

Withington Girls' School student-run magazine

*Editor* - Theo Critchley

*Deputy Editor* - Lexi Phillips

*Artistic Director* - Charlotte Pang

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# Editor's Note:



Dear all,

Welcome to this year's second edition of the student-run magazine Scrawl! In the last term our ever-popular magazine has reached new milestones. We've had our first ever cake sale – organised by the genius financial team, and marketing director, who set to sharpening her Year 9 English persuasive techniques throughout – raising funds to enable us to print this issue fully in colour, and we have received a record-breaking number of incredible articles, artwork and photography submissions.

I would like to thank my dedicated team, the staff members whose help has been invaluable and, of course, the many students whose excellent work is celebrated in this issue.

And so, if the previous issue was the cool, old-school Batmobile of the 60s, this issue has evolved into the Tumbler of 2009 'Batman': sleek, futuristic with a transformer motorbike ready to morph from within. And 'loiter' mode. Handle this magazine with care, o fellow students, and enjoy the journey!

**Theo Critchley**

Editor of Scrawl

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From the Archives:

# Elizabeth O’Kelly and WGS

## in the 1920s and 1930s

Elizabeth (‘Betty’) O’Kelly attended Withington in the late 1920s, however her time at school was cut short by her father’s illness, which necessitated the family moving to the countryside. When the family moved back to Fallowfield in 1934, Betty was offered a job in the school which she described in her own words as that of a “maid of all work”. Betty eventually attended the Royal Manchester College of Music (now the Royal Northern College of Music), and in 1941 joined the WRNS (Women’s Royal Navy Service). She then dedicated her time to working to improve women’s education, firstly in Cameroon and then in Borneo.

There is an interesting letter in the school archives from Betty detailing some of her memories of Withington from the late 1920s and the mid-1930s covering the period when she was a pupil and later when she worked at the school. At that time, Miss Grant was the headmistress, and many of the daughters and granddaughters of the founders were either still at the school or had only just left. In direct contrast to today, many of the girls did not go on to university or to a job after leaving Withington, but instead helped at home until they got married.

Withington was a much smaller school at the time, with less than two hundred pupils. It was therefore possible for the school cook to carry out all of the cooking on a coal-fired range with the help of only one assistant. As Betty was able to go into the school kitchens when she returned to the school in

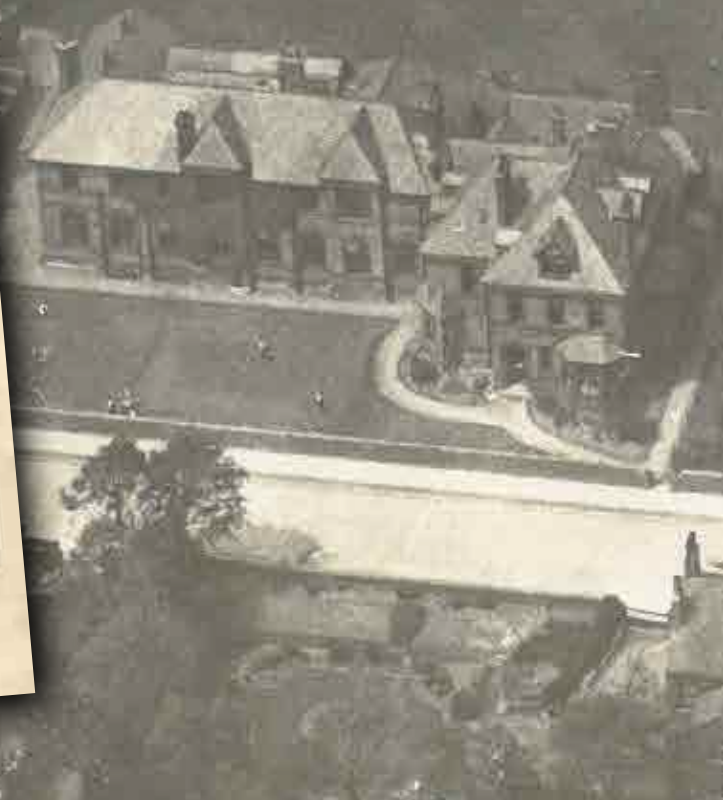
1934, she was able to get to the bottom of a great Withington mystery: what did the school cook use to make the blue stripe in the multi-coloured striped blancmange? The answer was an unexpected one – Reckitt’s Dolly Blue! This was meant for use as a washing powder, so it was a rather unusual ingredient.

Betty also remembered the Speech Days at which both the school’s founder, C.P.Scott, and the then school governor Professor Alexander were present. Betty describes how, during her time at the school, the building also looked very different than it does now. Its origins as a house were clearly visible, and it also had much smaller sports pitches. Miss Grant, the head teacher, lived in the school – her office doubled as her living room!

The teaching of science was a founding tenet of the school, and was strongly encouraged. Yet due to the size and relative youth of the school as an institution the 1925-1926 newsletter shows the difficulties that the school faced at that time “providing a laboratory for six people wanting to do post-matriculation (the equivalent of modern A-level) work in Chemistry, Physics and Botany.”

All in all, Elizabeth O’Kelly’s account of the school in the 1920s and 1930s shows a school which is, in many ways, removed from the WGS of today, and yet at the same time shares so much in common.

Julia Rea



# Why *are all the cartoon mothers dead?*

Try naming an animated movie where the mother isn't either dead or useless. Following studies, it has been realised that central characters are more likely to die violently in children's cartoons than in adult films. There are the gun deaths in 'Bambi', 'Peter Pan' and 'Pocahontas', and stabbings in 'The Sleeping Beauty' and 'The Little Mermaid'. Not to forget the odd death-by-barracuda as in 'Finding Nemo'.

If this is not brutal enough, it is Bambi's mother who is shot and Nemo's mother who is eaten by a barracuda. Lilo's mother is killed in a car crash and the worst example – at least for me – is seen in 'Ice Age', when a vicious tiger chases the mother of a human baby over a waterfall.

My point is, try naming a cartoon movie where the mother isn't gone or useless. Or a mother who lives until the very end, when the credits roll.

I have a confession; I have been watching a lot of children's movies recently and I've found the same pattern repeating itself. I've found more movies in which the mother is disposed of: 'Chicken Little', 'Aladdin', 'Pocahontas', 'Barn Yard', 'Beauty and the Beast', 'Ratatouille' and 'Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs'. More recently, 'Despicable Me', 'Monster's University' and 'Mr. Peabody and Sherman'!

So, what about the father figures? Well, they just happen to be the heroes! When the mother is out of the way, the plot seems to focus on the paternal figure. No matter how 'bad' they are initially, they always end up 'good'. The saviour, the child's superman, he's fantastic and loving, a father and mother in one.

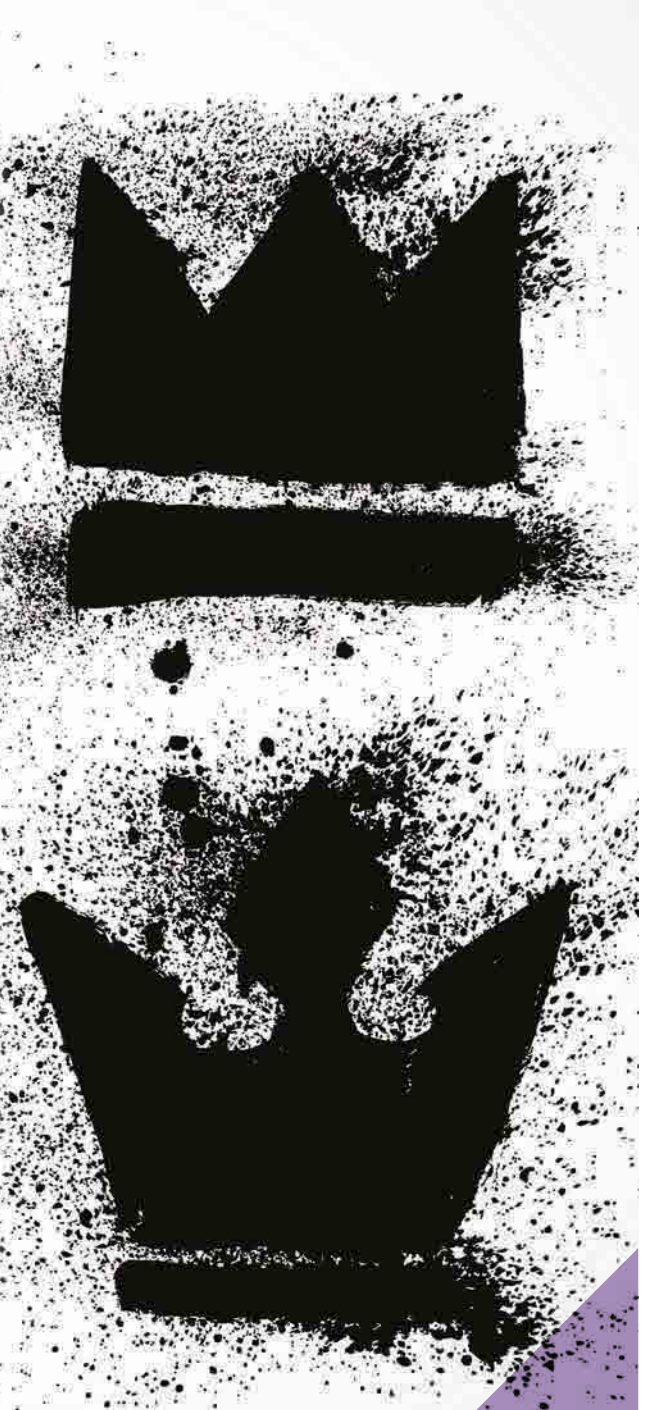
I read online that in only 8% of households, children are living with single fathers whereas at least 25% of children live with single mothers. So, this is where my curiosity lies; why do animated movies only present the fathers of children?

Is it to encourage more men to be maternal or an attempt to imagine a world without mothers?

The pattern goes so far that some movies are even giving children the idea that the father is the only fun parent. In 'Toy Story', there is a single mother, but she gives away the toys. There is a mother at the end of 'The Lego Movie', yet she is the one that cuts the father-son bonding short by announcing "Dinner's ready!" In 'Despicable Me', it was Gru's mother who led to his becoming evil in the first place.

However, there are a few movies that do contradict what I am saying. For example, 'The Incredibles', my all-time favourite movie. Not only does the mother save the day, but the movie consists of a full family of four, with two parents, which is extremely rare. The development of the movie shows family bonding, and the reliability and trust that those in a family are able to put into one another. Both the parents and the children have powers that can help to save the world. Together, they are all equals and form a 'dream team'. I wish that more children's cartoons portrayed mothers and families in such a light.

Nowadays, children watch hours of T.V. every day. We do not know how they interpret the negative portrayal of mothers that they see on screen. Though, if I have children who believe that I am 'the spoilsport', or that having a single dad is 'cool', I believe I will understand just where this attitude has come from.



# *The Shakespearean Actor*

During Shakespeare's time, the English language was rapidly changing. With no fixed structure, and a continually increasing range of vocabulary, it was in many ways the work of authors and playwrights, the languages of other nations, and a desire for exploration which solidified the language into that used today.

Shakespeare's impact on the English language, and on culture, as a national treasure, is widely acknowledged and appreciated. This is considered highly important in education, and most children are aware of the direct impact of Shakespeare on our language, perhaps the word 'apostrophe', or the phrase 'I will wear my heart upon my sleeve', originally used in 'Othello'. Indeed, it is thought that Shakespeare introduced more than 2000 words to our language, coining multiple widely-used phrases and new theatrical, poetic and grammatical structures, such as his use of blank verse.

Shakespeare's influence undoubtedly reaches much further into our society than the English language. It has, in fact, interwoven into the very core of Britain traits unique and instantaneously identifiable with English-ness. The wit and sarcasm of many of Shakespeare's characters has become synonymous with our culture, the style of his plays and sonnets having been echoed in the works of countless writers, such as Keats and Dickens, and still in the creative feats of modern culture: in films, literature and in music.

And though these are only fine tendrils of Shakespeare's influence, they exceed the impact of any other individual through time as they have served to shape our culture so distinctively. So what, might one ask, of Shakespeare's influence upon us, as individuals?

Through the characteristic of uniqueness that has stemmed from Shakespeare's works, British society has developed. In our infinite respect, wonder and reverence of his plays, which we strive to perform perfectly on stage, we have given rise once more to the talented, respected and revered individual: the Shakespearean actor.

The concept of Shakespearean actors has changed dramatically from Shakespeare's original actors, who were certainly popular as they are today, but whose relationships with the plays of Shakespeare were far more intimate than nowadays.

Shakespeare had several key actors who took on roles in many of his plays, though these would always be involved in other theatre productions at the same time: theatre was incredibly popular, a daily outing. Over 100 different productions would run per season, with many actors performing in up to five different plays per week. An actor himself, Shakespeare understood the difficulty of this task. Actors were only given the dialogue of their own character, and so Shakespeare included prompts for each character: a rhyming couplet to end the speech of one character, or the specific reference to a prop that was to be employed at a certain moment. And so, original actors of Shakespeare would have performed with a spontaneity that seemed highly 'natural', giving the play a more realistic feel – somewhat harder to achieve for a modern-day actor who may have been familiar with the text since childhood.

Moreover, Shakespeare often wrote certain characters for specific actors. Will Kempe, actor, musician and dancer, was Shakespeare's primary 'clown' figure. Shakespeare wrote roles such as Bottom, Falstaff and Dogberry for Kempe, making sure to emphasise the

particular talents of this actor in the character he created. This immediately estranges a modern Shakespearean actor from a character in a way that would not have caused Will Kempe any problems!

And so, we have great respect for actors of today who are able to understand and convey plausibly a character who may have been written specifically for an actor of the Elizabethan era, whilst possessing extensive knowledge of the play, its themes, and the varying interpretations of the character. These actors have a different kind of engagement with their character than the original actors. In order to make a character their own, the modern day Shakespearean actor must be able to understand them emotionally. This understanding of Shakespeare's characters, who show the flaws and innermost feelings of mankind, influences the way in which actors are able to engage emotionally with their other work, which is well-known and highly-esteemed by the whole of society.

In today's society, there is no doubt that everyone is familiar with the work of at least one Shakespearean actor. Ralph Fiennes, perhaps, known largely for his role as Lord Voldemort in the 'Harry Potter' film franchise, and also for his extensive involvement with Shakespeare's work such as his film adaptation of 'Coriolanus'. His role as concierge M. Gustave in Wes Anderson's most recent film, the sublime 'The Grand Budapest Hotel' (also featuring Jude Law and F. Murray Abraham, actors who have performed Shakespeare at the RSC), highlights the high demand and flexibility of these actors in works of every genre and period. Fangirl-favourite Tom Hiddleston has been acknowledged as one of Britain's finest actors – with many suggesting that, due to his outstanding performance in the most recent Thor movie, this should have been renamed 'Loki: The Dark World'!

The list is extensive, and in places surprising. Amongst others, Kenneth Branagh, Richard Burton, Patrick Stewart, Dame Judy Dench, and Tim Curry, Transylvania's own sweet transvestite, have performed at the Royal Shakespeare Company.

It is not just theatre and film which call upon these Shakespeare-rich individuals, but major international companies who understand the extent of their popularity. In 2013, BMW launched a series of radio adverts featuring Tom Hiddleston and 2014 saw the release of Jaguar TV adverts featuring Mark Strong, Tom Hiddleston and Sir Ben Kingsley, and of course the plethora of radio adverts with Benedict Cumberbatch.

The Shakespearean actor even plays a part in music. In the case of British band 'Hell', it was the Shakespearean knowledge, nature and theatricality of vocalist David Bower that led to his initial involvement with the band. He suggests that his Shakespearean background has led to an increase in his appreciation and understanding of the power contained within the English language. This has, in turn, given the band a completely 'English' sound – in contrast with many English bands who choose to imitate an American style.

And so the Shakespearean actor is shown to have incredible insight into the language and complexities of English and so into the heart of our society. Whether directly or indirectly, Shakespeare continues to impact on us as individuals: and shall undoubtedly continue to do so for many years to come.

Theo Critchley

## THE EUROPEAN UNION

*SHOULD WE STAY OR SHOULD WE GO?*

FRANCESCA HALLIWELL

Should the UK withdraw from the European Union? This is becoming an increasingly topical & emotive question.

The Prime Minister, David Cameron, has promised a referendum on this matter in 2017, provided that the Conservatives win the next General Election. On the one hand, the UK consistently contributes more in funds to the EU than it receives, for example, in 2013 its net contribution was €11.3 billion. Can this be justified? On the other hand, would we be prepared to exclude ourselves from the Single Market which is fundamental to our future? The issues are far more complex than they seem and we must weigh up both the positive and the negative aspects.

Firstly, the European Union is governed by several institutions, including the European Council, the European Commission and the European Parliament. The relationship between them is complex and unwieldy. Moreover, most of the new EU laws originate from the European Commission, which is an entirely unelected body. Since the European Commission is not directly accountable to voters, there is a so-called 'democratic deficit' within it. It might be argued that sometimes it is better for officials to take sensitive and controversial issues away from the political arena but voters in several states, especially the UK, are becoming increasingly disillusioned.

The EU is also prone to financial waste. Each year, for political reasons, the EU moves between Strasbourg and Brussels at a cost of over €200 million and the emission of over 18,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>. In addition, funds are spent on controversial projects which are not even being properly implemented, an example of this being when €411,000 were spent on a project in Hungary to "improve the lifestyle and living standards of dogs" in February 2009. The European Court of Auditors, an institution of the European Union, is also yet to confirm that the accounts of the European Union are complete or even accurate.

However, one significant advantage of being a member of the EU is our access to the European Single Market. The Single Market is an intergovernmental agreement that comprises a free trade area for goods, as well as product regulation and freedom of movement. Members of the EU are part of a customs union, where there are no tariffs on goods moving between member states, and a common tariff is applied to goods from outside the EU. It is therefore true that if the UK left the EU, British exports

would be subject to the EU export tariffs unless an agreement could be reached to the contrary. Moreover, the UK would still be forced to meet the EU production standards. The EU is also the UK's main trading partner, generating up to 52% of our total trade in goods and services. It is therefore no surprise that over ¾ of small and medium sized businesses back staying in the EU.

Now, aside from the loss of the Single Market, there is another potentially huge disadvantage to leaving the EU. London has arguably become the most important financial centre in the world. It is the global capital for European money market trading and so if the UK were to leave the EU, it is possible that many banks and financial organisations would re-locate from London. This includes Germany's Deutsche Bank and France's BNP Paribas. Of course, this is difficult to assess at the moment, being based on inferences about the future.

Nevertheless, we must remember that our membership of the EU is extremely costly. It has been suggested that the UK would have gained an additional €10 billion in 2012 if freed from the burden of its net contribution to the European Budget. In addition, much of its contribution is spent on the EU's controversial Common Agricultural Policy.

A very emotive and controversial issue is freedom of movement and immigration. We are all aware of the large influx of immigrants to the UK. Many have contributed to the UK economy, however they have also increased the burden on the local infrastructure, particularly in schools, hospitals and local utilities. It is also feared that immigrants who do not contribute to society could potentially exacerbate racial tensions.

The issues are complex and difficult. If there is to be a referendum in 2017 and people do vote to withdraw from the EU, there will undoubtedly be a great deal of upheaval. Re-negotiating the United Kingdom's relationship with the EU will lead to endless difficulty and the economic consequences are uncertain. However, there are serious problems with the European Union, such as the loss of national sovereignty. Moreover, as the UK has not adopted the European single currency, the UK no longer has any influence over many important decisions that relate to the EU. Should there be a referendum, it will be for us to decide whether the UK should stay or leave the EU.

# ALL SOCIAL MEDIA SHOULD BE *BANNED*

Ok. Now that I have your attention we can discuss what I really want to talk about, which has to do with one social media in particular that allows anyone and everyone to share their opinions and talk unkindly about people anonymously – Twitter.

A little while ago I was watching a quiz show, and one of the contestants looked slightly different from the rest. Nobody in my family commented; we continued to watch the show and when it ended we went on Twitter. To this day I'm not sure what we wanted to see, perhaps fellow internet-abled intellectuals who shared our sense of humour and wished for nothing more than to discuss the questions on the show with passion, grace, wit and charm. Or maybe we were hoping for comments from the host which we could read and talk about in a vaguely fangirl-y manner. Whatever we thought we could find doesn't matter now, because what we really found would be a punch in the stomach to anyone with at least a little sense of what the word 'respect' means.

Almost the only thing up for debate on their Twitter page was the appearance of the aforementioned contestant.

It wasn't like we weren't completely expecting it. When I said that nobody in my family commented, that's the honest truth, but everyone judges; it's human instinct. Back when we were divided into tribes, judging was probably an important tool in our survival: if someone looks different to you then they're not from your tribe, better avoid them and perhaps think about killing them if they get too close to your children. As we've evolved, we've more or less lost this pack system (many would argue otherwise, but that is an issue for another day) yet the ability to judge remains innately embedded in our minds. There's always a split second when you first meet someone in which you think something you shouldn't – be it 'her skirt is too short' or 'his hair is too long' or 'their idea to separate ions from mixtures using gas chromatography and mass spectrometry is valid, yet very unoriginal'. You know, little things like that.

However, as hard as these judgements are to suppress, it is one of our abilities as humans to suppress them. Before social media made it big this was relatively easy, a whispered word in your friend's ear and a smirk here and there being your only means of showing your distaste. Yet nowadays nearly everyone carries around the power – in their pocket – to share this judgement with the world, anonymously. And mark my words, the anonymity is a big factor in this. While most people would never do or say anything in public that might damage their reputation, the second any sort of mask is given, many are fine to share their opinions and make sick jokes about other people as comfortably as if they were chatting to an empty room, seemingly forgetting how very public the whole affair is. It's almost like giving someone a veil, a megaphone, and a huge sign that reads, 'I think *this* about *these people*' and letting them stand on street corners, bombarding people with their opinions. Anyone could lift up the veil to see their face, but in the world's current state of apathy, nobody can be bothered. So it seems that, at this moment in time we have a problem.

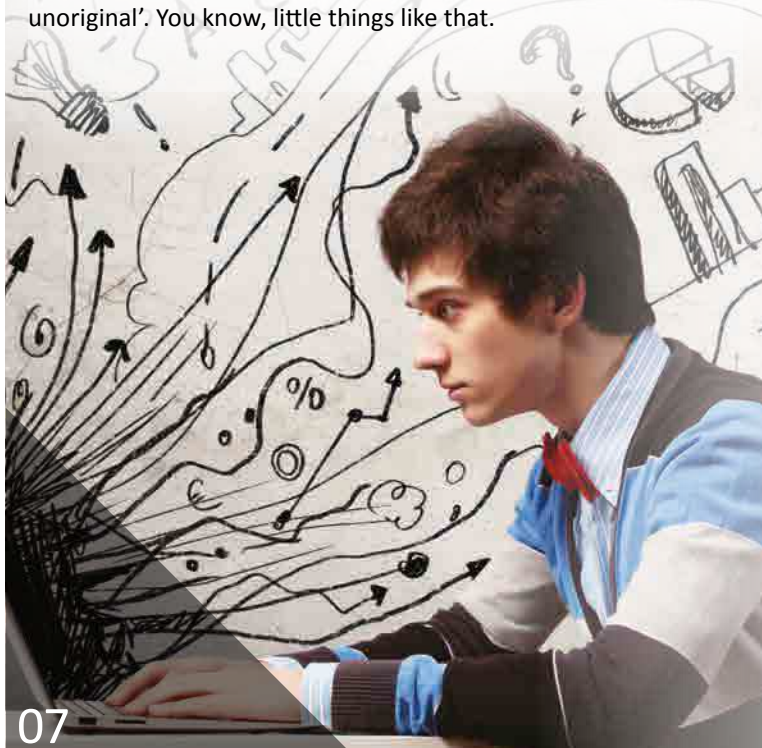
Now don't get me wrong here, I'm a big fan of social media. I adore the fact that we've worked out a way to easily communicate with friends and family who we might normally ignore, increasing our procrastination time ten-fold while we're at it. The whole thing is a very positive idea on paper, so surely the addition of a billion or so people will only enhance the experience, right? Right?

Wrong. The first problem with adding a billion or so people into three or four social networking sites is that people never agree. On anything. Seriously, it's been two years since my class made scones in FTT and you need only whisper "scon" or "scohn" to have instant anarchy. The other, (slightly larger) problem with adding in a billion or so people is that, while many people are happy to discuss their views and beliefs in a calm and accepting manner, many are not. As the many who are calm and accepting also happen to be the kind of people who don't enforce their views and beliefs upon anyone, I'm willing to bet my batch of freshly baked scones (read that however you like) that the ones who aren't calm or accepting will be the ones you run into most often.

But I digress. To come back to my point, Twitter is a dangerous mix of vague anonymity and public opinion which often results in offensive comments and a lot of 'apologies' from the people who made said comments. Without any sort of warning or precaution the system allows anybody to say whatever comes into their head at any time – provided they can say it in 140 characters or less. The way it seems to be going now, nothing is going to happen without Twitter making it happen. Any sort of warning system or privacy settings would have to be created and enforced by the workers at Tweet HQ. So all we can do is hope that, somehow, they hear about this problem and rush to fix it.

While we wait, you can go and have an opinion about my very opinionated article about other people's opinions. And yes, that last sentence was under 140 characters. Just in case you were wondering.

Eleanor Edwards





## A LOST GENERATION-

THE DANGERS OF A  
POLITICALLY ILLITERATE YOUTH

In the UK, there is a group of people who are increasingly marginalised by politicians. Their opinions are largely ignored, their thoughts rarely voiced in the news, and they have little means of influencing politics.

This may sound like the situation for a tiny minority group, but in fact this is the reality for over 50% of young people in the UK. Many young people do not vote. In the 2010 General Election, only 44% of 18- to 24-year-olds voted. This means that more than half are not affecting who wins seats, and who gets into power.

This is potentially very dangerous. Politicians are happy to ignore the needs and voices of a whole section of the population. They know that young people have no real power over them, so why bother? Why address the needs of this group of people over for example, the 76% of over-65-year-olds who voted in the last election? Especially when these over-65s have the highest turnout, and therefore the greatest influence, of any age group. It is much easier for politicians to simply pretend that young people do not exist.

This has led to young people feeling marginalised by politicians and disengaged from the political process. They feel that politicians do not listen to them, and that “they’re all the same anyway.” This could lead to even fewer 18- to 24-year-olds voting, further marginalising them in a vicious cycle. This could eventually result in a country governed purely by the views of the older generation. A disturbing thought.

So what can be done to change this? We are a ‘democracy’, where everyone aged 18 or over has the right to vote. The most

straightforward solution therefore is to encourage and make it easier for young people to vote. As this generation is the first ‘digital generation’ perhaps online voting and registration would help make voting more accessible and less time-consuming. A free smartphone voting and registration app may also help. Other suggestions include offering incentives to vote, making voting compulsory as it is in Australia and extending the vote to 16-year-olds. These are all potential ways of increasing voter turnout at the next election.

However, simply dealing with voting is not enough. It does not matter how easy you make it for a person to vote, if they feel there’s no point in voting then they will not vote. This is a problem that needs dealing with at its root, that being the disengaging of young people from the political process. Sky News’ ‘Stand Up Be Counted’ campaign aims to re-engage young people with politics, by providing an online platform for 16 to 25-year-olds to share views and debate issues that matter to them. Whilst this is an excellent way to attract that age group, sometimes even by then it is too late. Perhaps making learning about politics compulsory in high schools for all pupils as part of PSHE lessons would keep teenagers interested in politics so that when they are able to vote, they will.

For now though, I would like to encourage all of you who are old enough to vote to do so, and those who are not to vote as soon as you can. Whilst you may feel powerless, just think that your vote could determine who will be in charge of this country. And as Helen Keller once said; “Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”

Hemma Jari



# *Behind Closed Doors*

We all think we know our neighbours, at least a little. They may be nosy or slightly irritating, but most of them seem like very nice people, who live normal family lives. But how much do we really know about what goes on behind closed doors?

In the UK, one in four women and one in six men will experience domestic abuse in their lifetime. The police receive an emergency call related to domestic abuse every 30 seconds. It can happen to anyone, regardless of gender, age, sexuality, class or ethnicity. Anyone from a sixteen-year-old in their first serious relationship to an eighty-year-old who has been married for many years.

Contrary to popular belief, domestic abuse is not simply physical. The cross-government definition of domestic abuse states that: 'The abuse can encompass but is not limited to: psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional.' Many don't realise that in an abusive relationship there is nearly always psychological or emotional abuse long before any physical abuse. This can be much more damaging in the long term, as it isolates and intimidates the victim, making it harder for them to leave.

According to Women's Aid, signs of domestic abuse include telling you where you can and can't go, embarrassing you in public and repeatedly checking up on you. These may sound more like how parents treat their teenaged children than domestic abuse, but within a relationship these are ways of isolating and controlling the victim. Once a person feels isolated from friends and family they are less likely to report abuse, feeling they have no one to turn to.

This isolation of victims has made domestic violence the most underreported violent crime in the UK – only 35% of domestic violence incidents are reported to police. Poor response from police to victims has increased the already existing distrust and lack of confidence in the police to handle domestic violence cases. The report 'Everybody's business: Improving Police Response to Domestic Abuse' by HMIC (Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary) found 'unacceptable weakness in some core policing activity' and that 'officers may lack the necessary supervision, knowledge and skills effectively to tackle domestic abuse.' This is extremely worrying - how can victims feel confident enough to report domestic abuse when the agency that handles their case is ill equipped to handle it properly?

What we need to tackle this is a change in attitude. We need to teach teenagers what constitutes an abusive relationship. We need to change how police handle domestic abuse cases. The HMIC report recommended face-to-face training with clear definitions of phrases such as 'repeat victim' and 'coercive control'. It states that forces should tackle 'lack of knowledge and poor attitudes', both of which deter victims from reporting abuse. More than anything we need education. We need to raise awareness of what abuse is and who the victims are.

Article 5 of the UDHR (Universal Declaration of Human Rights) states 'No one shall be subjected to...cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.' Domestic abuse violates this. It has to stop.

Hemma Jari



# Flight fears Flight fears Flight fears

Looking at the news, it appears that plane crashes are becoming more frequent. For instance, the tragedy of the German plane which crashed in the French Alps earlier this week, and the recent AirAsia Flight QZ8501 which went missing on 28<sup>th</sup> December. This raises questions about the safety of commercial flights. With so many people flying every day, is it wise to trust pilots with our lives?

Flights in the past ten years have had a relatively clean record, with only two permanently missing aircraft up until now. The second aircraft went missing on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2014, which shows how rare missing aeroplanes are.

Despite this good record, there have been many plane crashes this year. As said by CNBC: "By the numbers, 2014 was one of the deadliest years for plane crashes in recent memory." 22 accidents in 2014 caused 992 deaths, which suggests that airlines are perhaps becoming complacent and lowering flight standards.

Pilots don't have a set number of years before they can qualify and get jobs. Instead they must build up 'flight time'; 1,500 hours of flying planes so they can receive an ATP (Airline Transport Pilot) certificate. Then they have to train for a 'Type Rating' to fly a specific type of aircraft.

However, it is predicted that we will need 500,000 pilots by 2032, meaning that there could be a shortage of pilots. This could lead to a downhill slide in the quality of training that pilots

have before they can fly, which could have a further knock-on effect on flight safety.

Does this mean that our demand will surpass the need for safety? Though it has not been confirmed, recent events suggest that this could be the case in the future; towards a situation in which pilot training is more lenient than it is nowadays.

All the news of plane crashes will only add to the worries of those who have aviophobia – a fear of flights. This would, in turn, lead to an increase in the number of people who need to be reassured about the safety of flights.

But it's not all bad news. The chances of getting killed on a flight with one of the world's major airlines is 1 in 4.7 million, and 1 in 2 million even if you fly with an airline with poor safety records (statistics from PlaneCrashInfo.com). There is more chance of being killed by an asteroid (1 in 700,000) than there is of getting killed in a plane crash.

In fact, safety levels are higher, and airlines strive to improve their training and policies following the occurrence of accidents, using them as a motivation to get better. Airlines utilise technology and replace older planes.

And so, although there have been many crashes this year, airlines do learn from their mistakes and constantly improve flights. Significant advances in technology are continually changing the face of aviation. In the words of aviation expert Jock Williams, "Things are going nowhere but up."

Munira Said



# Cleaning out your Collection

Ella Slater

**When approaching minimalistic dressing, we should be extremely careful not to venture into the zone of an infinite P.Diddy White Party, and instead steer ourselves into effortless easiness on the eye. Minimalism doesn't mean a single muted colour all over, or absolutely no accessories, rather it is streamlined, strikingly simplistic dressing which abolishes all overwhelming pineapple prints and steers more into territories of cashmere jumpers and black skinny jeans. No sequin adorned bodycon dresses in this trend, I'm afraid. The most shine you're going to find is in a glimpse of leather or flash of silk.**

Admittedly, this all sounds a bit boring. Where is the fun in ditching the leopard print and opting for the quieter version? Truthfully, the fun is in the money, and in the array of combinations which can be found with a few staple items. Owning less clothing but more basics is surprisingly beneficial. For example, take a black blazer. Sleeves can easily be rolled up and boyfriend jeans donned for a more casual approach, or a lace dress and stilettos can be the saviour for a slightly formal occasion. And you can save money whilst you're at it, too.

Maybe more relevant are trainers. Avoid well-known, luxury brands, Velcro, or gigantic logos, and opt for a pair of Converse Chuck Taylors or Nikes in muted tones, like navy, white or black. Especially in summer, these can look fabulous with a miniskirt or shorts, and in winter bring fun and practicality to skinny jeans or cigarette pants and a slouchy knit.

One of the fundamental factors in minimalistic dressing is colouring. Bright colours shouldn't be completely eliminated; black skinny jeans can look amazing with a red shirt and loafers, or a grey jumper can be lit up with a dash of lilac jewellery, but you must take care to avoid any chaos of clashing patterns and blinding prints. Sophia Webster shoes, teamed with a rainbow Meadham Kirchhoff dress, for example, is a no-go. On the other hand, beige toned Trench coats, or the often refined fashion of Sweden are both memorable and also more elegant.

An issue which often arises when 'dressing down' is accessorising. You don't have to donate any neon acrylic necklaces to the charity shop if you don't want to, but overloading on jewellery, bags, scarves and the like can be a real faux pas. One tip is to avoid well-known, branded scarves, often thought of as nouveau riche, or prissy silk

ones. Instead opt for a voluminous affair, cashmere Faliero Sarti, or alternatively (and more affordably) a chequered Zara scarf, which can be worn with almost anything. Concerning jewellery, take the Coco Chanel approach, and do not underestimate the effect of a sole gold bracelet or singular piece. You don't need to invest in jangling sets of charms or bangles; if you rattle musically whilst you walk, you know that something needs fixing. Simple friendship bracelets can also be effective; in plaited or smooth leather of bright colours, often adorned with one simple charm.

The key to minimalism is decreasing quantity and increasing quality (which is easier said than done, trust me, but is extremely rewarding!) In order to prevent your outfit from appearing haphazard or even tacky, it is essential for the items of clothing used to be durable and comfortable. This does not have to be unaffordable, either, as various high street stores such as Zara and Pull & Bear often offer simple clothing which is high quality compared to places like Primark. If you do have a bit of money to splurge, consider buying one highly priced, durable item instead of three unworthy, cheaper ones. You must not forget however, that it is the basics - the core of minimalism - which you should be investing in. There is no point in spending £200 on some sequined yellow shorts that won't go with anything and which, sadly, will ultimately just be banished to the back of your wardrobe anyway.

So, effortless simple dressing isn't for everyone, but when pulled off can be striking and sleekly fashionable, accentuating your natural features such as hair colour, eye colour, or skin tone. It can suit almost everyone, and many staple minimalistic items can be dressed up or down, in a whole variety of outfits. The benefits are great, but are you willing to sacrifice the sequins and splurge on the scarf instead?

## The Dress Code

Laura King

**Making sure that you follow the correct dress code can lead to more stress than GCSE coursework because, of course, you don't want to turn up to an event and either stand out like a sore thumb or look like you've just rolled out of bed. So, here is a basic run down of what the three most commonly heard dress codes mean and the best things to wear to them.**

1. 'Heels and a Dress' – The ultimate. The second that these words are uttered, it is time to pull out all of the stops to create an outfit that screams glamour and class from head to toe. However, if the idea of stumbling around all night like a new born giraffe, knocking people over with the ruffles of your dress, doesn't sound appealing, don't worry. 'Heels and a dress' does not actually mean that you have to wear heels and a dress, however confusing this may be. To feel at your most glamorous, you must also feel comfortable. Try ditching the dress for a black playsuit if you wish to accentuate your legs. Pair this with some brightly coloured wedges or flat loafers and strut to your next 'heels and a dress' event in the same way that you do after scoring a strike in ten-pin bowling.
2. 'A nice top and jeans' – This can also be known as "smart casual". It may not be the dress code suggesting that you should go all out but that does not mean that it doesn't lead to a large amount of stress, texting friends whilst you throw every item of clothing that you own onto the floor to try and figure out what 'a nice top and jeans' covers. So, what does it cover? A great rule to follow when you have no idea what to wear in a situation such as this is to take a smart item of clothing, such as your favourite dress or smart top, pair it with a leather jacket (a black hoodie or cardigan also works) and boots and you are sure to have matched the criteria. If this rule doesn't help you and you still can't decide what to wear, just put on an everyday outfit and add a bright lip to transform your look.
3. 'Honestly, don't bother. I'm going to look like a tramp.' – Usually heard when you are going to be surrounded by your closest friends and it happens to be the only dress code that means entirely what it says. If your friend tells you that this is the dress code, listen to them. Show up in your tracksuit bottoms or, a particular favourite of mine, a onesie and enjoy your day, or night, of Netflix and eating rubbish.

# Beauty Standards From *Around the World*

From place to place, beauty ideals vary enormously and women around the world, especially when members of tribes, are subject to a variety of rituals and processes that are said to make them 'beautiful'. Many of these seem bizarre, or even unattractive to us, but they certainly make for interesting reading.

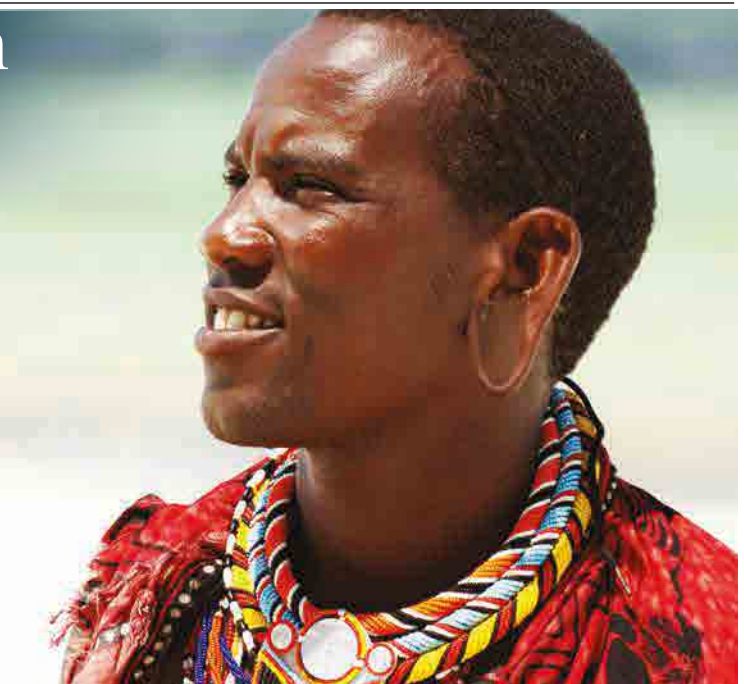
Here are four unusual beauty standards from around the world. You might find some of them surprising...

## The Kayan Tribe

Women from the Kayan tribe, located on the Thai-Burmese border, start wearing a brass coil around their neck at the age of five. Over time, the brass coil is replaced by a longer one, which wraps around the neck to form a greater number of rings. The brass coils are heavy, weighing up to twenty pounds, and so push down on the collarbone, compressing the ribcage and deforming the clavicle, thus giving the appearance of a longer neck. Anthropologists who have visited the Kayan tribe have suggested that the ritual of wearing such coils may have initially begun as a way to make the women of the tribe look less attractive to members of other tribes, making them less desirable as slaves. However, other suggestions include that the women may have started to wear the coils in order to look more attractive to males within the tribe by enhancing their slender necks, or that it may emphasise their cultural identity by making them resemble the dragon, an important figure in the history of the tribe.

## The Masai Tribe

Both men and women in the Masai tribe of Kenya pierce their ears and stretch their earlobes. To pierce the ears, they commonly use twigs and thorns. Then, to stretch the earlobes, a variety of methods have been documented. Some will use pieces of material, such as elephant tusk, wood, stone or even empty film canisters, of increasing size to gradually stretch the hole in the earlobe once pierced. However, others use materials of increasing weight, rather than size, to stretch the earlobe. Not only the earlobes are pierced, but also the cartilage, and both the stretched lobe and pierced cartilage are decorated with elaborate, hand-beaded 'earrings'.



## The Mursi Tribe

In the Mursi Tribe of Southern Ethiopia, it is common for women to wear large plates, made of clay or wood, in their lower lip. When a girl within the tribe reaches the age of fifteen or sixteen, her mother will cut her lip and this cut is then held open by a wooden plug. Over several months, the girl then replaces the plug with plugs of a larger size and, eventually, the plate can reach up to twelve centimeters in diameter. It has been suggested that, like the neck coils of the Kayan tribe, this tradition originated as a means through which the women could be made less attractive to slave dealers from outside of the tribe, yet others argue that the size of the plate may be directly related to the woman's bride wealth, the amount of money that must be paid to the family of the bride by a man who intends to marry her. Seeing as the plates are only inserted in teenage girls, a large plate is also seen as a sign of sexual maturity to men within the tribe.

## The Maori Tribe

Members of the Maori tribe of New Zealand undertake in a traditional tattooing process known as 'ta moko'. There are several 'moko' designs, and each design contains a specific tribal message associated with the wearer. For example, the 'moko' worn by any man or woman can display their knowledge, social position or genealogy. Women traditionally wear their 'moko' on their chin and 'moko' are sometimes also seen on the forehead, upper lip, nostrils and throat of women within the tribe. Men, however, wear their 'moko' on their bodies, especially their back, buttocks and the backs of their thighs. When a man wears 'moko' on his face, it is seen as a gallant way to identify as a Maori and a proud declaration of his cultural identity. Originally, 'moko' was only worn during times of mourning, when women would 'haehae', or cut themselves, using shells and then put soot in the wounds as a sign of their grief.

Lexi Phillips

# What is beauty?

Aysha Adil

So, this is the definition of beauty given by the online Google dictionary. The word 'approval' immediately catches my attention; this shows we seek acceptance from others. It seems that anyone who doesn't meet these criteria, by choice or by design, is not considered as beautiful by mainstream society. Let's also take note of the phrase, 'pleases the aesthetic senses, especially the sight'. As clichéd as it sounds, shouldn't beauty be more than skin deep and shouldn't we be judged by our character, rather than our appearance? We've all been subjected to society's harsh attitudes, which have contributed to our insecure 'down' days.

Beauty is not only thought about as health and youth - a symmetrical face also plays a big role in what we believe is beautiful, as we are biologically programmed to admire a perfectly proportioned face. The golden ratio is used by renowned artists to map out their exquisite masterpieces. Thousands of years later, scientists have adopted this mathematical formula to help explain why some people are considered beautiful. It seems that a symmetrical face suggests an overall healthiness of mind and body. We cannot achieve this genetically, but does this mean that we should sacrifice our bodies and go through surgery to achieve what is most pleasing to the human eye? Nobody raises an eyebrow at Botox injections anymore.

The beauty industry is worth a huge \$160 billion per year across the globe. The beauty and media industry benefit from our insecurities and our defined concept of beauty, resulting in huge amounts of profit for them, and us sacrificing our hard-earned money. The fact of the matter is that 384,000 American women underwent elective breast augmentation surgery in 2005; this is becoming increasingly popular as a high school graduation gift. This suggests the idea of beauty has become young girls' main concern. The popularity of such surgeries has been influenced by the media and mainstream society.

'Comparison'. This word may unintentionally strike a nerve, as it is something that has, at some point, affected all our lives in a negative way. Recent studies show lack of self-confidence, especially in appearance, has a profound effect on social behaviour and opportunity. For instance, the survey 'Campaign for Real Beauty' held in 2005 concluded

that only 1 in about 10 women were happy about their body. Furthermore, it recognises that 7 out of 10 women avoid everyday activities. This means women miss out on once in a lifetime opportunities, perhaps even finding their potential boyfriend. It is shocking that the concept of beauty has become one of such flawlessness that people feel the need to stay cooped up at home with a tub of their favourite Ben and Jerry's ice-cream. This has led to a gap between realism and idealism. An example of this is a prime-time TV drama, 'Ugly Betty'. 'Ugly Betty' is a sit-com broadcast on the telly on a Thursday evening. Betty, the main character, is girl who suffers hardships at work due to society's unwelcoming attitudes towards those who don't come under the category of idealistic beauty. However, their frame of mind towards Betty changes; they fall in love with her personality and soon began to laugh with her rather than at her. Most importantly, another social effect of beauty is employment. The more socially acceptable we look, the higher the chance of employment. Employment is a big enough problem as it is. But on top of that mountain of stress, it has become a foreign concept for us to leave the house without a layer of black goo on our eyelashes and a swipe of colour on our lips. Taken from a recent survey, 7% of young adults aged 18-25 found trouble getting a job if not dressed well enough. It is unfair that those who are 'attractive' stand a better chance of being hired and receive a higher salary. This suggests that society is encouraging us to incur extra expense, time and discomfort. Beauty has become prized. What happened to knowledge being the biggest prize of all?

People of different cultures and nations should retain their individual traits. After all, so many perceptions and admirations were connected with individuality and difference. Cultural beauty showcases distinctive features individual to a particular set of people. The uniqueness of their features should be what makes them beautiful. For instance some indigenous women of the Kayan tribe in Thailand are known for their elongated necks fitted with multiple brass rings. The many rings signify social status, gracefulness and make women more appealing to potential husbands. Though they create deformities in the shoulders and weaken neck muscles as they slowly weigh down on the collar bone, pressing it downward, the rings are still seen as a reflection of beauty. Attractiveness varies by society.

# Beauty

## Noun

1. A combination of qualities such as shape, colour, or form that pleases the aesthetic senses, especially the sight

## Adjective

2. Good, excellent (used as a general term of approval)

In ancient China, small feet were considered attractive so the painful procedure of foot binding was practised – by confining young children’s feet in tightly bound shoes, they are prevented from growing to a normal proportion.

Yet, while such global diverse ideals of beauty exist, women are being presented with a prescribed image of beautiful – based mainly on the Caucasian look. Western beauty ideals are being spread across the globe; this is evident in some Asian cultures. South Korea now has the highest number of cosmetic surgeries per capita, with an estimated half of all school girls having procedures to ‘westernise’ their eyes.

Having larger, animated eyes is seen as a mark of beauty by some Asian cultures and many undergo the cosmetic procedure of double eyelid surgery. This creates the Caucasian crease that is common in European looking eyelids, and many wear huge contact lenses creating the illusion of bigger, rounder eyes. Previously, Mauritanian women saw bigger body sizes as more desirable, as this represented a status symbol for their husbands. Women even went to ‘fattening camps’ before their marriage ceremony. This may seem like a cruel joke to those who live in the UK, who undergo extreme diet plans and pay monthly gym memberships. However, all of this is now changing. “The more exposed we are to Western media, the more we buy into it,” said Lerato Moloji, a South African model. As Western media continues to infiltrate Mauritanian society, the widespread beauty ideal of slimmer bodies becomes increasingly popular. This has led to an increase in dieting and eating disorders. This is no ordinary diet - where we order a McDonald’s burger served with a diet coke - but this diet sacrifices all nutrients going into the body, resulting in multiple consequences.

Disturbingly, in October 2009 the French issue of ‘Vogue’ hired white-skinned Dutch model Lara Stone and ‘blackened her up’ in preference of hiring a black model. The four pictures on the thirteen page spread caused controversy and had negative impacts on black models. This spread reveals models being subjected to the harsh truths of the beauty industry. Behind the emotionless faces that we see on the monthly issues of ‘Vogue’ are models subjected to racial abuse, rejection and years of going under the knife. And for what? To please society. Did you know that in 2007,

of the 677 models talking the runway by storm in New York fashion week, 27 or less than 4% were non-white? Women’s skin colour should not be deliberately invoked or actively excluded. ‘Black is Beautiful’ is a cultural movement which began in the 1960s. It aims to stop Africans eliminating African-identifiable traits by straightening their hair and attempting to lighten their skin by chemical bleaching. Further research showed when ‘How to lighten your skin’ was typed into YouTube, a video with over 700,000 views came up. Imagine 700,000 young girls who aspire to be ‘Her’. ‘Her’ has become unattainable. ‘Her’ is constantly changing and to think for a single minute that over 700,000 people will never be good enough to society is heart-breaking. I cannot emphasise enough how fundamentally wrong it is that cultures re-shape or eliminate their features in order to fit in with the beauty ideal influenced by the Western media. So, my new re-evaluated definition of beauty is:

## Beauty

Beauty is imperfection. Imperfection is character. Character is individuality and individuality is what you should fall in love with.

Take note of the word imperfection. This word suggests that it is something less than perfect and that is what beauty is. We cannot define perfect because each society has a different definition of perfect, however perfection can be found inside; with good character. Cameron Russell, a former model, reminds us that image is powerful, but also superficial. The image that we look up to so much is the construction of a group of professionals, hair stylists, makeup artists and production teams. In the words of Audrey Hepburn,

“For beautiful eyes, look for the good in others: for beautiful lips speak only words of kindness and for poise walk with the knowledge that you are never alone.”

# ROOMS of the *House*



For a third album from a pretty under-the-radar post-hardcore band, 'Rooms of the House', released March 2014, is startlingly well-crafted. For a start, we do not see La Dispute plastered on the front of rock magazines or being interviewed every other day. Instead, upon a Google search we see the band playing the tiniest, most intimate venues for a loyal knot of fans. La Dispute still have fans shouting along to their more popular tracks ('Andria' and 'King Park' are particularly crowd-pleasing), but in their recent sets the band have included a surprising amount of new material. It is hard to argue against this when Rooms of the House contains several instant classics; 'For Mayor in Splitsville', the first single from the album, and 'Extraordinary Dinner Party' deliver an unfamiliar sense of uncertainty as lyrics and vocals almost contradict one another. Lead singer Jordan Dreyer no longer feels just one emotion throughout one song, but rather each song is a journey through events, reactions and the aftermath. Less defined journeys come through in 'Woman (In Mirror)' and 'Woman (Reading)', the latter of which has just been accompanied by a striking music video; each song is ambient for a while before delivering hard-hitting blows in two different ways. The bridge of 'Woman (Reading)' rapidly becomes heavy and loudly anguished in vocals, whereas in 'Woman (In Mirror)' the band continue their ambient finger-picking and tapping, but through the lyrics a sense of loss becomes apparent. "Some days I watch and you don't care": a line that is spine-chilling in simplicity seems almost certain to be part of the closing track of 'Rooms of the House', or even nestled between some later tracks, but bizarrely 'Woman (In Mirror)' comes third on the tracklist. Song order aside, it is easy to see an increase in maturity and the emergence of a more thoughtfully crafted sound since La Dispute's debut, 'Somewhere Down the River Between Vega and Altair'. Many fans may be grasping onto the hope that the band will return next year with their old sound back (because 'Such Small Hands' was, of course, an immensely pivotal song in their career), but in the interest of the development of a mature and honest band, some might argue that a fourth album full of songs like 'Woman (In Mirror)' is on the cards.



# When the Game Stands Tall

As a film about a high school football team triumphing over adversity, 'When the Game Stands Tall' was never going to be a ground-breaking film, however this is no reason why it shouldn't be enjoyable.

Putting a slight twist on the classic 'underdog' story, the film focuses not on a team rising through the ranks, but instead looks at the lives of the coach and team members of an implausibly successful team. The film tells the true story of the De la Salle Spartans' inconceivable 151 game winning streak under the leadership of Coach Bob Ladouceur and the aftermath of their first defeat in 12 years. The importance of 'The Streak' is disregarded and the film focuses on the spirit and commitment by which it was built. Perhaps the key to its appeal is the emphasis on human concepts within the story, such the team's bond and the coach's strained relationship with his family. Struggle, both within the football team and the community, is overcome (with some tear wrenching moments) as the coach pulls the team together to regain their pride using heart-warmingly original strategies, whilst continuing to coach alumni through tough times.

Surprisingly, one of the most interesting parts of the film is in fact at the end, when the credits came up; at this point, real footage of Coach Ladouceur and the Spartans was shown. What was remarkable about this was how accurately the film portrayed his relationship with the team. Whilst it is expected of talented Hollywood screen writers to be able to pen inspiring and uplifting 'team talks', it was amazing to discover that majority of the most memorable lines in the film were taken from the coach himself.

The film may be seen as formulaic in its concept yet this does not detract from its charm. The authentic honesty of the characters allows the film to be relatable to those who have no expertise or interest in American Football, with even the impressive sweeping game-play footage interesting to watch. Whilst the final motto "it's not about the winning", along with the continued stressing of the value of strength of character and heart over athletic ability may seem clichéd, the authenticity of how it is portrayed allows this to be overlooked.

Antara Bate



The nation's favourite marmalade-loving bear first made his appearance in a series of over twenty fictional books written by Michael Bond in 1958. Fifty-six years later in 2014, Paddington Bear is back, but on the big screen, for his self-titled film debut! Paddington is directed by the award winning Paul King ('Come Fly with Me') and produced by David Heyman (the 'Harry Potter' film series, 'Gravity') and features a star-studded cast.

The film sees Paddington (voiced by Ben Wishaw) journey from Darkest Peru, where he lived with his Aunt Lucy and Uncle Pastuzo, to London, after an earthquake. From a young age Paddington has dreamt of visiting London, due to his aunt and uncle's encounter with an English explorer many years before. Paddington is prepared for a cordial welcome, however receives the opposite – until he is spotted by the Browns. When Mrs Brown (Sally Hawkins) takes an immediate liking to Paddington, she offers him a temporary home, with the Browns – much to the dismay of her husband (Hugh Bonneville). Jonathan Brown, their son, is completely in awe of Paddington, and loves the idea of having a bear as the new houseguest, though his sister Judy would have liked nothing more than a 'normal' family – having a bear as a new family member does not fit into her idea of normal! Paddington's hopes of finding a permanent home are soon to be threatened, however,

as a taxidermist (Nicole Kidman) has been longing to make a new addition to her collection, in the form of a marmalade-loving bear.

'Paddington' is a heart-warming story which had me in stitches through the majority of the 95 minutes! Paddington's recurring inability to carry out what we would think of as everyday actions was the main source of laughter in the packed cinema. I particularly enjoyed Paddington's arrival at the Brown household and his attempt to take the tube! I also enjoyed the unique idea of the Calypso band, who appeared every time Paddington left the house. They had a song which perfectly demonstrated every mood throughout the movie, and so enhanced the overall contrast between the different scenes throughout. The acting was remarkable, especially that of Hugh Bonneville and Sally Hawkins, who were very well suited to their roles. The range of ages in the cinema showed that Paddington was not just able to fit perfectly into the genre of family, but also into the hearts of all the audience, as everybody, no matter what age, found this film extremely enjoyable. I would recommend this film to anyone, as it is a light-hearted telling of a story with the deeper themes of acceptance and the true meaning of family.

Rohini Chadda



# Film

## The Imitation Game (2014)

The Imitation Game is a historical thriller, starring Benedict Cumberbatch as Alan Turing. Alan Turing was a British mathematician, logician, cryptanalyst and pioneering computer scientist. Turing was a key figure in cracking Nazi Germany's Enigma code, helping the Allies win the Second World War, only to later be criminally prosecuted for his homosexuality.

The film is directed by Morten Tyldum with a screenplay by Graham Moore, loosely based on the biography 'Alan Turing: The Enigma' by Andrew Hodges.

In terms of historical accuracy, while the broad outline of Turing's life as depicted in the film is true, a number of historians have stated that elements within it distort the events that actually happened, especially in terms of Turing's work at Bletchley Park during the war and his relationship with friend, and fellow code breaker, Joan Clarke. The film spans the key periods of Turing's life: his unhappy teenage years at boarding school; the triumph of his secret wartime work on the revolutionary electro-mechanical bombe, which was capable of breaking 3,000 Enigma-generated naval codes per day, and the tragedy of his post-war decline following his conviction for gross indecency, a criminal offence stemming from his admission of participating in a homosexual relationship.

Benedict Cumberbatch delivered an outstanding performance: he was convincing, powerful and emotional. The casting choice was excellent for the main lead as he fit the role perfectly, offering a magnificent portrayal of Turing. In general, the film was brilliantly casted and the acting was superb throughout. The plot proved to be thrilling, engaging, compelling and powerful, yet ultimately tragic. Furthermore, the script was solid, and very well written.

However, I did find some issues with the film.

There were numerous historical inaccuracies, for instance the relationship of Alan with Joan was built up far more than it was in reality and Turing's social difficulties were exaggerated (the film depicts him as having Autism - he probably didn't.)

It also takes major liberties with its source material, inventing entirely fictitious characters, rearranging the chronology of events and misrepresenting the very nature of Turing's work at Bletchley Park.

Yet Goldenberg's editing, Desplat's score, Faura's cinematography and Djurkovic's production design all helped to pull the film together in the end - and although it was possible to spot errors, it was a film that I would thoroughly recommend

## The Hunger Games: Mocking Jay Part I (2014)

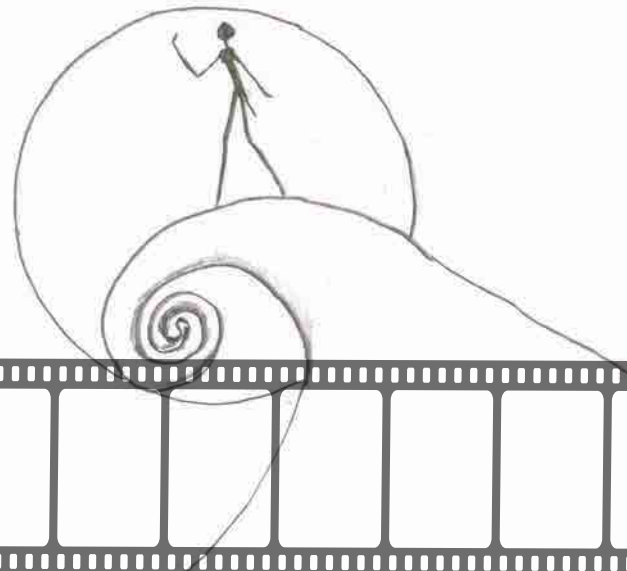
Jennifer Lawrence is back as Katniss Everdeen in the penultimate instalment of 'The Hunger Games' film series.

Having being hoisted out of the games by anti-government forces at the end of Catching Fire, Katniss finds herself in the new 'District 13', an opposition movement 300 meters underground of Panem. Throughout the film, she is symbolised as 'the Mockingjay' for the uprising - manipulated and fashioned in, ironically, the same way that the Capitol once dolled her up for TV dismemberment. The film also follows the plans for a series of viral propaganda films, showing Panem's increasingly restless masses that Katniss lives and is ready to fight. Madame President (Julianne Moore) and Plutarch Heavensbee (the late Philip Seymour Hoffman) are both excellent in leading the beginnings of the soon-to-come revolution.

The most political film in the series, this film seems to be a number of great things: intense, fiery, intriguing and well-acted. I don't, however, think that anyone could call it satisfying. Even my aunt, who rarely criticises any film, said afterwards, "But nothing actually happened... I seriously expected her to go on a killing spree at the end."

The film had, undoubtedly, no direction or conclusion - it was just two hours of preamble with no definite start or end. Yes, it was great preamble, but I don't see how anyone could really feel satisfied after watching it. It feels like a transition film and I think that this is both the great strength, and flaw of it; its lack of action ultimately leaves the audience hungry and yearning for more.

If you've read the book trilogy, you'll know that the story is about to open up again with a satisfying snap, and I, for one, am extremely interested to see how the final chapters will be painted onto our screens this November.



# Review

## Into the Woods (2015)

In 1987, Stephen Sondheim premiered a new musical with storybook characters like Rapunzel, Cinderella, and Little Red Riding Hood heading through the forest on various quests. The characters wander off-road and into one another's stories, adding an unpredictable twist to the structure of the traditional fairytale book. Having seen the musical before the Disney film adaptation, I can tell you that the genius thing about Sondheim's production is that it leads you into the woods (literally) with a happy song, but what lies within is not quite as it previously seemed: it's darker, deeper, scarier. It's certainly not a play about fairy tales, as one may have expected when buying the tickets.

Now directed by Rob Marshall, with a script modified and adapted by James Lapine, some of the more complex parts – which made the musical so memorable – have been cut out, though the film is still fairly enjoyable.

Most of the characters are pretty self-explanatory; for example, Red Riding Hood (Lilla Crawford), Cinderella (Anna Kendrick), Rapunzel (Mackenzie Mauzy) and a pre-beanstalk Jack (Daniel Huttleston) hardly need introductions. James Corden and Emily Blunt make a great double act as the squabbling spouses; Meryl Streep acts as a convincing witch; Johnny Depp is, of course, the big bad wolf and Chris Pine performs some of Sondheim's sharpest lines excellently as the arrogant Prince Charming.

Although the film was generally an absolute delight to watch, how ironic it is that the original show was designed to comment on the overly-sanitised animated versions of fairy tales (as commonly seen in Disney movies); Lapine's adaptation has 'softened' this theme! Sure, it's a visual marvel. Sure, it is moving and poignant. But that was never the point. Disney have reverted this story back to the classic fairytale animation, and the message that there really is no 'Happily Ever After' in real life was cut completely out of the picture.

INTO THE  
WOODS

Illustrations by Pearl Palfreyman

## The Nightmare Before Christmas (1993)

Tim Burton and Henry Selick give us a treat with this, restoring the creativity of both the Halloween and Christmas film genres. 'The Nightmare Before Christmas' is a timeless and visually delightful piece of stop-motion animation.

The plot of the film follows Jack Skellington, the Pumpkin King of dreary Halloween town. Despite a successful and prosperous Halloween, Jack is bored with his current day job and routine. He happens to stumble across a secret door which takes him to Christmas town. Enchanted by the festive colours, warm spirits and magic of this new holiday, Jack decides to steal Christmas and embarks on his diabolical scheme to 'make' Christmas. To do this, he ends up kidnapping Santa and riding off in a coffin sleigh, led by skeleton reindeers, to deliver presents to the human world on Christmas Eve.

Burton had the idea for this film stuck in his head for ten years, ever since he began working as an animator for Disney. This is, of course, incredibly different from your regular Disney film.

The Nightmare before Christmas is a celebration of animation; it is a joy for both the eyes and the imagination, fast becoming a modern classic that everyone, from all generations, should watch.

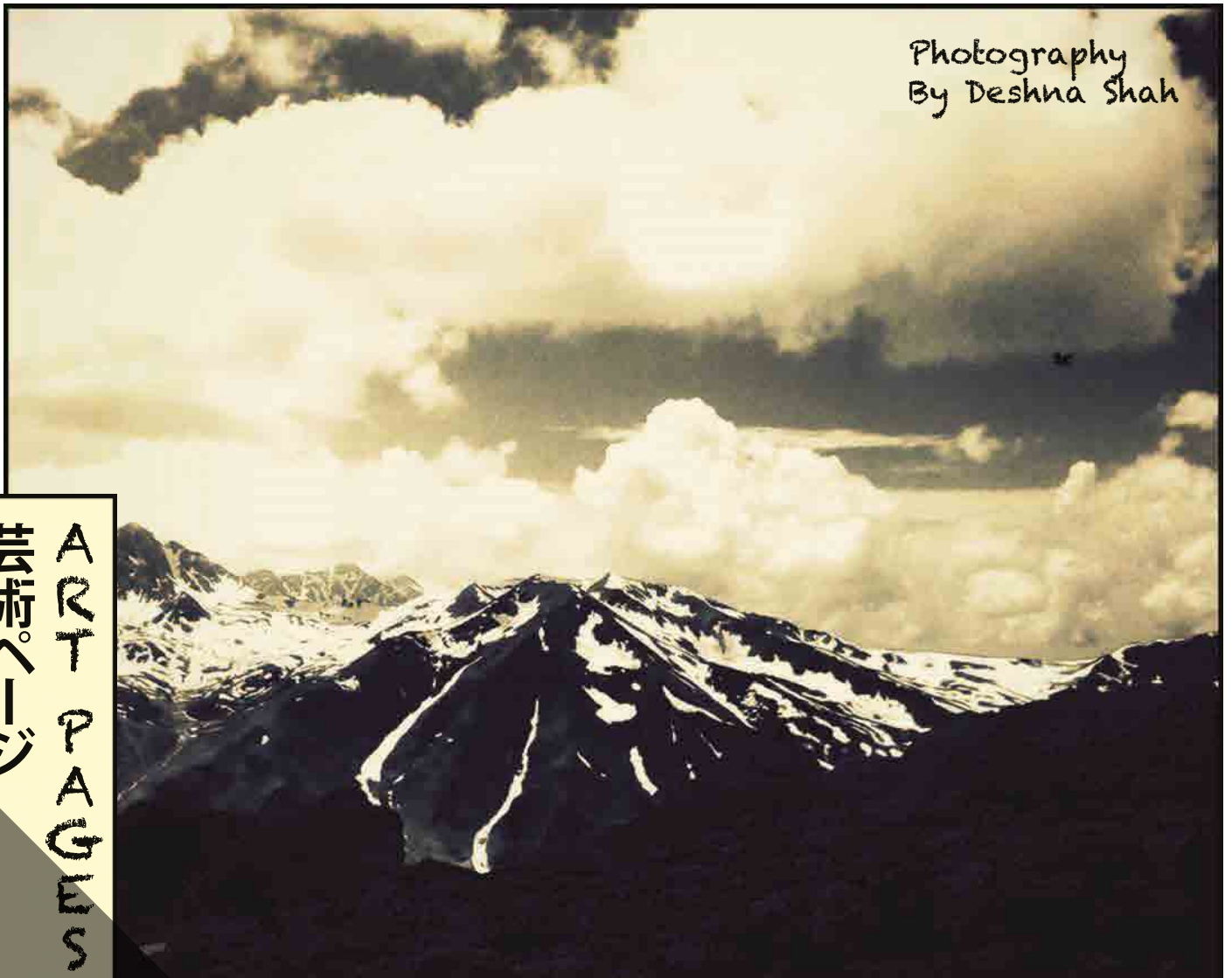
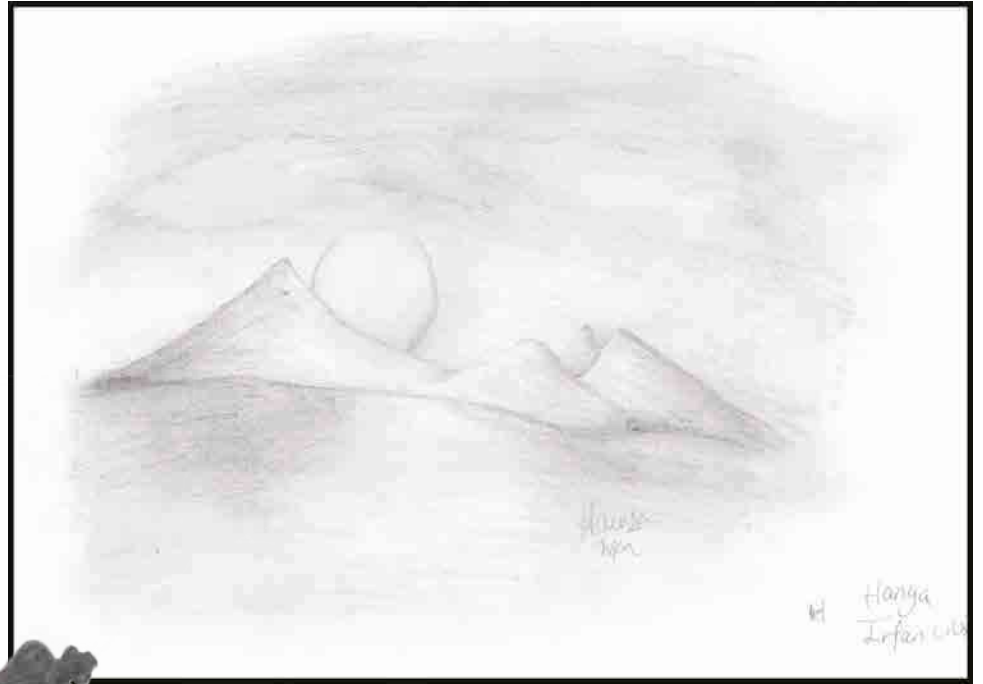


Lily Rouhi-Parkouhi and Niamh Tobin





Drawings  
by Hanya Irfan



Photography  
By Deshna Shah

ART PAGES  
芸術ページ



Olaf Drawing  
By Anna Ticehurst



塵を舞うかたちで。  
旅の足音、わたしの響く足音の



Digital Art  
By Sobia Siddiq



Nyx

Minimalism Poster  
By Charlotte Pang

# The Way the Dirty Breeze Undoes Us All

Parts I, II and III

## Part I:

Lungfuls of a Dirty Breeze

You did not  
take my breath  
away.  
I gave it to you,  
Bundled up  
and wrapped clumsily  
in my pride  
and shame.  
I tore the last shred  
of oxygen  
from my chest,  
So that you could breathe  
until you found the strength  
to pull in  
your own lungful  
of the dirty breeze,  
And when you finally did,  
You were so overcome  
with relief,  
You forgot  
to give me back  
my breath.  
I'm still lying  
where you left me,  
Trying to regret  
the way I gave you life  
and wound up  
giving up on mine.

## Part II:

An Accident No Longer

I try not to remember  
how your body crumpled  
under the weight of my departure.  
Nearly two decades spent  
being reminded of how  
I was never meant to be,  
never meant to have grown  
inside the form I finally walked away from.  
Years ago I drew a sharp distinction  
between you and the sullen man  
you insisted I call my father,  
But now I see no difference.  
You clung to him  
and I clung to you,  
And it became evident too soon  
that some chains just have to break,  
When riddled with the rust  
born from eighteen years  
of loud and uninhibited resentment.  
Did you never tell him  
that some accidents are beautiful?  
I felt like an accident no longer  
as I turned and tasted the tang,  
the promise of languishing days of liberation  
On the dirty breeze that took me away.

## Part III:

Our Undoing

The kitchen walls breathed,  
Weakened by two gusts  
of some dirty breeze,  
The same one that blew daily  
around the outside of the house.  
Right now you would have been  
there,  
a book propped on the table  
as you lightly tried to reason  
with me, or with her;  
Some days it seemed the same.  
The same table where we planned  
our escape, our liberation,  
is the same one at which  
you told me you were carrying her,  
And the same one around which  
an eighteen-year feud was born.  
I often wondered why  
the fire in your eyes grew brighter  
when you looked upon her,  
Whilst mine had long since  
been extinguished.  
How could I have known  
that your return without her  
would not be a new beginning;  
a renewed chance of freedom,  
But rather it would be  
your undoing, and mine too?

Brittany Fanning

She stands there watching over him,  
a silent guardian in the gentle glow of the moon.

In the house the candles have been lit,  
she can see that much, through the blood - stained windows.

Looking down at him, she sees her reflection in his eyes,  
his emotions like ripples on the water, his memories from inside the house.

So she helps him, and casts them back to their pit of lies,  
and then remembers herself how they tricked her into doing their duty.

She tearlessly weeps, and a few green leaves fall off into the pond.

He just smiles, tries to keep strong,  
tries to help her the same way she has always protected him,  
but instead just evaporates away into the sun.

She's alone now, the house abandoned,  
her companion fled.

And she knows it's just her now,

*the little Willow Tree.*

Athena Critchley

# The Funeral

The door handle was stiff. It opened with a creak of unoiled hinges. I entered slowly, my eyes unaccustomed to the lack of light; I crossed the room and opened the curtains, memories flooded in with the sunlight. I had promised myself I would not stand here again but there I was.

A desk. A window. A table. A chair. I looked down at the floor, noticing my shoes crumpling the few remaining pages of a much-loved book. Clothing was sprawled around the room; a creased, navy jumper of his was bathed in dust on the covers of his bed and a leather-bound notebook was on the side table looking as if it had been thrown across the room. I felt as empty as its pages.

The grief was overwhelming so I averted my gaze towards the window, stretching across half of the wall. A dark aura surrounded the place. The rest of the building could be seen, sandstone I had presumed all these years, the pillars hung loose and marble lined the sandy walls. Figures of males and females rushed in and out of the castle, stomping over the dead grass; I noticed Alcinda among them, busying herself with a group of young children, her once ivory apron had turned an unusual shade of burnt umber. She was carrying a stack of books and on giving one to each child, caught sight of me absorbing the view.

"Ghastly day for a funeral." a familiar voice came from behind me.

I turned to see Rider. A childish grin spread across his face, his silver hair in huge tufts and wisps was pulled back into a ponytail and his tall frame cast a long shadow over me. Crossing the room in a few strides, he was beside me before I had processed his presence, carrying the stench of alcohol.

"Of all days, today the sun decides to undress. Reminiscing are we?" we both faced the scene of funeral preparations as he picked up a dusty piece of paper from the desk and read from it silently.

"He preferred numbers. One digit made more sense to him than an entire novel." I explained.

"He was never much of a writer was he? Couldn't have been even if he tried..." he threw the page away and dusted off his black attire. "But your brother's literary abilities outshone him right?" he winked.

"You're drunk."

"No? No? Not really though..." he chuckled and fell into the chair, his head flopped back towards the ceiling. "I have had a *drink*. I am not *drunk*...Feeling slightly befuddled...and hungry."

"You need to eat something. Come on, let's go downstairs. Has anyone arrived yet?"

He shook his head and gave me his hand. We approached the staircase whilst Rider murmured and slurred through a monologue regarding his inner turmoil and struggle to become a writer. Upon entering the hall, I peered through the gap in the door and noticed a mass of people polluting the corridors, humming of voices blocking out Rider's voice. Many faces were foreign but some recognisable and eager to speak to Rider and I. Most would recount tales of their own unforgettable losses and offer 'comforting' speeches about how to move on with life.

Having given him a bread roll, I left Rider by the fireplace in search of our mother. My search was interrupted by the face of my father's killer gliding through the double doors of the hall.

TO BE CONTINUED?

Raeesah Jusab

*Food for*

*How  
does  
what  
we eat  
affect  
our  
brains?*





# Thought:

Food plays an essential role in the function and growth of our brain. Eating a healthy balanced diet is just as important for a person's mental health as it is for physical health. Yet nowadays, our modern diet reflects the increasing opinion that food is nonessential in reaching our psychological potential. This, however, is far from the truth. For example, two billion people world-wide suffer from iron-deficiency. Iron is crucial for normal neural function as it has a role in aerobic metabolism. Children that are iron deficient – often due to a poor diet – are below par in subjects such as mathematics and languages. Scientists estimate that if this was to be tackled, our global IQ average would increase by 3 points: literally actuating a more intelligent planet.

Brain cells are practically the most ravenous cell type, consuming around 420 calories daily. It is no wonder then, how influential food is to every cerebral process, from concentration to moods. Yet, how can what you eat have such a momentous effect on emotions and personality? Fundamentally, alterations in diet can bring about changes in brain structure (chemically and physiologically), which can lead to altered behaviour. For example, the connection between carbohydrates and mood is all down to an amino acid called tryptophan, which increases serotonin synthesis in the brain. Serotonin is known as a mood regulator and levels can be increased by having fish and vitamin D. The human brain itself is quite active metabolically and consumes about 20 to 30% of a person's energy intake at rest. If you do not consume enough calories for your energy requirements then you can expect to experience changes in the functioning of your brain, ranging from lethargy to limited intelligence.

Therefore, as what you eat affects mood, behavior, and brain function, a variety of cognitive outcomes can occur as a consequence of your diet. A person lacking food may feel irritable and restless due to hunger, whereas a person who has just eaten a well-rounded meal will feel more tranquil and satisfied. A person lacking sleep or feeling apathetic may feel more productive and energetic after a cup of coffee. Those suffering from depression, or just having a bad day, rely on endorphin-releasing foods such as chocolate or walnuts to comfort them. Such examples of the importance of food to our mental wellbeing are apparent all around us in our day to day lives. However, what appears to be less common is the understanding that some foods can also have a lasting influence on mood and mental wellbeing. This is due to their impact on the structure and functioning of the brain.

Caffeine, for example, can provide a great mental boost and is enjoyed by millions in the form of coffee, tea and chocolate. Nonetheless, constant consumption of this drug over a period of time may cause some to become physically dependent on it. Even temporary abstinence from caffeine would then trigger withdrawal symptoms. These include headaches, muscle pain and stiffness, lethargy, nausea, a depressed mood and marked irritability. Due to these overwhelming side-effects, some strongly believe that caffeine withdrawal should be classified as a psychological disorder.

The implications of food having such a profound effect on who we are and our mental state is not just restricted to matured people. Even infants and children can experience changes in behavior and cognitive functioning, as associated with a lack of vitamins and minerals like iron in their diet. The findings of a study by researchers from Deakin University in Melbourne (Australia), involving 23,020 women and their

children, revealed that pregnant women who ate more unhealthy foods were significantly more likely to have children with more behavioral problems, such as tantrums and aggression.

Later on in life, our diet is just as significant in controlling and maintaining our neurological health. Nutrition plays an instrumental role in the ageing process. Results from intensive research done in the last decade indicate that deficiency in essential nutrients (like vitamins B12 and B6) may be a nutrition-related risk factor present for a long time before any evidence of cognitive impairment becomes present. This is pretty daunting as, technically, what you eat now will have an escalating effect on your future health. As suggested by research, nutritional solutions to cognitive decline include omega 3s, acetylcholine – a key part of memory function – and antioxidants such as vitamin E and beta-carotene. According to a study by Dr. Martha Morris and colleagues at Chicago's Rush Institute for Healthy Aging, eating fish once a week reduces your risk of developing Alzheimer's (the most common cause of dementia) by 60%!

One thing connecting every single person alive is our requirement for food. It sustains us, nourishes us and sprouts our potential as beings. Therefore, imagine what each one of us could achieve with optimum mental healthcare. Yet, the fact of the matter still stands. The modern diet is absolutely abysmal and needs to be combatted rigorously.

One way physicians could aid this global task is by prescribing specific foods to patients, as well as or instead of medicinal remedies. Each month in Blackpool, one adult in every six picks up a prescription for anti-depressants. Inflammation in the brain from the effects of sugar and fat is often the root of brain diseases like stroke, vascular dementia and Alzheimer's. Invariably, inflammatory reactions mean increased production of oxidants and consequently an increased need for antioxidants like vitamin A, C and E: all of which have been shown to be low in those with diseases affecting the brain like Alzheimer's. Increasing the intake of antioxidants like omega-3 fats, while decreasing the intake of pro-oxidants omega-6 and saturated fat may reduce the risk of inflammation, lower and even preserve healthy brain function for longer. Medication for neurological disorders often has anti-inflammatory properties to calm an inflammation. Healthier, more beneficial alternatives to put out that wildfire would be nuts and seeds, and salmon, which contain anti-inflammatory omega-3s.

Therapeutic methods such as these would work wonders for those suffering from various illnesses. Is it really feasible to question why you struggle with cognitive functions when you haven't ingested vitamin B12, which is required for the function and development of the brain and nerves, in years? Similarly, if the public was urged to eat for 'nutrient density' rather than by calorie count, you could kill two birds with one stone. Take a cup of kale for example, a delicious green of 33 calories, which contains 608% of the daily requirement of vitamin K – and much more.

By eating the correct things, we could halve the battle against growing mental problems such as depression, anxiety and so much more. What we eat may seem inconsequential when it comes to the brain, but the nutritional value of food affects every aspect of our cognitive functions and cerebral-health, now and in the years to come. Nutrition is fundamental to growth, recovery and quite simply, life.

Hanya Irfan

# Why are we so afraid of Vaccinations?

The year is 1783 and smallpox is rife among the British population. One fifth of all deaths in the next 20 years will be due to the most dreadful scourge of the human species.

If smallpox had not been eradicated, it would have ravaged 300 – 500 million people each century, killing one-third of its victims and leaving survivors either scarred or blinded. If it was still around today, it would cause over 4 million deaths every year. However, this is no longer the case, thanks to one of the greatest achievements of biomedical science; the vaccination.

Vaccinations teach the body how to defend itself when invaded by bacteria or viruses. This is done by being exposed to a small and safe amount of part or all of the virus or bacterium that has been weakened or killed. The immune system then learns to recognise and attack the infection and, as a result, a person will not become ill (or may just catch a milder form of the infection) if exposed to it in later life. Vaccinations save more than 3 million people worldwide annually and prevent millions of others from diseases and permanent disabilities. Even so, more than 3 million people die annually due to lack of access to vaccinations, mainly in developing countries where there is insufficient funding to support vaccination programmes. These figures lead us to consider a question: why is it that there are still people who have access to vaccinations but choose not to be vaccinated? It is vital that, before an informed and educated decision can be made, every one of us understands the importance of vaccinations and the reasons for why they are considered to be a modern miracle. Though surely, having access to, yet not using a medical intervention which has saved and improved many lives by preventing disease is completely unconscionable?

Allow me to put the risks associated with being vaccinated into perspective for you. Vaccinations are only given to children after a long and careful review by scientists, doctors and healthcare professionals. There are, of course, small risks related with vaccinations, just as there are with everything else in life. The measles outbreak which occurred in spring of 2012 was caused by a sudden decrease in vaccinated children, due to Dr Andrew Wakefield. He stated in 1980 that the MMR vaccination increased the likelihood of children developing autism, despite the fact that his study was based on just 12 children and that the 'evidence' acquired from the study was concocted and extremely deceitful. Following his findings, a group of other doctors carried out another study to see if they could confirm his results. This study involved 1770 children and determined no such link between the MMR vaccination and autism. Autism is a disorder which generally develops in the first few weeks of foetal growth in the womb, therefore the MMR jab would have no effect. Even so, Dr Wakefield's study sparked a media storm and consequently vaccination rates plummeted, causing several outbreaks of the viral infection. There is no link, and never has been a link between autism and MMR, and it is fundamental that this is known by all because, unfortunately, the consequences of the gap in the MMR programme are a lot more perilous than you may have realised.

Measles is one of the leading causes of death in young children. Before the vaccination was developed, 2.6 million people per year

died as a result of measles. 1 in 500 people who are infected will die. A considerable number of people have said that they do not want their children vaccinated because of the risks associated with being immunised, some due to the autism scare, others because they feel that the dangers of the vaccination are greater than the risks associated with the illness. It is essential that you research the risks by looking online at the NHS websites, or ask your local GP before you make any decisions as the statistical evidence is guaranteed to change your mind.

There is a 1 in 240 chance that you will die of a car crash in your lifetime, but the majority of people are very comfortable travelling by car despite this possibility. There is only a 1 in 1,000,000 chance that you will ever have a severe allergic reaction from the MMR vaccine. In most cases, vaccinations cause only a slight irritation in the injected area. If a more severe reaction did occur, it would happen in the few minutes after the vaccination and the doctors and nurses around you are highly trained and know exactly how to deal with it. Why is it, then, that thousands of people are more afraid of being immunised than travelling by car, when the risk of driving-related death is over 4000 times greater? Vaccinations have been made to help you and are encouraged because they make a huge difference to health on a global scale. You are much more likely to be seriously injured by a disease than by the vaccine that prevents it. In the UK in 2012 there were 1219 measles cases and, tragically, 1 death. It is the gaps in vaccination coverage that cause disease outbreaks which affect everyone. The infected numbers are now increasing because people are not protected. However, even the children who have been vaccinated may not be safe for much longer either. This is where the real danger lies. If a virus starts spreading more and more, there is a higher chance that it will mutate. These mutations in the virus cause it to become resistant to the provided vaccination; therefore those who have been immunised are no longer protected. If this happens, measles will spread rapidly throughout Britain, causing hundreds of deaths in the UK alone. By the time a new vaccine has been developed, too many lives will have been lost when they could have very easily been saved. This will hopefully not happen if we continue vaccinating now and vaccinating completely. Parents in the future may then be able to trust that diseases of today will no longer be around to harm their children in the years to come.

The year is 2015 and Europe has been warned. A resurgence of measles in California is threatening to spread throughout the states due to an unvaccinated woman infecting at least 20 adults and children during her week spent at Disneyland. The highly contagious virus has now affected 122 people in 18 states, and the numbers are still rising rapidly. If the majority of people were vaccinated against the disease, it would not be spreading as successively as it is. However, due to failures in the vaccination programme, one of the most deadly childhood illnesses is returning in full force. Vaccinating all those who have access to the immunisation is crucial to prevent its spread, as well as to help us get one step closer to the ultimate goal; the complete eradication of measles.

Julia McCarthy

# *Solve X To Find Your True Love*

$$P(r) = \frac{r-1}{n} \sum_{i=r}^n \frac{1}{i-1}$$

If you are looking for a way to be truly happy in love, try using this powerful tool for answering life's most difficult questions: mathematics. Though many people feel that human emotions can never be as neatly ordered, rational, or easily predictable as  $y = mx + c$ , but mathematics is ultimately all about the study of patterns. This is where algorithms, a set of instructions for a machine to process information, of online dating sites come in. The sites ask users questions about their habits, beliefs and lifestyle choices, which are then treated by the computer to search for possible outcomes. Online dating is an alternative for those with busy lives and no nights out to meet a mate. With the advances in technology, online dating has become a popular option. In a study conducted by the American National Academy of Sciences in 2013, it is suggested that couples who meet online are slightly less likely to divorce and claim to be happier in their marriages. But do these algorithms really define a long-lasting relationship? The study 'Psychological Science in Public Interest', led by Eli Finkel of Northwestern University in 2012, has shown that there are no algorithms which could truly predict an enduring partnership. A dating site might match you up with someone of your interest but it cannot perfectly predict how two partners will grow and mature over time. Some might also argue that true love is far too messy, emotional and unpredictable for humans to understand, so how can a computer?

Fear not, maths is with you! In a TED talk called 'The Mathematics of Love', Dr. Hannah Fry explains how mathematics actually has a lot to say about optimizing your chances of finding 'Mr. /Mrs. Right'.

The group of mathematicians, who are also the founders, on OKCupid has found that there is actually no correlation between your attractiveness rating and the number of messages you receive. In a random selection of 5,000 female users, a test was held to compare the average attractiveness scores they each received with the number of messages they were sent in a month. The ones who were the most popular rated as either 'really beautiful' or 'really ugly'. Attractiveness might seem to be a determining factor for popularity but the results of this shows that it's not exactly true. This

all comes down to game theory. If you think from the perspective of people sending the messages, they are more likely to have the incentive to get in touch if they suspect that other people will not be interested. On the other hand, if you find someone attractive and it's likely that everyone else will find them attractive, why bother trying? So, before you update that profile picture, try and show how you're different, and attract people who would like you, instead of those who are interested in a 'mass crowd'.

So we have your popularity down, now how do you know who to spend the rest of your life with? The optimal stopping theory gives an equation that tells you the number of people to reject before finding the perfect partner.

Dr. Fry explains, "Say you start dating when you are 15 years old and would ideally like to settle down by the time you're 40. In the first 37% of your dating window (until just after your 24th birthday), you should reject everyone; use this time to get a feel for the market and a realistic expectation of what you can expect in a life partner. Once this rejection phase has passed, pick the next person who comes along who is better than everyone who you have met before. Following this strategy will definitely give you the best possible chance of finding the number one partner on your imaginary list."

This sounds like the ideal plan (and is mathematically proven to be the best possible way!) However, there are risks with using this model. For example, if your perfect partner appears in the first 37% of people you've dated, you have unfortunately rejected them and therefore will not find anyone better. If this is the case, you will probably reject everyone else you date, ending up with cats as your only companions!

Dr. Fry continues gives more details about the mathematics behind avoiding a divorce in her TED talk and her book written for TED on the same topic. If you're interested, do watch her TED talk video, but I do hope that this has persuaded you to appreciate the power and relevance mathematics has all around us, and inspired you to have a little bit more love for maths.

# Gone To Patagonia: - Notes from Travels

Bruce Chatwin, the renowned travel writer, left his job at the Sunday Times in 1974 with these famous words. This December I was lucky enough to follow in his footsteps, although not in quite as rugged and dramatic a fashion as him!

Patagonia, a region which conjures up Jurassic-time images of the unknown and unfamiliar is located at the southernmost tip of South America, straddling Chile and Argentina. This hiker's paradise is the gateway to Antarctica and after approximately 20 hours of flying plus a 6 hour bus journey on the iconic Ruta 40, known also as 'El Fin del Mundo Ruta' (literally meaning the end of the world), we finally reached this paradise. En route we stopped for a hearty lunch of barbecued steak and lamb, a regional speciality, and casually watched a herd of timid sheep being sheared by a macho gaucho at an estancia or ranch – voyeurism at its finest. There was a wealth of wildlife to admire on our journey, from majestic guanacos, (country cousins to the Llamas) to flamingos and pumas. On reaching Patagonia after such a memorable and exhausting journey I was finally able to see what all the fuss is about, and why Chatwin had longed for Patagonia his whole life.



Falling in love with Patagonia is inevitable. This hit me when we reached the Torres Del Paine National Park in Chile, (a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve). What is most unique about the place is the sheer sense of solitude and space around. The craggy granite mountains and Tiffany blue lakes seem untouched by time and create an almost spiritual sense of belonging. I don't think photographs can adequately capture the sheer untainted beauty of this place.

There are not many places in the world where you find yourself staring at an eighth wonder of the world, totally uninterrupted. No bus-loads of tourists, no continuous clicking sounds of digital cameras, and no souvenir stalls or fast food outlets. This is a conversation between you and the beauty around, and the world is not eavesdropping. Watching a trio of Andean Condors circle the peaks of Torres Del Paine, which tower over a brilliantly aqua-marine lake, right in front of you is humbling. The rustic palette of greens and blues make you feel as if you are the first person to walk on earth. I wouldn't have been surprised

to see a Brontosaurus stroll past at any point! Oddly enough no dinosaurs were spotted, but instead horses and guanacos roamed the land, and I was able to indulge my inner-gaicho by going horse riding one early morning. Torres Del Paine has a unique micro-climate and it experiences four seasons in one day – heightening the feeling of being on one's own little planet, a kind of Hunger Games Arena-esque feeling!



The entrance to Patagonia, a little town called Puerto Varas aka the Chilean Lake District, had its own particular charm. The town is dominated by the active Volcano Osorno which guards Lago Llanquihue, but what's most surreal about Puerto Varas is its German history and influence. In the mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century thousands of Germans migrated from Southern Germany to Southern Chile, and transformed this wild, untamed territory into villages and farms. The Germans are completely assimilated into the Chilean way of life and are admired for their pioneering spirit. Next to Puerto Varas is another little Germanic town of Frutillar, well-known for its striking Bavarian architecture and German Kuchen or cake. However, despite its fairy-tale appearance, the town has a notorious history as it infamously provided refuge for hundreds of Nazis after the Second World War.

After a blissful few days of hiking in Chilean Patagonia, we crossed the border into Argentina. The landscape here became more rugged and aggressive. We stayed in El Calafate, a sleepy border town on Lago Argentino. Calafate is a local wild berry and legend has it that whoever eats this is destined to return. The town is a getaway to the famous Perito Merino glacier, the world's third largest advancing glacier, the size of Israel or Wales! The highlight of my stay here was definitely the glacier walking and I don't think I'll ever forget the explosive sounds of ice crashing down in slow-motion from the glacier.

Patagonia is a magnet for travellers who are drawn here because of its charm and remoteness. Many of them were like global nomads who had decided on an alternate way of living and opted out of the rat race. Perhaps they were drawn by the words of the Chilean Nobel Laureate poet Pablo Neruda:

"I copy out *mountains, rivers, clouds.*  
I take my pen from my pocket. I note down  
a bird in its **rising**  
or a spider in its little silkworks.  
Nothing else crosses my mind. I am air  
*Clear air...*"

Sabrina Ruia

Back to the 'Past': a History of Manchester

## *From cinemas to sofas* – this is how cinemas have revolutionised today

For men and women in the mid 30s going to the 'pictures' was a formal outing for which one would dress up, and go 3-4 times a week. Yet going to the 'movies' nowadays is a casual thing to do with your friends; not necessarily wearing anything too impressive and perhaps going for a maximum of once a week (or most likely downloading the movie to watch at home.)

The Rex Cinema on Alderley Road still stands today, just not as a cinema anymore. It was built by Walter Stansby in 1936 and continued to be run by his two sons Ken and John.

Entertaining popular, famous acts such as actors Errol Flynn and Kenneth Williams, the Rex was always buzzing with guests and customers. From rock 'n' roll to classical symphony the Rex had an array of fun musical evenings.

The Rex had a 1,028 seat majestic auditorium with a grand 40-foot stage, compared to our average 500-seat rooms at Didsbury cinema. Decorated with gold walls, heavy chandeliers and sometimes even dinner tables inside, the Rex was the place to go.

Meanwhile in 1912, The Scala Cinema opened in Withington. Being one of the only cinemas open in the area then, it was always busy. As well as watching movies, the Scala was like a hub in which election results were announced and people could meet up for discussions. This formal building was a frequently used resource and, like the Rex, musical evenings took place by one of the house pianists.

In 1940, The Scala was hit by a small bomb, therefore the place struggled with operating as it had before. It closed in 2001, awaiting development for further changes due to the bombing, but never received permission.

This shows how cinemas have changed from majestic, grand buildings to sterile places fitted with a projector and screen. Cinemas have changed hugely and for that reason, most of us don't go anymore, instead downloading movies at home. Can we change this and get back the plush seats or are we settling for our sofas?

Shaila Mulchand

THE REX THEATRE AND BUILDINGS, WILMSLOW

## Being a Pro for the Day

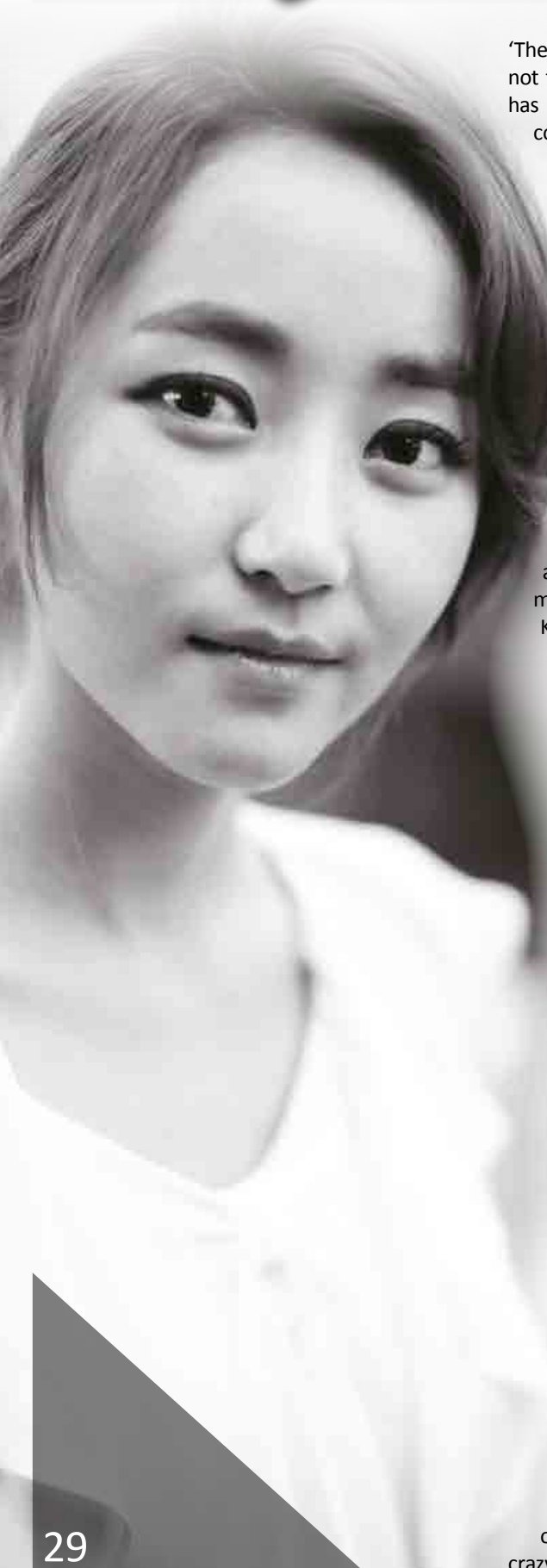
I had been excited for the beginning of 2015 for months, I was to be a 'Pro for a Day'. This was a 'Six by Six' lacrosse course held on Saturday 3rd January at Surrey Sports' Park and run by Katy Bennett, England Lacrosse Captain at the 2013 World Cup. I have been playing lacrosse since I was eight years old at club level then for my school, and recently my county; it has always been one of my favourite hobbies. The 'Pro for a day' course was all about recreating an international level match to let us have one day in the life of an international player.

I travelled the four hour drive to Surrey with my parents – nervous but excited for the day that lay ahead. The day started by finding out what team we were in; 'The Sparks', led by Sarah Butt, who coached the Senior England squad at the 2013 World Cup, or 'The Fury', coached by Katy Bennett. I was in the Sparks team alongside other 17 other girls from around the country. The walls of our changing rooms had even been decorated with our individual team flags.

We were introduced to our coach, Sarah Butt, England Lacrosse Head Coach at the World Cup 2013 and, after a warm-up and getting to know the other members of our team – an important stage, as we had never played together before – spoke about what a set-play was and created some of our own. Then we got out onto the pitch to practise the set-plays we had discussed. After some more drills we all ready for a well-deserved lunch. We then started preparing ourselves for the game. After getting all our kit on we needed for the match we were given a motivational team-talk from Sarah Butt and, after discussing our targets for the match and a team chant, started our final preparations for the game. We walked onto the pitch with music, adrenaline and excitement flowing, proudly holding our 'Sparks' flags in the air. During the game, we were able to put into practice everything we had learned from our coach. The game finished with our team coming out on top for a final score of 15-11. Despite the rain and wind I had an amazing experience and learned many skills which I will use in the future. I truly felt like a 'pro for the day'.

Miranda Bate

# My heroine:



'The Interview' has been making headlines, not for its success or failure, but because it has found itself at the centre of a hacking controversy and a cinematic cold war.

The film follows two showbiz tabloid journalists who are instructed by US Officials to 'take out' the North Korean dictator, Kim Jong-Un, during a scheduled interview.

But surely, almost any movie portraying the assassination attempt of a real, major world leader is obviously going to make the country feel paranoid, upset and threatened. Can we really say that it is political satire? Killing a major world leader? Making *films* which depict a potential plot to assassinate a *present-day, current* world leader? As much as I despise Kim Jong-Un's North Korea, this film really shouldn't have made it past the drawing board.

Therefore it wasn't a surprise to hear that in November, Sony Pictures Entertainment were hacked by the 'Guardians of Peace', a hacking group the FBI believes to have associations with the notoriously paranoid North Korean Government (sources now claim that this a false statement). After leaking other sensitive internal information, the group demanded that Sony pull 'The Interview' and threatened terrorist attacks against any cinemas that played it.

The problem, to me, is that all of this controversy had no actual regard for the real human devastation. Although some of these are highlighted throughout the movie, the majority is devoted to racial stereotypes, sexist, racist, homophobic jokes and Western self-satisfied obliviousness. Many critics and defectors who watched the movie complained that there was not enough mention of human rights abuses: for example, the cult of personality, famine, twisted ideology and militarism. Our media only focuses on the nuclear weapons, crazy dictator and that Kim Jong-Un is fat.

It's humour to us Westerners - that's all there is to it. All the time, we are forgetting about the people who are suffering and dying in that country.

Yeonmi Park was one of the many who watched 'The Interview' in cinemas after it was cancelled then re-released. But Yeonmi was only nine years old when she was invited to watch the public execution of her best friend's mother.

She had watched a Hollywood movie and leant South Korean DVDs to her friend, and when caught she was punished by firing squad. "She was killed in front of us," recalled Park in an interview. "I was standing next to her daughter." This execution haunted her more than any other she had ever witnessed. Yeonmi could only watch in horror as the executioners fired, and their bodies crumpled to the ground, dripping in blood.

Yeonmi remembers seeing dead bodies on the streets of her home town, Hyesan, in North Korea as a child. Whenever she walked to and from school, she would see several floating on the Yalu river. She never felt any emotion about it, it was part of her daily routine in life.

In 2002, her whole world fell apart when her hero, her father was arrested for his illegal business. Yeonmi's father was a mid-ranking civil servant and Worker's Party member who tried to make ends meet by selling gold and silver across the border. He was given a 17 year sentence in prison in Pyongyang. They visited him once, enough to see that he had been brutally tortured. They had placed sticks between his fingers and crunched them together. He was made to sit in excruciating stress positions for interminable periods. Prisoners were deprived of water and food. His prison cell was infested with lice and cockroaches.

Yeonmi's mother was also briefly arrested for moving back to her old house without telling authorities. "In North Korea there is no freedom of movement, not freedom of speech... it was against the law for that movement and that's why she went to prison for half a year."

Three years later, Yeonmi's father managed to bribe his way out of jail. By then he had been diagnosed with severe colon cancer. After his release, her family began plotting

# Yeonmi Park

*“North Korea is not a comedy”*

their escape into China to start their new life. But before the family could put its plan into action, Eunmi, Yeonmi's then 16-year-old sister, fled across the border with a friend. They were terrified about how she was and whether she would survive.

Yeonmi and her mother decided to follow her over the border. They had to escape by sneaking across three mountains and a frozen lake to get to China. Her father stayed behind in order to minimize the risk of the whole family being arrested; he followed them by crossing the border a few days later. Once reunited, the family planned to attempt a second escape altogether.

But on the day that Yeonmi Park escaped, she had to watch as her mother was attacked. Yeonmi was 13 years old. No child, regardless of where they live or what nationality they are, should ever have to see that.

“I was so helpless at the time and I couldn't believe people could be so cruel to us. People just seemed like I deserved it because I was from North Korea.” Yeonmi said, six years later.

Reunited with her father a short time later, they decided to remain in China for the time being. The family found shelter in a filthy, cobweb-filled room near the Chinese city of Shenyang. There was no electricity and they had to collect water from a broken, dripping tap. It's an experience similar to the tens and hundreds of thousands of other North Korean defectors who have escaped to China, another new world of poverty and exploitation for refugees.

In 2008, Yeonmi's father passed away at the age of 45. Without documents and facing arrest as well as deportation if they were caught, Yeonmi and her mother had no choice but to bury him themselves in secret. “There was no funeral. Nothing,” Yeonmi says. “I couldn't even do that for my father. I couldn't even cry. I was too afraid.”

For Yeonmi and her mother, the death signalled an end to their time in China.

They found themselves deep in the Gobi desert, using only a compass, searching the stars in the night sky to guide them to Mongolia and towards their potential freedom.

“We carried knives with us, prepared to kill ourselves,” Yeonmi explained in regards to what might happen if they had been caught

and sent back to North Korea. “We wanted to live as humans.”

During a speech at The One Young World Summit 2014, Yeonmi burst into tears at one point, remembering how alone and isolated she had felt during this journey. She described walking through the Gobi desert scared of dying or not making it, and said, “I thought nobody in this world cared. I thought only the stars were with me.”

“But you have listened to my story. You have cared. Thank you very much.”

Once in Mongolia, they requested help from South Korean diplomats who helped refugees from the north escape to Seoul. Their struggle had been worthwhile as they managed to get to Mongolia, and then to South Korea. Today, Yeonmi lives in Seoul, and is reunited with her mother and sister. The futuristic and ultra-modern heart of South Korea is only 30 miles away from the North Korean border, but with luxury cars, 10-lane motorways, fashion and K-pop everywhere you look, it's like being on a completely different planet.

More than 1,500 North Koreans fled their country in 2012. Last year a UN investigation concluded that the human rights abuses being committed by the Kim regime were ‘strikingly similar’ to those perpetrated by the Nazi regime during the Second World War. The UN report claimed that torture, mass starvation, rape and execution were daily abuses against the North Korean population.

Yeonmi has become an activist intent on raising awareness about the plight of her people and has travelled the world to talk about her experiences. In South Korea, she has appeared regularly along with other North Korean defectors in a South Korean TV chat show called ‘On My Way to Meet You’. She was also a talk show host on the podcast-show North Korea Today. Park told the story of her escape at several well-known events such as the One Young World summit in Dublin, the Oslo Freedom Forum, as well as several various TED Talks. Park also worked as a news reporter to write about the occurring events happening in North Korea. Park became a reporter for New Focus International, a newspaper company run by former North Korean Propagandist Jang Jin-sung. She was also named amongst the top 100 global women in the BBC's annual campaign last year.

She frequently questions Western attitudes towards North Korea. “Why is it so important that Kim Jong-Un is getting fat? And why is his hairstyle so funny? People are dying there. In China, there are so many refugees in hiding, and 70% of North Korean women and girls are being victimised, sometimes being sold for as little as \$200... girls just like me and you are being sold...and being killed sometimes. But the reality is that, nobody knows that. And if they know, nobody cares.”

Still, after all that she been through, she has not entirely escaped from the terror of the North Korean regime. The South Koreans usually assign local detectives to protect and keep an eye on all newly arrived defectors from the North, and in May of 2014, Yeonmi received a call from the official handling her case. He warned her that her name had been added to a ‘hit list’ of outspoken and public defectors that the North Koreans wanted to eliminate. Yeonmi said, “I crossed the Gobi desert. I lost my father. Yet I am still not free. They still have power over me. They still try to control me. Until I can be really free, I will keep going.”

Both the South Korean official and Yeonmi's own mother told her to stop criticising Kim Jong-un and his predecessors. However, she has ignored them, convinced that she, as someone who had suffered the same fate, has to raise awareness for the thousands of families, like hers, risking sexual violence and murder as they try to escape North Korea. Whether you believe her story or not, to so passionately fight for the rights of other human lives, even when it jeopardizes her own life, makes her an unsung heroine of our generation. Please read about her, watch her talks and interviews, find out more about the current state in North Korea, and boost her and her message. Because by educating yourself first, you can go on to educate others. Yeonmi is right: It is not just their rights; it is our rights that the North Korean dictatorships have been violating for seven decades.

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”—Martin Luther King

Lily Rouhi-Parkouhi

# What's Hot and What's Not

## Hot

The new illustrated 'Harry Potter'. Award-winning British artist Jim Kay is set to do the artwork for 'Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's – erm, Philosopher's – Stone', which is due out in the U.S. and the U.K. on October 6<sup>th</sup> 2015. This new deluxe hardcover edition will feature 110 full-colour illustrations, as well as separate cover images done by Kay for the American and British editions.

A hot topic – The shootings in France are on everyone's mind, especially after the plot bombing in Belgium. It's hard to escape je suis Charlie though I think it's important to remember that je suis humane.

There are a few cool places in town with some delightfully high calorie meals such as the nacho bowl at 'Common' – the fact that the bowl is made out of nachos tells you all you need to know. The indulgent cakes at 'Home Sweet Home' and the home-made brandy snap filled with chocolate torte from 'Teacup Kitchen'.

Treadmill dance videos. Yes, I know these are not a new phenomena but, with several YouTube hits, it has been proven that people now have them down to a fine art; maybe they'll soon be the new form of super exercise?!

'The Real Housewives of Cheshire'. I feel that this is going to be another program that we love to hate. Whether you watch it to judge them, are interested in their lifestyle or you may know one or two of them I think this will be on the lips of everyone t'ut north for a while. Even if it's only to replace the gaping hole left by 'Gossip Girl' finishing – 'Northern Gossip Girl': a bemusing concept.

## Not

I have just thrown away my last pair of black leggings which I've had for years, they had holes in and they were basically see through before I decided that they'd died on me. So now I can judge all of you that still have old leggings that just need binning. Sentiment should not have a place in your wardrobe if that means that I (and the rest of the world) can see through your leggings.

Low fat. A lot of low-fat products might have added sugars or carbohydrates to make the food taste better (since so much of the good taste comes from the fat). Also, more and more research is finding that fat (at least the kind that isn't trans-fat) isn't the enemy anymore. As long as you're not eating too much of it, a little fat in your diet can be good for you.

Diet coke. Almost every popular artificially flavoured, sugar-sweetened beverage on the market has a 'light' or a 'diet' version... 'Diet Coke', 'Pepsi Max', 'Sprite Zero'. These drinks are calorie free, which should technically help people lose weight and prevent sugar-related diseases like metabolic syndrome and diabetes. Drinking calorie free beverages instead of sugary ones does not appear to be helpful against the metabolic syndrome. The metabolic syndrome is a group of risk factors for disease that often occur together and raise your risk of diabetes, stroke and heart disease.

It is defined as having at least three of the following:

- Abdominal obesity (belly fat)
- High fasting glucose
- High triglycerides
- Low HDL cholesterol
- Elevated blood pressure

With the rise of bell bottom jeans this season step away from your skinny jeans.

Kombucha. Kombucha tea is a fermented drink made with tea, sugar, bacteria and yeast. Although it's sometimes referred to as kombucha mushroom tea, kombucha is not a mushroom – it's a colony of bacteria and yeast. It has many alleged health benefits and it tastes above average. Though give it a day or two and you'll see a SCOBY (Symbiotic Colony of Bacteria and Yeast) begin to grow, which looks off-putting to say the least. It looks like something an old man might hack up, but it's not! It's actually what ferments the tea and sugars in kombucha, and makes it fizzy.

Also referred to as 'the Mother', as it's what the original drink is made from. Stay away, you have been warned.



# Agony Aunt

**Dear Agony Aunt,**

I MADE EYE CONTACT WITH A BUILDER. It was just a mistake and I was daydreaming in maths and our eyes met and WILL I BE EXPELLED? I feel as though all the big wigs know and I'm just waiting for them to pounce. They're watching me...all of them...they know my secret....

- **paranoid peeker**

*Dear Paranoid,*

*Okay okay breathe. Firstly, ehh, who hasn't stared out the window during maths, unlucky. Secondly, stop watching so much TV: this isn't 'The Hunger Games', we have some freedom. I think.*

- AA

**Dear Agony Aunt,**

Sixth form has ruined me! I mean one Starbucks trip a week was okay, but then the noodle place is so good and there's Sainsbury's, because what an embarrassment not to have a full locker. Long and short of it, I'm so broke it isn't funny AND it's my turn on the food rota.

- **edibles are expensive**

*Dear Edible,*

*Think about it this way, a McDonald's is always more delicious than a pound coin. If you are really worried about finances, I suppose you could always attempt having a chat with the head of economics, who I'm sure would have many sage words of wisdom.*

- AA

**Dear Agony Aunt,**

When I was younger life was good. There were cookies for one and all. Melting, delicious, crumbly, gooey cookies. I was happily getting diabetes from them and then one day, they were gone!! I remember the pain still, like it was yesterday. The indignance, the grief, the cravings, the shakes, the brief spell in therapy. So imagine my joy when wafting through the school one day, I sensed THE SMELL OF ALL SMELLS. THE COOKIES WERE BACK. I was salivating at my desk, waiting for History just to finish already! I raced down to the dining hall and the cookies were for 6<sup>th</sup> form only! 6<sup>th</sup> FORM. WHY AGONY AUNT WHY. Now I stand outside the bistro everyday looking in longing at the cookies, which can never be mine. HOW WILL I COPE?!?!?!?!?

- **Cookie Monster**

*Dear Cookie,*

*I'm a tad bit concerned about your letter I must say. It is undeniable the cookies are delectable, so essentially, tough cookies to you. As someone who can enjoy the cookies whenever I want, believe me, they are worth waiting until sixth form. It'll just make them all the better when you get there. Unless they stop doing them again of course.....*

-AA

**Dear Fan?**

*Sweetie, you sound like a stalker... my identity is the highest kept secret of the Scrawl team. You wouldn't want to disappear like all those others who dug a bit too far would you? I suggest you stop digging. You may not like what you find.*

- An anxious AA

**Dear Agony Aunt,**

My mortal existence is plagued by a question... Who are you? In September, you admitted you were forgetful, even saying you had lost shin pads, which leads me to believe you play hockey. Your alliteration addiction is admirable and I suspect you are in sixth form. I have been eliminating people from my list but two candidates remain. Give me a clue? I just want to know you and be friends with someone so sarcastic, so they can teach me their ways...

- **Your biggest Fan**



# A Wintry Photography Competition

Thank you for all your  
fantastic photos!



Ilena Sykes

First Place!



Ilena Sykes



Ilena Sykes



Athena Critchley  
Special Mention for  
Extra creativity!



Ilena Sykes



Elin Donnelly  
Second Place!



Ilena Sykes

