Ferrari). Hamilton is the primary driver for his current team Mercedes, being a 7-time world champion, therefore giving him a chance at taking the first driver position from Leclerc. In most formula one teams, the most experienced driver, or the best driver will be positioned as a team's primary driver, however there are caveats to this when it comes to Leclerc and Hamilton. Leclerc has been viewed as the golden child of Ferrari since taking over as first driver from Vettel and he also placed 5<sup>th</sup> behind Alonso in 2023. Hamilton however places higher, finishing 2023 in 3<sup>rd</sup> behind Perez and holding 7 world championship titles, but would it look good for Ferrari to put the soon to be ex-Mercedes golden child as their primary.



The unfortunate thing with this move is, now, driver Carlos Sainz has no team lined up for 2025, but there are multiple possibilities of where he could move to. Of course, primary driver is now open at Mercedes but with Russell in line ready to take that position his possible move to Mercedes could lead to being placed as second driver again. There is a better option though as Audi is set to take over for Stake team in 2026 which may not seem like much, but his father Carlos Sainz Sr. is a winner of the Dakar Rally with Audi so this could lead to him having a greater chance becoming a primary driver for this team when they join.

For now, nothing is certain in the eye of the public, as no more information has been revealed. This allows for speculation among fans of the future of their favourite drivers.

Article written by **K.Hodgson**



The brightest known object in our entire universe has been identified, in our own galaxy, after being mistaken for a star for decades. This newly discovered object called J0529-4351 is a quasar, the objects at the core of distant galaxies, that are powered by supermassive black holes. This record-breaking quasar is the most luminous object ever observed and the black hole at the centre is the fastest growing black hole to date.

A quasar is also known as the incandescent active galactic nucleus (AGN). They are extremely bright central regions - at the centre of a galaxy - where a significant amount of light is emitted. The radiant light given out by a quasar is generated by the gas and matter surrounding the supermassive black hole. This is then superheated to thousands of degrees by the intense friction from the particles of dust, gas, and other matter in the disk - colliding with each other many, many times.

**Quasars** are powered by the radiation given out by supermassive black holes (SMBH or SMB for short). They are the largest types of black holes we have observed, with their masses being hundreds, thousands, millions, or even billions of times the mass of the Sun. Some of the largest SMB's that we have ever observed are 'Phoenix A' and 'TON 618', each with a mass of 270 billion Suns and 100 billion Suns respectively. Black holes are points in space where gravity is so strong that nothing, including light and radiation, can escape. They are formed when a star reaches the end of its life, and its mass collapses in on itself forming a point in space which takes up (theoretically) no space. The black hole at the centre of this particular quasar absorbs matter at the rate of approximately one Sun per day. This has allowed the SMB to grow to have a mass of 17 billion Suns, creating an extraordinarily strong gravitational pull which helps to fuel the SMB.

**Remarkably**, this record-breaking quasar was hiding in plain sight for decades, with scans dating back to the 80's featuring this object. However, due to the sheer amount of light the accretion disk is emitting, researchers and astronomers mistook this quasar for a star in the foreground of our own Milky Way. The accretion disk is formed by matter falling in towards the supermassive black hole which then releases a huge range of light and radiation. This causes quasars to be some of the brightest objects in our universe with some distant ones being visible from Earth. The accretion disk is where the main source of light and radiation is emitted. The disk for J0529-4351 is over 500 trillion times as bright as our Sun and 7 light-years in diameter (which for scale is 15,000 times the distance from our Sun to Neptune).

**J0529-4351** was initially observed in the Schmidt Southern Sky Survey, but due to the sheer amount of data that large astronomical surveys deliver, astronomers need machine learning models to analyse the data and sort out certain astronomical objects like quasars. These models are trained using previously discovered objects which can cause them to overlook candidates with exceptional properties like J0529-4351. Only last year did astronomers recognise J0529-4351 as a quasar using the Australian National University's 2.3-meter telescope at the Sliding Spring Observatory. And even then, researchers required an even larger telescope to discover that it was the most luminous quasar yet observed. For that they used the Very Large Telescope in the Chilean Atacama Desert to get more precise measurements, revealing the quasar's true nature.

The discovery of this luminescent quasar allows researchers to learn more about the initial formation of supermassive black holes and quasars which could open new insights into how the early galaxy was formed.



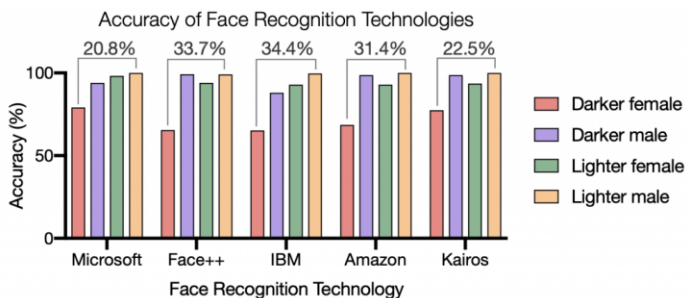


**What is FRT?**

Facial Recognition Technology (FRT) is a method of identifying a person from a digital image or video frame by analysing patterns in the person's facial details. It can be used to match a photo of a face to a person in a database. This may be based on defining facial features such as distance between the eyes, width of the nose, depth of the eye sockets, etc. creating a 'face print'.

**Currently** the most common use of facial recognition software, face ID, is a convenient and efficient *authentication method*. However, a lack of security in certain algorithms means it has been found that 2D prints of a person's face can be used to unlock some phones using facial ID. Additionally, brands such as *Samsung, HMD Global* (producer of Nokia phones), *Honor and Motorola* have admitted that face ID on phones is made for ease of unlocking instead of security, and that they advise to instead use other biometric authentication or a passcode instead.

**FRT** has improved rapidly with an error rate of only 0.1% (2021) in ideal conditions. However, in real life, this will depend on lighting and camera quality, with only a 36% - 87% accuracy at capturing clear images. This may vary depending on *brands, positioning, and algorithms*, raising the question of whether FRT is appropriate for use in more serious situations, such as identifying perpetrators of crimes. For *Robert Williams, Michael Oliver, and Nijeer Parks*, facial recognition led to their incorrect arrests, transforming their lives forever. In many cases, facial recognition alone is not enough evidence to warrant an arrest, however vigorous validation procedures are clearly necessary when using FRT in this way.



Statistics on racial bias from [harvard.edu](https://www.harvard.edu)

**Facial recognition technology** is proven more likely to recognise the majority race in a country, for example in America, default camera settings are often not optimized to capture darker skin tones. Additionally, 189 facial recognition algorithms were *racially biased* towards women of colour according to a 2020 study. This shows there is racial bias present in algorithms, potentially creating problems for members of *minority groups* who may be disproportionately affected by this technology.

**FRT** is very widely deployed in China, with tighter regulations surrounding usage of the technology only brought into place in August 2023. A leak in 2019 gave a glimpse into the database: logging nearly every Chinese citizen through a vast network of cameras throughout the country. In 2020, it was reported biometric identification was being used to activate toilet roll dispensers in public toilets, raising public safety concerns. It has also been used to publicly shame people for jaywalking\* or wearing sleepwear outdoors, calling it "uncivilized behaviour." Additionally, FRT has been used to "profile Uyghur\*\* individuals and single them out for tracking, mistreatment, and detention" in China, a dystopian display of power and violation of human rights.

Article written by L. Hatherly

**Facial recognition** has recently been introduced into school environments across the world. This has had many benefits, including:

- **Security:** helping to detect dangerous objects being brought into schools.
- **Attendance monitoring:** saving time on taking attendance by recognising students' faces, such as the 'LoopLearn' facial recognition scheme trialled in Australia.
- **Monitoring student engagement:** detecting facial expressions of students in lessons, picking up on 'facial microexpressions' and using this to analyse how students are focusing in class.

**Whilst** a relatively new use of this technology, there have been issues raised. It may seem dehumanising: calculating students' expressions seems reductive and an invasion of privacy. Additionally, surveillance in schools means that recognition is inescapable, as there is no option for students to opt out or restrict what data they 'share', raising the question of informed consent. As well as this, increased levels of automation e.g. paying for lunch with FRT may save money for schools, however, risks preventing students from developing important social skills.

**Footnotes:**

\*Jaywalking - crossing or walking in the street or road unlawfully or without regard for approaching traffic.

\*\*Turkic ethnic group found mainly in northern China



## Sudoku!



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

## Sudoku!

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

EASY DIFFICULTY



MEDIUM DIFFICULTY

## Coding problem – Character Count

Write a program that takes an input string and returns the character with the highest frequency in the string and how many occurrences there are of that character. If more than one character has the same frequency, return both characters and their frequency separated by a comma. If there are no repeated characters, the program should output “No repetition”.

*Please note – characters are case sensitive, so ‘C’ and ‘c’ are counted differently.*

Example Test ValuesInput: **Computer Science**Output: **e = 3**Input: **Keyboard**Output: **No repetition**Input: **system admin**Output: **m = 2, s = 2**Input: **AAAaa**Output: **A = 3**Editor’s note

We wish to give a special well done to Suchir Gupta, a year 12 student who has managed to solve last month’s coding problem (**The Fibonacci Word**) in only one line, and also managed to make this efficient for values of **n** over 10,000! For those curious, here is the code:

```
print((lambda n:
(f"{int((1/2.2360679775) *
(((1 + 2.2360679775)/2)(n-
2))- ((1 -
2.2360679775)/2)(n-2))})
{int((1/2.2360679775) *
(((1 + 2.2360679775)/2)(n-
1))- ((1 -
2.2360679775)/2)(n-1))})"
if n >= 2 else
"Invalid"))(int(input()))
(code written in Python)
```

Given this section is the only part of *'What the Heck'* that would truly allow an article to be completed for women's history month, it was, with gleeful enthusiasm I worked towards selecting one of History's many awe-inspiring women to write about, and during debates with other A-Level History Students on which to pick, the conversation seemed to repeatedly move towards a name I knew, though I will admit, I knew shamefully little on, and that Woman, is Catherine 'the great' of Russia.

**There is a reason** Catherine was such a shoo-in for this section, as there are very few recognised women who have had such a staggering impact on history as she has.

Born a German-noble woman, Catherine was never supposed to rule Russia, let alone in the manner she did, rather, the opportunist she was, she helped herself grow in the favor of Empress Elizabeth allowing her to marry Elizabeth's son, Peter III. Seeing further opportunity for advancement, she utilized her Husband's (now Tsar) alienation of the upper echelons based on his **Prussian** fanaticism as tool in the pursuit of personal power and glory, and she staged a well-timed **coup**, which promoted her from empress-**consort**, to simply the Empress.

**In her time in power**, Catherine worked tirelessly, and earned her title of 'the great'. She partook in many of the most noteworthy events of the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, varying from the Russo-Turkish war to the 1772 **partition of Poland**. Catherine was a figure all monarchs in Europe and Asia knew not to underestimate if they wished to maintain their position. Notable examples of this, can be found in the levels of respect held for her by some of Europe's greatest rulers, from Maria-Theresa, the Archduchess who fixed Austria's internal affairs, to Frederick the great, the man who turned Prussia into the military superpower it would become known as (*Historical figure of the month on him coming soon!*). Catherine's exertion proved she was far more powerful and pragmatic than they likely assumed her to be. She had the necessary charm and intelligence to bolster Russia's position on the global stage and attempted to foster successful diplomacy with countries from Japan to Britain.

Not only this, but Catherine also greatly increased the size of the Russian empire, absorbing hectare upon Hectare of territory into the empire, leaving it **520,000** square Kilometers larger by the time of her death than it was when her reign began.

Article written by O.Marques

Illustration by A.Cheesbrough

## Catherine the Great of Russia



**Sadly**, Catherine's legacy is one undermined by an issue which plagues the legacy of historical women from Queen Elizabeth I to Michelle Obama, scandalous, and often lurid rumors, which are often very cavalier with the facts. The most notable of these with links to Catherine surrounds her untimely death, and while I will not go into depth as to the details, I will reveal to you that it does not take much research to know, that none of what many believe about Catherine's demise to be true, is true. It is rather, all a load of misogynistic hogwash and Catherine's real death was attributed to a stroke, and in fact, the most vicious of the rumors spread about Catherine is linked simply to Anti-Russian sentiment in western Europe, and also a book published some 149 years before Catherine's death. I feel it is therefore irresponsible to mention these rumors without clarifying that extraordinarily little of the Scandal was based on Catherine's own actions, but instead merely society's own prejudices.

### Footnotes:

**Prussia:** a magnificently powerful state in modern day Germany and Poland, with a profoundly militaristic culture

**Coup (d'etat):** an often-violent upper-class seizure of government

**Consort:** the spouse of a reigning Monarch

**Partition of Poland:** in 1772, the Polish Lithuanian commonwealth was divided into three, and given to Austria, Prussia and Russia





## An interview with Kim Leadbeater MBE – Questions By O.Marques

### 1. How do you feel your career has led you into a career in parliament and politics?

Well, I think it's fair to say I had a very unique journey into politics, in that whilst I was always interested in politics, it wasn't always something I had pursued as a career. Most people know my journey and my story, in that my sister was Jo Cox, who was the member of parliament for Batley and Spen who was murdered in June 2016. At that point I had a career I was very happy with working as a lecturer and working in Health and Fitness, as a personal trainer and a fitness instructor, and I had a very lovely and happy life, but on that day, everything changed forever. After Jo was killed, I started working for the charity that we set up in her name; The Jo Cox Foundation. Then in 2021, when the Lady who took over as the MP for Batley and Spen went on to be West Yorkshire Mayor, a lot of people said to me why don't you stand to be an MP, You'd be really good and I said, no thank you, it's not for me but actually they persuaded me over the course of a few days that maybe I should put myself forward, because if someone got the job who wasn't emotionally invested in the local area, and didn't have the roots and connections that I had, if they became the MP for Batley and Spen, the feeling was that that would be a shame. So, they persuaded me to stand, and I stood, and had quite a toxic by-election, but was elected on the first of July 2021. A very non-traditional political journey by anyone's standards, but Jo used to say to me 'politics needs good people, and if those people don't stand forward and put themselves in a position to represent people, then you've got to ask yourself, who do we end up.



### 2. In 2021, you were made an MBE, how did it make you feel to receive such a prestigious award?

I find awards and accolades slightly strange and a bit uncomfortable if I'm honest, so the thought of having letters after my name was a bit weird. However, because I was given that award for the work that we'd done in the aftermath of Jo's murder, and particularly work around loneliness and community cohesion, most of which, well a significant amount of which, I did on a voluntary basis, it was also a real honour. Also, I accepted the award on behalf of the many amazing people that I had worked with through the Jo Cox Foundation, through the local volunteer group; More in Common Batley and Spen, who again all gave up their time for free just because they felt it was the right thing to do to try and build that sense of community and togetherness, even though it felt a bit weird, I'm not necessarily into titles and stuff like that but it's important when you are given an opportunity to celebrate broader work people have done, because I didn't view it as a personal thing. I know you could argue it is, and it was a real honour to be recognised in that way,

### 3. Now you've mentioned being 'a proud Yorkshire woman,' bit of an odd question, but what does it mean to you to be a Yorkshire woman?

I'm really proud of my identity, I think what's brilliant is most of us have got multiple identities, I'm really proud to be a Heckmondwike Grammar School ex-student, I'm really proud to be from Hecky, to be from West Yorkshire, and I'm really proud to be from the fantastic county of Yorkshire, and what that means to me is a sense of straight talking no-nonsense, get stuff done type of approach. Yorkshire people generally tell it like it is, you don't get any nonsense and skirting around the edges, we tend to say what we think, and I really like that, we tend to be, I'm not going to say tight with money, but we tend to be frugal and sensible with money which I think is a really good trait to have, and we're also actually really caring and compassionate people despite sometimes having quite a tough exterior, so that Yorkshire identity for me is really important and that sense of family and sense of community you get in Yorkshire is also really strong, and then, I'll look at the other identities I've got in terms of being really proud to be English, really proud to be British, really proud to be European, and part of the Global community as well. So, I think it is really good to have multiple identities, but I do identify quite strongly with being a proud Yorkshire woman.



**4. You chose to stand in this election in the newly formed constituency of 'the Spen Valley' rather than in the 'Batley and Dewsbury' constituency, what led you towards that decision?**

I think for me, it was a very personal decision, there is an argument that the politically astute thing to do would have been to stand for Dewsbury and Batley, because on paper, that is a safe labour seat, and actually, on paper the new spen valley constituency is much more likely to be a conservative seat, although, given the way things are at the moment in terms of the polls, there is a sense that could change. And also, my background in history is in Spen Valley, So I've got a very good strong relationship with Batley, I don't have a very strong attachment to Dewsbury, other than when Jo and I used to go shopping there as kids and we used to go into Dorothy Perkins and WH Smiths, but I don't really have a strong connection to Dewsbury. And based on my journey into politics, the personal connection is really important, so I've always lived in Spen Valley, I think one of my houses was in Staincliffe in Batley but generally speaking I've lived and worked in Spen Valley, so my first Job was in Mirfield, and in the new boundaries, Mirfield will come into the constituency, and it is a lovely town, I really like it. My parents live in Roberttown, a lot of my family live in Spen Valley, so for me, the personal connection was the really important bit, and the political aspect, if we are going to get a labour government, it is seats like Spen Valley that we're going to have to win, so someone had to take that challenge, and I think I am in a relatively strong position to do that, based on my local connections and track record so far, representing a big part of that new constituency.

**5. You attended Heckmondwike grammar school quite a few years ago now, what is your favourite memory of studying there?**

Quite a few years ago? How rude, yes, quite a few years ago, you are correct, I am blessed with many happy memories of Heckmondwike Grammar School, excluding the brown uniform, especially the particularly unattractive Gym Knickers which I am hoping they don't make the Girls wear now because they were dreadful. I've got loads of happy memories, I had a really good friendship network, I'd got Jo two years above me, so it was great having my big sister at school as well because I used to get on well with all her friends as well. I loved PE, so I loved playing Hockey and Netball, Tennis, and every sport really at school, I joined the Hockey team when I was in school and I then carried on playing for Heckmondwike ladies Hockey team, I continued to play Hockey for thirty years afterwards, so I've got a strong association with my sport through School, I had some really good teachers, some of them a still there now but Mr Currie, the legend, was my Geography teacher, Miss Charlton, Mr Allan, he only left recently, he was my brilliant French Teacher, I knew Mr Wilson who was the deputy head at the time because his sons went to school with me, and of course, the legend who was Mr T.C. Riddles. Who was the head Teacher when I first started at the grammar school, I had a wonderful history Teacher called Mrs Harper, who I think stayed their quite a long time as well, so I've got really fond memories of the teachers, of my friends, of my whole time there really, and I feel really lucky to have that, because not everybody has a positive experience at school, and mine was, I have friends I'm still in touch with now from my school days, and what's nice is since I've been doing this Job, I've bumped into a lot of people who I went to school with, who like me, have always lived in the local area, and it's really weird thinking that I'm their member of parliament, but it is a real honour and a privilege as well.

***A Special Thank you must be given to Ms Leadbeater for doing this interview, and her aides for helping organise it.***

If you read a lot of mythology, you will be bound to notice the excess of connections between each culture's tales, traditions and livelihoods. In the last edition, there was an established connection between the love deities Oshun and Aphrodite, of Yoruba myths and Greek myths respectively. This time, it is perhaps time to go a bit more... bizarre, if you will. This time it is not going to be strictly on the topic of myths. This time, we are going to talk about some **apples** through time.

**Why apples?** It turns out that there are, actually, quite a number of them and their symbolism of power, corruption and knowledge goes back to the stories of old. One you may know about is **Snow White's poison apple**, originally by the Brothers Grimm, with another being the Bible's **Adam and Eve** from the Book of Genesis. But did you know that the apple from the Tree of Knowledge – the one that inspired the Apple logo – is not actually an apple at all? In fact, the Hebrew Bible only says that it is a "fruit", with some people interpreting this to be a citron<sup>1</sup> or even a pomegranate<sup>3</sup>. The unnamed fruit's transformation into that sinful apple occurred probably due to the influence of the Graeco-Roman culture – specifically through the story of the **Garden of Hesperides**, the daughters of Atlas, and guarded Hera's tree of golden apples with Ladon, the dragon. Even the legendary **Hercules** (Heracles) dared not fight that dragon, though that could be because Hera was involved<sup>2</sup>. Instead, he tricked Atlas, the Titan that holds up the sky, to go and get the apples for him.



That idea of **golden apples**, specifically, occurs across nations, not just in Greek mythology where they crop up time and time again with both **Atalanta's race** for life and love, and the Judgement of Paris for instance – of which started the famous 10-year **Trojan War**. The Romanian fairytale figure **Prâslea the Brave** is one of those characters, who is one of three brothers trying to protect the golden apple tree from the ferocious threat of a dragon. By comparison but in a similar vein to the 'Labours of Hercules', in Japanese folklore there are the 'Labours of Yamato' but **Yamato** (who shares a name with the One Piece character) goes on a quest for golden apples to win the hand of the sea-goddess Benten instead of trying to win absolution from his family's murder. That, with the Greek myth of **Dionysus' creation of apples** themselves when he tried to win the hand of Aphrodite, paints apples to be intrinsically tied to courtship. In fact, that very myth helped to manifest the idea that throwing an apple to someone was essentially a proposal, and if the recipient caught it – or even attempted to – then they requited and accepted those feelings.

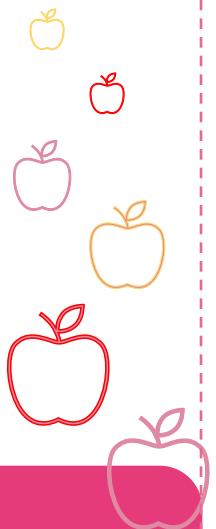


By S. Velasquez-Fox



So, it is admittedly easy to say apples have a quite a history in society, as a food or a symbol. And this is not even mentioning other tales like Switzerland's folk hero **William Tell** who is famous for having shot an apple off his son's head, or Arthurian legend's **Lake of Avalon** where the word 'Avalon' itself stems from the Welsh for apple, so meaning King Arthur technically died in the Land of Apples and, according to some, is supposed to rise from the Lake of Apples.

All of these possibly strange connotations could have been just due to the distribution of apple growth across the globe, the melting and fusion of cultures as they interact, or even by just pure coincidence. Nevertheless, it is clear that apples have played an important role in culture, even if quite a few of them are merely legends.



<sup>1</sup>Like a lemon, but not.

<sup>2</sup>Hera continuously tried to drive Heracles mad and kill him due to him being a son of Zeus.

<sup>3</sup>Connected to Persephone & Hades' romance, perhaps.

## The Most Isolated People in the World



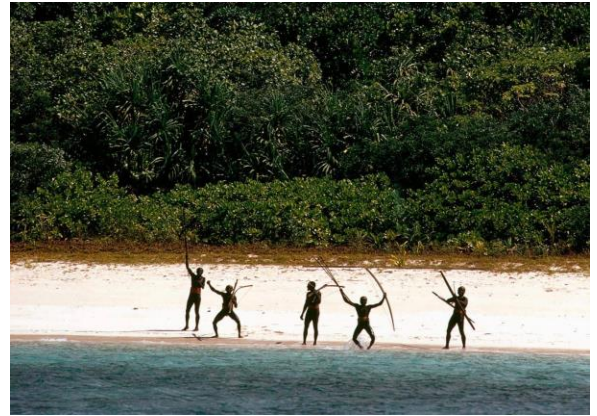
North Sentinel Island; home to the most isolated people in the world, the Sentinelese. The Andaman Islands, in the Bay of Bengal, are a group of 200 islands belonging to India, located off the East Indian coast, of which North Sentinel Island is a part of. The Sentinelese are related to inhabitants of other Andaman islands; however, their centuries long isolation means their language cannot be understood by other Andaman groups.

The island is only 60 square km, but its population has been greatly disputed. A large-scale attempt was made to calculate the island's population for the 2011 Indian Census; however, the attempts were largely disrupted due to the inhabitant's violence towards the helicopters that were attempting to measure the population, with the tribe throwing spears, stones and shooting arrows at the helicopter, forcing the scientists to turn back. With the limited data they collected before retreating, and with the help of anthropologists (estimating how many people the island could support), the population has been estimated at between 80-150, although it could be as many as 500 or as few as 15.

The **Andaman and Nicobar Islands Protection of Aboriginal Tribes Regulation** of 1956 has prohibited all unauthorised travel to the island, and all passing ships must maintain a minimum distance of 5 nautical miles (around 9.3km) from the island. This regulation protects both the Sentinelese people (the exclusion zone protects the tribal community from "mainland" diseases which they likely have no immunity against) and the passing ships and potential visitors, as the Sentinelese people have a long history of violence towards those who attempt to contact them. Thus, the area surrounding the island is patrolled by the Indian Navy.



There have been numerous attempts to contact the tribe over the last few centuries, for multiple reasons, each with varying degrees of success. Notable attempts included the **Indian Exploratory party**, who were ordered to establish friendly relationships with the Sentinelese following Indian independence and thus visited the island every few years beginning in 1967, however these visits ended in 1997 when the Indian government ceased all visits to the island as the visitor's safety was beginning to be compromised.



Another attempt was made to learn and investigate the Sentinelese's life and language by Triloknath Pandit (the director of the Anthropological Survey of India). In 1991, him and his colleagues made several friendly contacts leaving gifts to the Sentinelese. However, if they stayed too long, they were repeatedly warned off by the tribe.

However, the most famous attempt was made by John Allen Chau in November 2018. Allen Chau was a Christian missionary from Missouri, USA and planned an illegal trip to the island to preach Christianity to the Sentinelese, aided by local Andaman fishermen. He made three visits to the island over three days, on his first and second visit he was met with hostility as he attempted to preach and give gifts but was forced to retreat. On his second visit one of the Sentinelese shot his Bible with an arrow, but it wasn't until his third, and what turned out to be his final visit, that the tribe attacked him. On this visit, Allen Chau instructed the fishermen to abandon him, and they later saw the islanders dragging Allen Chau's body across the shore and later burying it. Attempts to recover the body by Indian authorities failed following tense encounters with the tribe. It is widely believed Allen Chau was shot and killed with an arrow; there is a documentary film detailing Allen Chau's life, 'The Mission' released in 2023.

Article  
written  
by B.  
Griffiths



It is now widely believed that future generations will be discouraged from creating original artwork, AI platforms instead being able to replicate the exact outcome after being given a one sentence brief and a few seconds of processing time.

**Naturally**, the process of making art begins with putting pen to paper and visualising your concept with your own brain. It is undeniable that the initial sketch will not be the exact replica of what you aim for the artwork to look like, this is because you have not entirely thought out the process and the numerous paint strokes to be made, with the same intention and purpose behind each one. AI does not have this terrible setback, the flaw that is being **human**, of having to attempt things multiple times before you can rest in satisfaction. AI can create an image with no 'real' thought, merely interpreting a concept and replicating it to the best of its ability. The artistry behind painting or drawing a piece, let's say, in the style of Leonardo Da Vinci, lies within the emotions and dedication behind every addition, even behind the horrible first sketches, with anatomy so unrealistic you barely recognise the humanity within it, or colours that clash so horribly you begin to question why they even exist.

**You create art** with the hope that it will come together and represent the meaning you intended it to have, you do not know if you will abandon the work to create something else, if the model will change expression – or if the background will become blurred. Part of the process is the discovery of what the art wants to be itself. The fulfilment that comes from art, what results in the formality of museums made just to admire the pieces, is the joy and sorrow of the artists. That you can hear their intentions through the work is vital in understanding our fascination.

It is quite an abstract idea, that is hard to write down, so forgive me that this makes little sense.

AI does not have emotion, at least not in the way we do, and therefore cannot appreciate the unique and complex issue of beauty, inherent to being alive, something AI is not. *I have commissioned one of our talented illustrators to create a piece of artwork with the brief 'A child's imagination of a magical garden', and have also asked an AI program the same brief – to compare the results of human made art with AI art.*

Humans are **obsessed**, to put it lightly, with making everything easier, but can it be moral to take the mystique away from beauty itself in this way? To use AI programs to create artwork, and claim it as your own, is plagiarism of every piece of art that has been inputted to the program.

However, the introduction of AI is not necessarily an evil in the world. So long as you do not claim the concepts as your own, AI can be an Ingenious tool for inspiration and automation. For example, the recent film 'Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse' used an AI tool to aid the animation process – after completing the key frames, they used a personalised tool to draw the characters in filler frames. This reduced the time of animation drastically – and the artists still got the credit they deserve for their work.

Additionally, AI can be significantly helpful in the creative process of designing/brainstorming what you want your art to be. If you use a tool to generate different backgrounds, or colour palettes, or anatomical positions: you will be more inspired to continue with the work (given that you will have a visual cue for what you are going to create).

Article written by E.Dye



AI generated: hotpot.ai

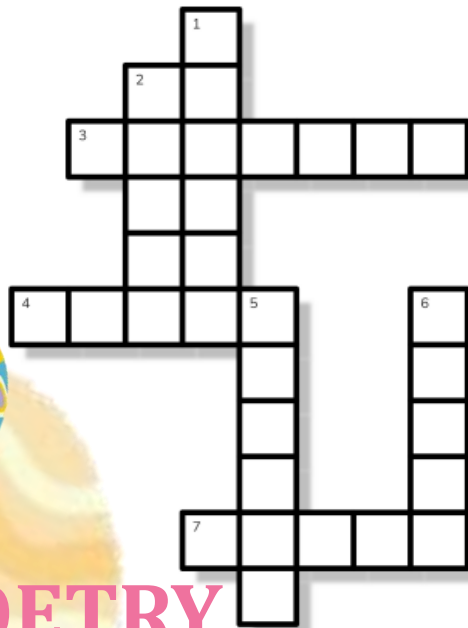
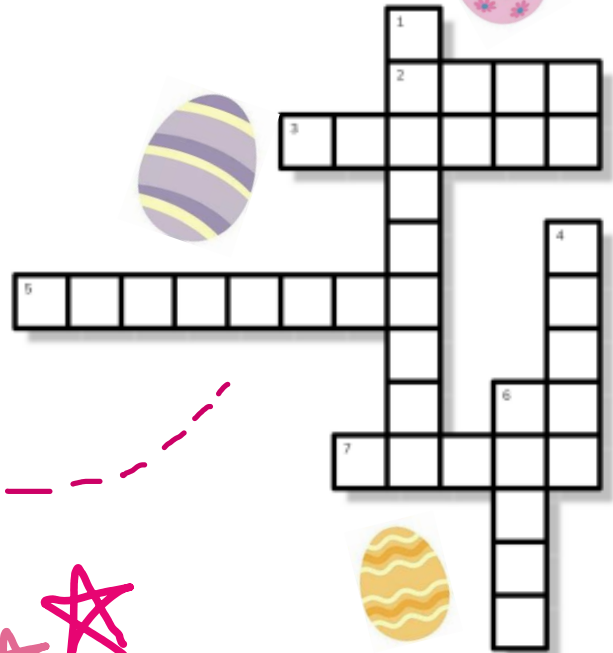


## Down

1. What are Easter eggs made of?
4. A symbol of suffering and redemption
6. Furry friend associated with Easter

## Across

2. An Easter egg \_\_\_\_\_
3. Crown of \_\_\_\_\_
5. Spring flower
7. Crucified to save humanity



## Down

1. Muslim place of worship
2. Obligatory charity
5. The pre-dawn meal eaten before starting the fast
6. Evening meal during Ramadan

## Across

3. Refraining from eating and drinking during daylight hours
4. Often eaten as a traditional food during iftar
7. The night of \_\_\_\_\_

# POETRY

To honour International Women's Month, we have found a poem by a Victoria Erickson – a poet and author – discussing women's equality.


“Women are powerful, and I see them stifle this every. single. day. Stop looking to be saved and hiding your magic. Stop tossing aside your voice and valid emotions. Stop wasting your time with fake friends and chasing men like they're cures. Material things, better jobs, and other people- they won't fill your gap. Only you can do that. Life is short. Rise up and step back into your awesome, innate power. You are compassion and creative force and divine life itself. You are a Goddess.”

**Victoria Erickson**

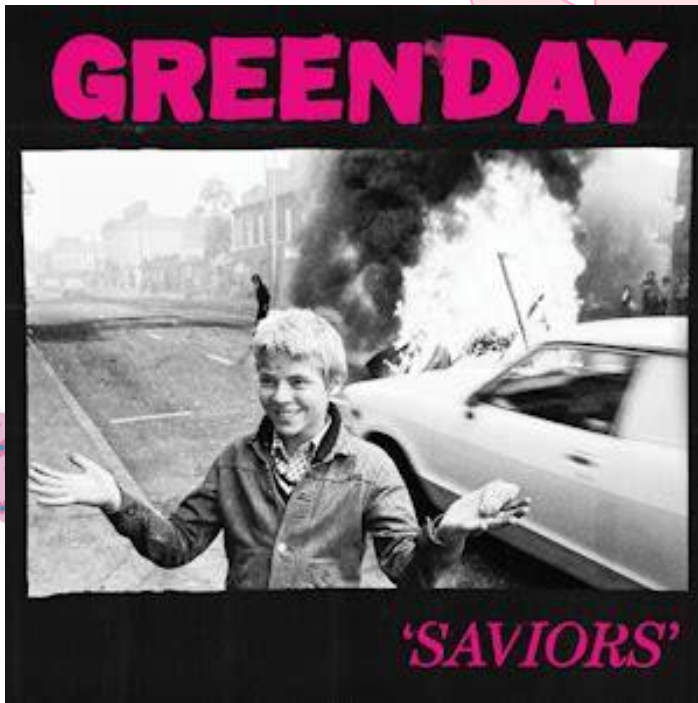
And suddenly it's March,  
and dusty sunsets encase my vision as I walk home  
world washed with soft yellows – flooding my head  
with empty noise – mind spinning with whistling birds; melodic  
messages of life.

**Emma Dye**



Formatted and created by  
E.Dye 

Answers: EASTER – 1, Chocolate 2, Hunt 3, Thorns 4, Cross, 5, Daffodil 6, Bunny 7, Jesus RAMADAN – 1, Dates 2, Fasting 3, Zakat 4, Mosque 5, Power 6, Suhoor 7, Iftar



Article written by **Krish Patel** and **Kyran Russell**

The second track consists of similar ideas – this is great for fans of Green Day, who followed them in what many would refer to as their prime era – however, this could begin to become boring for listeners who are just getting into them or prefer their more recent works. However, the third track in the album, 'Bobby Sox' creates some interest with a Red Hot Chili Peppers -esque verse and a chorus which creates contrast and interest with grittier vocals heard from Billie Joe Armstrong.

The fourth track immediately grabs the attention with a catchy guitar riff that is very reminiscent of the song 'So What' by P!nk. This song has an anthemic, singable chorus that is typical of Green Day, but the feature that made it a stand-out track for us was the interlude/bridge section; the guitars play a simple but heavy riff that could easily be in a Tool song – something that isn't often heard on many of the band's works.

The seventh track, 'Goodnight Adeline', is one of the slower songs on the album. For some listeners, it may seem to progress too slowly, however we find that it makes a pleasant contrast to the more energetic feel of the other tracks. Either way, the guitar solo at the end is what makes this song great; it contains a perfect amount of melodic development, and effectively follows the underlying chords and leads into the modulation from G major to A major. This whole-tone, step-up modulation is not common in comparison to semitone step-up modulations but is heard occasionally in pop music, for example in the classic 'I Want It That Way' by The Backstreet Boys.

**Green Day**, the iconic punk rock band which has stood at the forefront of the genre for three decades, returns with a new album 'Saviors'. With this release, the band takes a step back to their roots (after attempting to go in a different direction with their 2020 album), delivering a striking collection of tracks that harken back to the raw and rebellious spirit of their early days: with their signature punk rock sound, and relevant social, cultural and political messages.

**From** the very first track 'The American Dream is Killing Me', it becomes evident that the band has no intentions of holding back with comments regarding the state of the world - with its criticisms of the harsh reality for people pursuing the 'American Dream', nods to the housing crisis, unemployment issues and the troubled nature of America's political landscape. This track has a very recognisable Green Day style: Billie Joe Armstrong's melodic yet aggressive vocals, a simple sequence of power chords in the chorus and a short instrumental interlude which develops the main melody.

The solo, as with most of Billie Joe Armstrong's solos, is not technically complicated but achieves the most important aspect of any solo – serving the song. There are many solos which are renowned for their technical complexity but don't fit well into the context of the song (for example, Eddie van Halen's shred solo suddenly appearing in the sparse and relatively chilled atmosphere of Michael Jackson's 'Beat It'; this is a controversial take and the solo is without doubt a legendary one, played by one of the greatest guitarists of all time).

As the final instalment in a trilogy, beginning with their original break out album from 1994 'Dookie' and continuing with their mainstream dominating 'American Idiot' album from 2004, 'Saviors' serves as a fitting revival of Green Day's original punk rock style with many listeners treating it as a sort of 'back to basics' for the band, after exploring through a various range of styles throughout the years.





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