July 2024

THE QUILL

Edition 14

A WADHAM SCHOOL STUDENT PUBLICATION

THE QUILL

SCHOOL'S OUT FOR SUMMER!



EXPLORING THE PAST, GUIDING THE FUTURE

Interview with writer, producer, director and presenter Andrew Chater

SIFTING THROUGH TRASH CINEMA

Podcaster Mike Wood guides us through Grindhouse films





ELECTION NEWS

All change at Number 10 with MJ Jones





YOTO CARNEGIES 2024

Wadham School passes judgement on this years entries

Plus Reviews, Previews and Opinions

Introduction

Welcome to the fourteenth copy of the Quill. I hope it finds you looking forward to the summer break. Since our launch in 2021, we've continued to develop the magazine with the help and support from the student body, something I look forward too seeing more of when the next school year begins in September. Until then please enjoy what the creative minds of Wadham have to offer.

Wadham School
A Church of England Community School
Business and Enterprise College
Crewkerne, Somerset TA18 7NT

Inside this edition you'll find...

- **Interviews with podcaster Mike Wood and historian Andrew Chater**
- **A breakdown of the political backlash from the July general election**
- **Reviews of the candidates for this years Yoto Carnegies**
- **As well as the usual stories and articles on what's interested the great and good at Wadham.**

Happy reading!
Peter Hopwood ~ Editor

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Wadham School Activity Week

Bottle Rockets - we are told they flew so well they became difficult to photograph! To infinity and beyond!







WORK HARD PLAY HARD

Year 10s today enjoying sports events—Limbo, Egg n Spoon, Three legged race, Target practice, Water relay, Welly wanging. I'm sure there's a future Olympic sport in there somewhere.





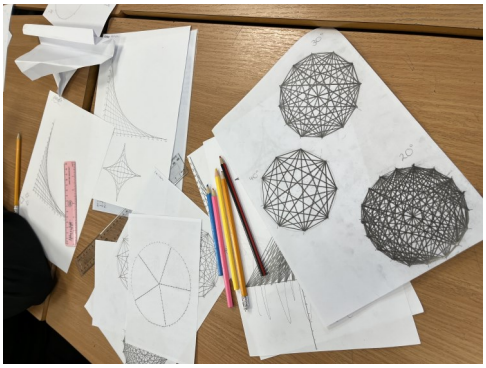
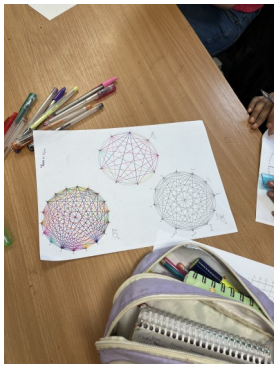
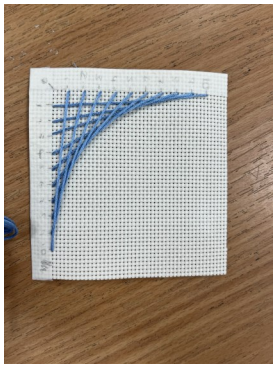
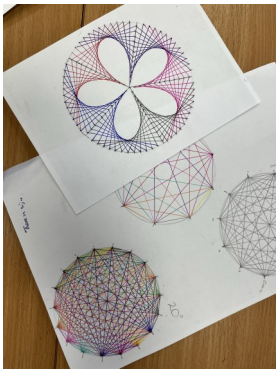






Willow craft

Curves with straight lines have been beautifully created as one of the many in school tasks running this week.

The Great Egg Drop Challenge—Crating parachutes to protect an egg. I'm sure Humpty Dumpty could've done with this sort of help.



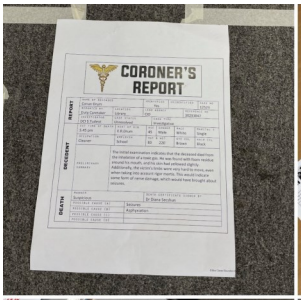




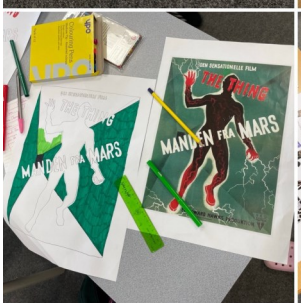





Murder Mystery—Tell Colombo, Sherlock Holmes and Jessica Fletcher we've got this covered.














Some pics from shooting at Huish Woods. Some even had a go at shooting a competition air rifle because they were THAT good!












Further fun at Huish Woods. Woodland craft reindeer, soldering, frisbee golf & archery.





One word—Woodlands



















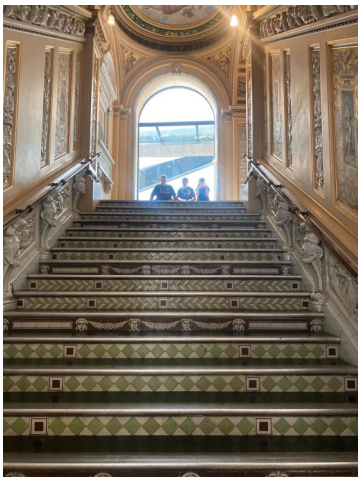


Wadham School take in the sights and sounds of the big city—London Trip 2024















You can't take Mr Date anywhere!

LET'S GET POLITICAL!

We had a successful visit in April with Green Party Councillor Tim Eggins and Candidate Serena Wootton. Students asked them considered questions about education, the NHS, nuclear weapons and housing.





Natalie Bennett Book Signing review

by Mj Jones.

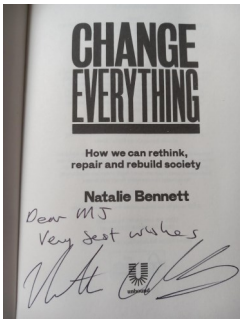


On Friday 17th May I had the opportunity to meet the former Green Party of England and Wales leader and Member of the House of Lords, Baroness Natalie Bennett at Waterstones Yeovil promoting her new book 'Change Everything'.



I arrived about ten minutes before the event began where I was re-united with local Green Party politicians Serenna Wooton and Tim Eggins. I had a front row seat right in front of the Baroness. She was interviewed by a local Journalist, where multiple points of Bennetts book were touched on including civil liberties for women, a universal basic income and Parliamentary structure reform.

One interesting comment made by Bennett was that "The UK is not a democracy." I found this slightly shocking, as she only became a Baroness by selection by then outgoing PM and Conservative Party Leader Theresa May .



After she had concluded the floor opened for questions whereby I asked: *"In an Oxford Union debate in 2018 after resigning as leader you said that half the House of Lords should be woman. In my personal belief we should be electing or rather selecting people on their service not their sex because if we do are we not doing the exact same thing that men have done for hundreds of years by putting people in positions of power on the bases of sex?"*

She replied along the lines of "I've always campaigned for gender caps in political office...we need urgent reform."

After further audience questions, it was time for the book signing. I went up to her and got my copy of her book signed. Having a one on one with her helped me realise that she is actually dedicated to supporting people regardless of class.





2024 UK general election special

By MJ Jones



The UK general election took place on July 4th 2024. Which saw the Labour Party win in a landslide. I will talk about three things. The first is meeting the former leader of the Liberal Democrats Sir Vince Cable in Chard the Saturday before the election, the actual election itself and what's next for the losers.

Part 1 – When Jones met Cable

On Saturday 29th June I got an email by the Yeovil Liberal Democrats that Sir Vince Cable (a politician who was Leader of the Liberal Democrats from 2017 to 2019) was going to be in Chard with Adam Dance to campaign for the Liberal Democrats.



I went along, met Mr Dance, Sir Cable and asked the latter about working with David Cameron during the ill-fated Conservative-Lib Dem coalition after 2010. He said "While I did find him an interesting fellow it was mainly a working relationship as there was much division in the coalition." I also walked around Chard with them and it came clear that the Conservatives still had loyal supporters which I found surprising.



Part 2 – The election came a calling.

In late May the Prime Minister Rishi Sunak stood in the pouring rain and called for the dissolution of Parliament and for the general election to be held on July 4th. After that the fates seemed to forecast doom for the PM with gaff after gaff occurring.



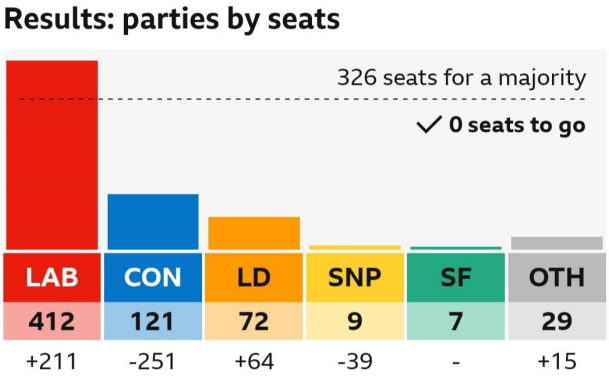
Whether it was Sunak standing in front of a Titanic



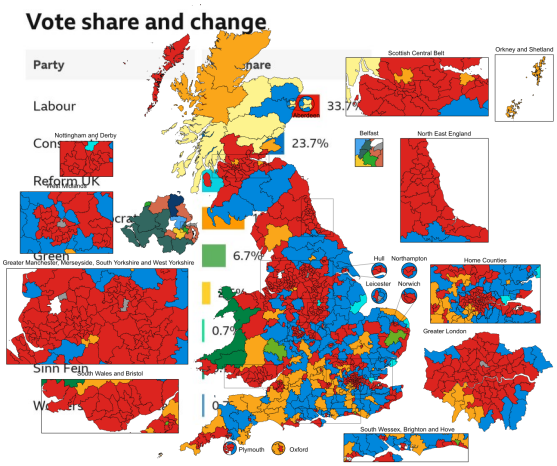
recreation in Belfast with multiple politicians citing it as a metaphor for the "the sinking ship that is the Tory's", a plane ride where he was

stood by the 'Exit' or being shown on TV at a riverside cafe with the a boat behind him saying 'VOTE LIB DEM'. Culminating in an ill-advised early departure from the 80th anniversary D-Day celebrations, these events sent the Conservative Party into an identity crisis downward spiral.

In my opinion there was two types of polls for the Conservative Party. Those who said the Conservative Party will get 120-150 seats and those who said 42-75 seats. If the latter results became possible it would make the Liberal Democrats the leaders of the opposition. However, this did not happen, and come Friday the Liberal Democrats had 72 seats and the Conservatives had 121. Putting them at only 49 seat difference. It was also a good night for the Green Party; they achieved 4 seats and 8% of the vote. Reform UK (who massively caused a tory defeat) getting 14% of the vote but only 5 seats.



Ultimately, the elephant in the room was the crushing Labour Party victory. They doubled their seats from 200 in 2019 to 412 this time. However, they actually underperformed as most polls said that Labour would get at least 39% of the vote and at least 420 seats. They only went up 1% in the national results and went down 4% in Wales. Also they got about one million less votes than in 2019. Whilst enough to have a majority in Parliament and thus dominate politics in Britain for the next 4 years, one obvious issue for Labour was their lost support amongst traditional Muslim Labour voters who disagreed with Israel's occupation of Gaza and Keir Starmers position on this. As a result, Labour lost 5 'safe' Labour seats to Independent Palestine supporters and 1 loss gaining a seat for the Tories in Leicestershire (this is because the Labour vote was spilt between an Independent who supports Gaza and the actual Labour candidate). Couple this with the loss of the then Shadow Secretary of Culture, Media and Sport, Thangam Debbonaire Bristol seat to the Co-leader of the Green Party Carla Denyer, and this government only came in on 34% of the vote. Questions must be asked in Labour circles.



<u>Part 3 – The long road back for the Tories</u>

The final question which must be asked after July 4th is 'who will be the next Tory leader?' The front runners were Penny Mordaunt and Kemi Badenoch. However Mourdant lost her seat (and thus is unable to contend the leadership) and Badenoch is to go to court over a problem with mail-in ballots not being sent (which could harm her chances).

Even if Badenoch does make a run for the leadership she'll have to get past Suella Braverman, a firm favourite in some Conservative circles. Instead, a less likely person to become Conservative Leader is the Leader of the Reform UK Nigel Farage who could find allies in the remaining Conservative MPs. Whatever the outcome the path ahead for the Conservatives will be one of much weakened and depleted influence, a position then have not been in since 1997.



Wadham School Gets Creative

poetry corner

THE SECRET DEED OF LOVELESS GAMES

By Ellie Johnson

The secret deed of loveless games,
Danger of love too feared for us,
Our hearts too weak for the love of them,
We fell for the silence,
We understood that love was danger-ous,
Our hearts to weak for the lovers deeds,
The secret deed of loveless games,
We hold the world inside our brains,
Our hopeless hearts wanting nothing but the risks of the world,
Our hearts covered in walls of Armour,
No one should understand,
For the secret deed of our loveless games,
Forever told never straight,
He hope for death in weakest things,
For being ignored is never fun,
We all grew up abandoned for money,
As we all held the hug-less worry,
We held the bodies of forgiven lovers,
Waiting for death to arrive,
To revive the hopeless lovers deed,
The secret deed of loveless game,
We listen to music of cries,
For we start to fall for the moon,
The moon our only friend in this world,
Due to the secret deed of loveless games.

OUTSIDE THE DOOR

By Ellie Johnson

I'm locked outside the door,
For I'm a hopeless lover,
Who lived outside the war,
We who hope all fade eventually,
For I'm locked outside the door,
We hold love in both hands,
I hold myself up high for all to see,
As I'm a hopeless lover with a heart of golden glass,
I'm locked outside the door again,
The wood a bronzed green,
We held the hands of angels gleamed,
The hold of everything we love,
For we lift the hearts of the weak,
Ready to be broken,
For we're locked outside the door,
The war of hearts a heavy cry,
One too far away to hear,
We held treason high once more,
As the flag of hopelessness sored high,
We all looked up with tears in our eyes,
Quiet sobs filled the air,
A solemn feel to thicken the air,
As breathing deepened I took the step for the love affairs,
For as I fall the angels cried,
'no our sweet child' muttered the angels,
For I a hopeless romantic fell to the floor,
For I'm locked out once again.

History Matters

Emmeline Pankhurst and Millicent Fawcett

By Grace Long

I went to London in half term, to visit the Millicent Fawcett and Emmeline Pankhurst statues. I wanted to see these statues because I have been learning about the suffragettes and suffragists in History. I found the subject very interesting because these women helped change the way Britain treated and listened to the female population.

They gave Women their voice by demonstrating and challenging the people who did not want women to have the vote. I also wanted to see the statue in real life and not just on a video. Millicents Statue is in Parliament square between Nelson Mandela and Mahatma Gandhi and only put there in 2018. Emmelines Statue is next to Parliament in the gardens and was put up in 1930.



About Millicent Fawcett

1. She led the 'National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies' NUWSS
2. She demonstrated and fought for Women to have a say in the country by campaigning peacefully.
3. She died 5th August 1929, aged 82.
4. Her statue is the only woman amongst 11 statues of men.
5. Millicent Fawcett said-

"Courage calls to courage everywhere, and its voice cannot be denied"

"I can never feel that setting fire to houses and churches and litter boxes and destroying valuable pictures really helps to convince people that people want to be enfranchised"









About Emmeline Panhurst

1. She formed the 'Women's social and political union' WSPU.

2. The WSPU was a militant group which meant they protested using violent tactics such as smashing windows and arson.

3. She died 14th June 1928, aged 69

4. Emmeline Pankhurst said-

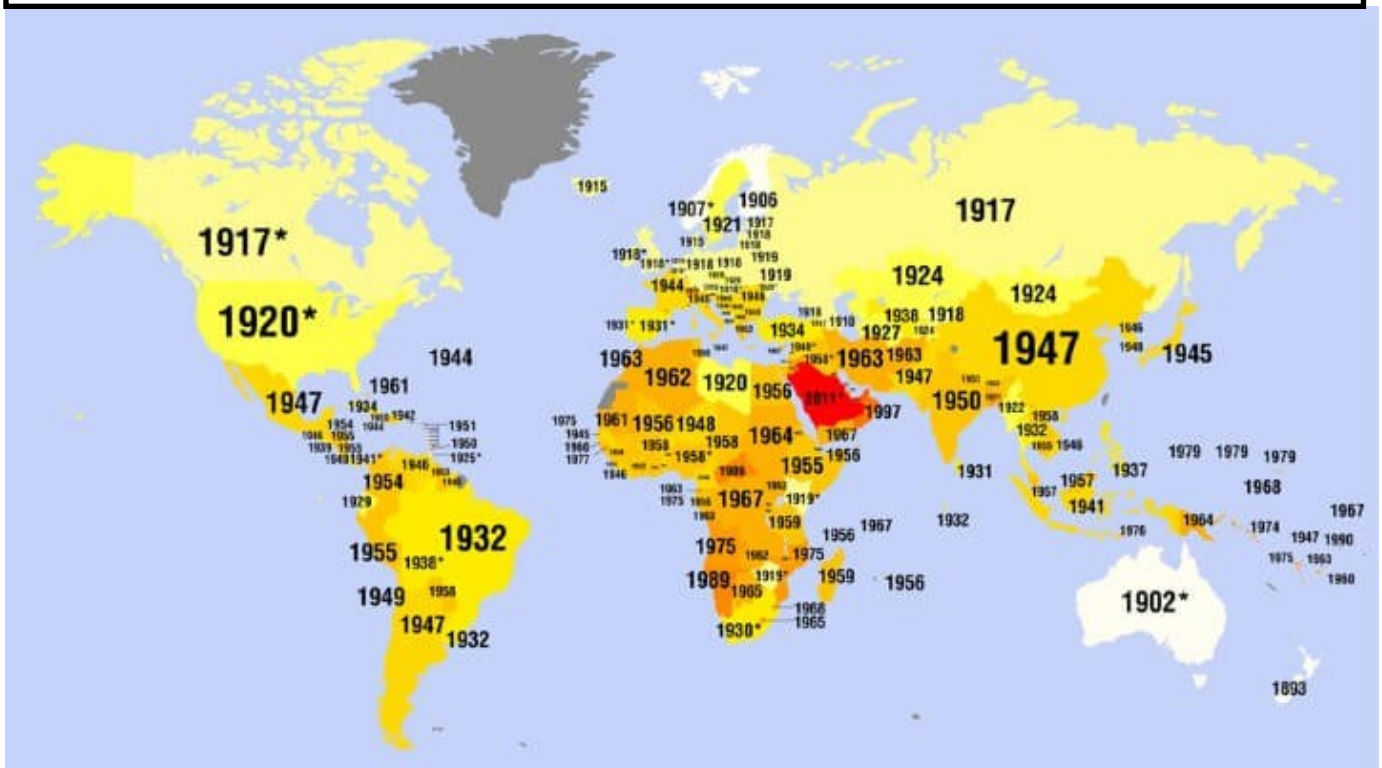
"Men make the moral code and they expect women to accept it. They have decided that it is entirely right and proper for men to fight for their liberties and their rights, but that it is not right and proper for women to fight for theirs"

"Deeds not Words"

The statues are very important because they remind us of all their hard work to gain women freedom of speech and to Politically vote. They are very relevant at the moment, as women and men over 18, are voting for a new Prime Minister.

So if you ever go to London go and see them !

The map below shows when women got the right to vote in each country around the world.



INTERVIEW

GRINDIN OUT THE BEST OF THE WORST. EXPLORING B MOVIES FROM THE PAST WITH MIKE WOOD

Foreword by Peter Hopwood and interview by Emre Tunc

In 2016 Mike Wood, alongside Chris Mann, launched the Grindbin Podcast. In the years since (and 382 episodes later) this dynamic duo, alongside a rotating cast of fellow Grindbinners, has introduced listeners to a genre often labelled as 'trash cinema'. In doing this they have revealed a host of films which deserve a second look and can, when seen in the right light, show what happens when low budgets, insane directors and off the wall thinking combine into something special. Emre Tunc caught up with Wood to discuss how he ended up down this cinematic rabbit hole.

1. What does your daily routine look like?

My daily routine isn't too exciting, I work an office job remotely during the day and try to find time for my hobbies and creative outlets during the evenings. The Grindbin was something I created to stay in touch with a good friend of mine and share my creative outlet with the public. It's been really interesting to see it grow into a small, buy loyal, fanbase and community.

2. What were you like at school?

I was always fascinated with finding weird and obscure movies at school and loved sharing them with my friends. Other than that I spent most of my time working at a pizza place and skateboarding.

3. What was your most and least favourite subject at school? Why?



My least favorite subject was math (which is ironically a lot of what I do at my current day job) because I had no patience for it. My favorite subject was english because it offered somewhat of a creative outlet and an exposure to great literature.

4. What is your favourite thing about your job?

My favorite thing about my day job is that, despite it being very demanding, I get a lot of satisfaction out of seeing my work translate into results. My favorite part about working on the Grindbin is that it's not a job, I always treat my creative outlet as something that should be fun and entertaining.

5. Where did the idea behind the 'Grindbin' podcast come from?

When I was in film school I took a class in genre and cult films. The goal of the class was to try and define what makes a film "cult" and whether or not it's something that could be manufactured. Long after graduating this class and the films we watched stuck with me. In fact, the first movie we ever covered on the Grindbin and the one we always talk about every week The Van was the first movie we watched in that class. My original idea for the podcast was to continue this examination of cult film but it's since morphed into a much different show.

6. What are 'grindhouse' films?



"Grindhouse" is a term used for films that were put into theaters and drive-ins to fill screen time during the 60s and 70s. Many of these theaters were starved for content and would often show multiple features in a night. They needed cheap, exploitative, and shocking movies to get audiences in the doors. The demand was high and so smaller studios would "grind" these movies out in a few weeks without much regard for what was in the actual films - as long as it would sell tickets. The term "grindhouse" was popularized after the release of the 2007 film *Grindhouse*.

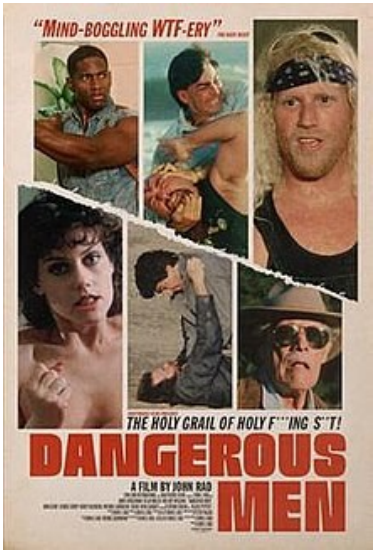


7. What is the history of this genre of film?

The history of exploitation cinema goes all the way back to the 1930s. One of the earlier episodes of the Grindbin covers some of the first exploitation movies ever released. These would often be marketed as "educational" films to get around any sort of censorship. Ever since, there has always been a demand from audiences for something different, shocking, and outside the mainstream of film.

8. When creating your podcast, did you ever expect it to grown to such a massive volume of work?

When I first started the podcast I didn't expect it to last for more than a year. It was a fun creative outlet that I thought would eventually fade into obscurity. I had no idea I would be producing over 350 episodes with dozens of different guests over the years.

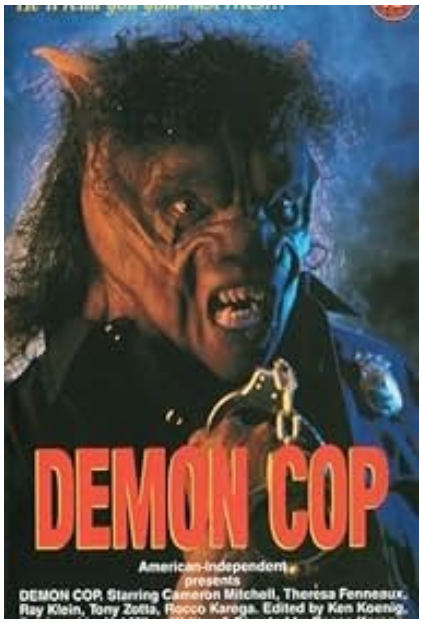


9. How often, and if so what are some examples, where the film you're covering has left you speechless?

It's not often that I am left speechless but the one movie that comes to mind is *Dangerous Men*. It's one of the earlier movies we covered on the podcast and I had originally seen it when it was screened for a brief time in Los Angeles. Everything about that movie is truly confounding, it's as if it came from another dimension.

10. What do the you believe to be the best and worst aspects of the podcast?

The best aspect of the podcast is recording with friends. The worst part is the business aspect of editing a show, producing episodes, and trying to find time for the show beyond my day job and personal life.



11. What do you think is the worst Grindbin movie you've ever gone over? Why?

I would have said *Demon Cop* because it's the most inept film I've ever seen. The passion from the filmmakers is clearly there but they didn't bother to learn any of the technical skills needed to write or direct a film.

12. Is remaining comedic for often 2 hours difficult? If so how do you get past a roadblock?

I never really think about being funny or comedic on the show, Bobby and I are friends outside of the podcast so most of our shows just feel like conversations between friends. You're never going to be at your best when you put something out every week, the best way to deal with a potential roadblock is to keep moving and not think about it. If you don't let it affect your performance, the audience will never know you're struggling.



13. What do each of you believe is the funniest Grindbin movie?

The funniest movie we've ever covered is probably *Miami Connection*. It's one of the few movies I will watch from the show again and again.

14. Have you ever thought about doing anything else or has it always been podcasting for you? Have you ever wanted to do something else?

In my life, I have always done something until I feel like I am not giving my best. Podcasting is not my first creative outlet, for awhile I was in a band, then I tried to make independent movies, and now I am podcasting. When I feel like the podcast is no longer interesting to me, I will move on and find another creative outlet.

15. Who was your biggest supporter growing up? Why?

My parents were always very supportive of any of my creative outlets. They encouraged me to go to film school and my father is actually an active listener to the podcast. I feel very lucky to have had their constant support in whatever I chose to do in life.

16. Who was your inspiration to do what you do?

I really didn't have any inspiration for the podcast, I just turned on a mic one day with my friend and tried something different.

17. What advice would you give to young people who want a media career in the future?

The best advice I can give is that if you want a career in media, you need to ensure you're ready to treat your creative passion as a job. Fresh out of college I had an internship at a film distribution company where I would read scripts and watch movies that people would submit.

I read hundreds of scripts and watched dozens of movies and none of them were ever made into anything. It was an incredibly draining experience to see things people spent their entire lives working on be disregarded. That's when I decided that working within the film industry would never be for me, I will always want that creative outlet but, for me personally, I couldn't handle the business aspect of filmmaking.

I understand this isn't very optimistic but it's the most realistic piece of advice I can give. Pursuing your passion as a job is a very difficult thing but for those that can handle it, it can be incredibly fulfilling.

18. What would you say are your greatest strengths and weaknesses?

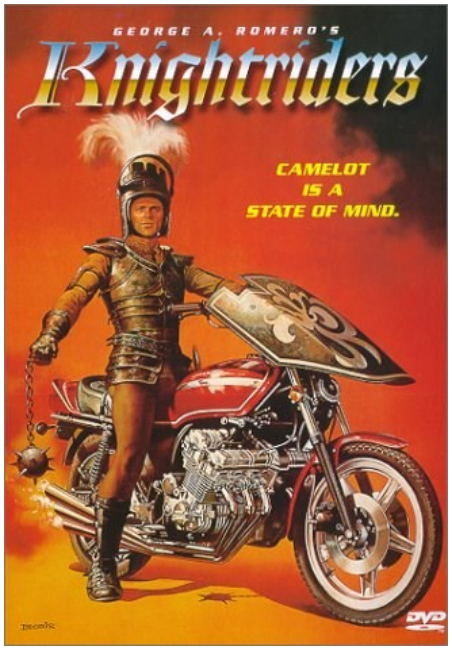
My greatest strengths are probably my presentation skills and not giving up on achieving goals I've set for myself. My greatest weaknesses are being disorganized and having a very bad short term memory.

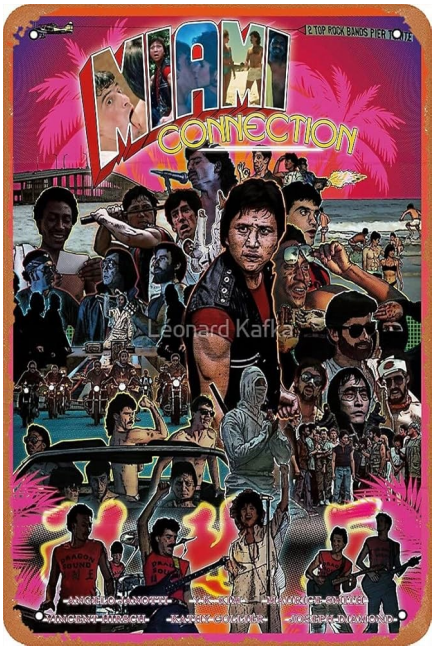
19. If you were stuck in a hotel for one night, what three grindbin films would you watch to pass the time?

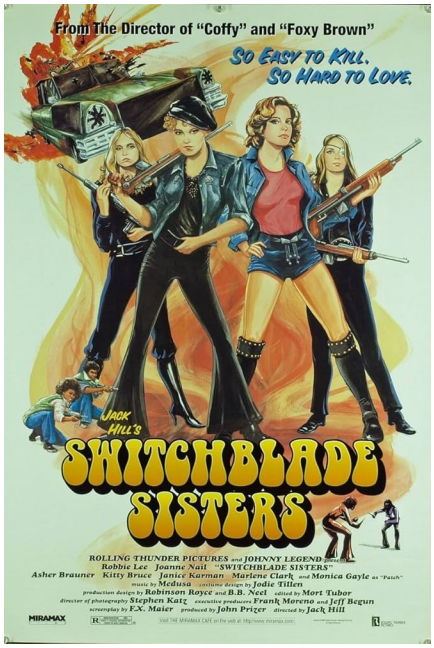
Knightriders

Miami Connection

Switchblade Sisters







20. Beside being a podcaster, what is 'Mike Wood' passionate about?

I moved to the Pacific Northwest because in my free time away from home I like to be outdoors and take advantage of parks, trails, rivers, and anything that gets me away from

technology. I am also passionate about my career outside of the podcast, I find being a leader in a company as a very fulfilling experience and career.

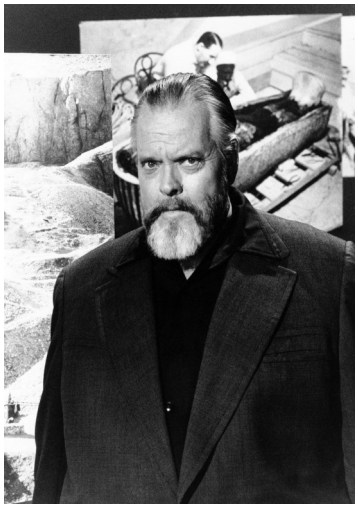
21. What's an aspect of your profession which you think many people are unaware of?

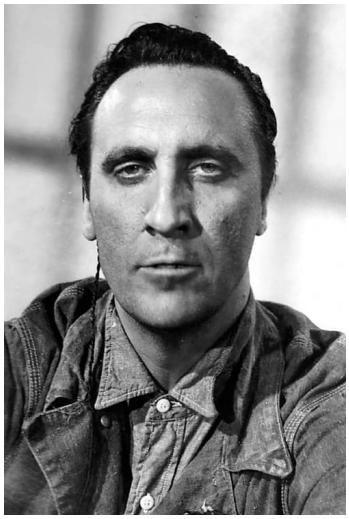
For the Grindbin specifically, people are probably unaware of how horrible watching a movie for the show really is. It requires constant note taking, rewatching parts, and research to create a good show for the audience. It's rarely enjoyable to actually watch a movie for the show.

22. If you didn't work in podcasting, what other job would you like to do?

Podcasting is only my hobby, it does provide some income, but I enjoy my day job in Operations for a small company.

23. If you could have a dinner party and invite any 4 people from history who would be on the guest list and why?



Orson Welles - would love to just hear his thoughts on his work

Ed Wood - how did he really view his movies and what kept him going despite massive criticism

George Romero - his films always have a deeper meaning and I never hear much about his personal thoughts and views.

Timothy Carey - probably a horrible choice for a guest but the man is an enigma and I want to just hang out with him for awhile.

24. What 5 words describe 'Mike Wood'?

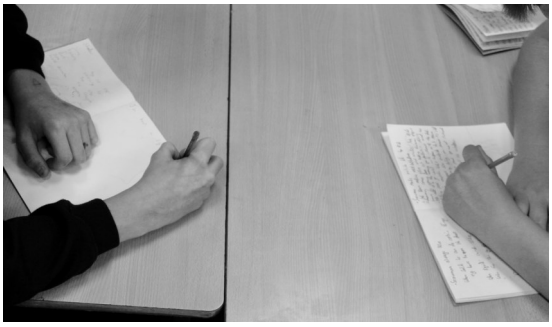
- Creative
- Sarcastic
- Forgetful
- Honest
- Driven

25. Finally, what's next for 'Mike Wood'?

For now, I'll just keep on doing what I'm doing. I won't really know what's next until I get another creative spark that pulls me in another direction.

I'VE SEEN THINGS YOU PEOPLE WOULDN'T BELIEVE...

Science fiction writing workshop









By Eszter Kozari and Lily Madgin

A group of students were selected in year 9 to write Science Fiction stories aimed at year 5 and 6. Starting on the 25th of April, we cooperated with Ed and the Bank of Dreams and Nightmares team. With them, we researched the elements of writing a story that educates and entertains at the same time.

While working with Ed and his team we would warm up our minds with starters that would make us think on the spot. We also carried out lots of experiments over the weeks, with scientific explanations from various real scientists. One such experiment was putting cereal in water, leaving it for a bit, then putting a magnet in the water and the cereal would move towards the magnet.

Another experiment was that we stirred coffee in a mug with a metal spoon and then after we finished stirring it, we hit the spoon on the side of the mug repeatedly and the sound made would start really high pitched and then go down in pitch the more we tapped it. The experiments were interesting because they were not the type on things that we would typically do during science, as we were doing things that we may have wondered at home, not part of the



Science Fictions Workshops
By Mike Sykes, Head of English



Our fantastic Year 9 students have been taken part in an exciting link between English and Science hosted by The Bank of Dreams and Nightmares Creative writing group. Students have produced wonderful short stories that are based upon a scientific concept.



These are designed to be delivered to Primary school students who have also had a chance to get a sneak peek at them providing critical feedback. Students from Merriot and Haselbury came to read and review their stories and were crucial critical friends.

Our Year 9s have been listening to talks from physicists and people who work within STEM based industry, watching and taking part in live experiments, discussing creative writing with experts and otherwise getting completely involved in the creative process.



After all this they have produced some fantastic pieces of writing which will be published in a book as part of a collection. Please enjoy a sample of this on the next page.



DR SINISTER'S EVIL PLAN

By Rob Lawson

Walter was trapped. Walter had been trapped by his arch nemesis; Doctor sinister.
"Mwahahahahaha" cackled Doctor sinister. "I have captured you at last!" Walter looked up to see Doctor Sinister's wrinkly bald head shining in the sunlight,
"Screw you Doctor Sinister!" Walter cried as he shook his translucent blue fist.
"There is no way you can wriggle your way out of this one!" Doctor Sinister raised a remote with a large red button from out of his pocket.
"Do you want to know what this button does?" Walter nodded.
"Right now, you are in what I call, the laser cage. How does it work you might be thinking? Well, when I press this button ONE THOUSAND DEGREE LASERS are going to close in on you and burn your horrible, watery body to merely a puddle." Doctor sinister sneered.
The reason Doctor sinister felt this ultimate hatred for Walter was because Walter was born with a strange condition called wateritus, meaning he was made from water. Doctor sinister hated water because as a small boy a huge wave of water washed over him, ruining his ice cream and humiliating him in front of all his friends. From that moment water became a substance that doctor sinister could not tolerate.
As Doctor sinister's wrinkled old finger drew closer to the button a large smile stretched across his face, like a hyena about to pounce on their prey. CLICK! Walter started to panic as the orange beams of Walter's imminent demise edged closer. SSSS! Hissed Walters foot as the first beam reached him. HISSSS! Went the second laser, slicing through his back, Walter started to fizz violently.
"NO, NO, WHY ARENT YOU DYING?" Screamed the doctor. The heat began to get too extreme for Walter, he felt himself evaporating and raising up and out of the laser cage. Dripping down behind the evil doctor.
"You're a fool Doctor sinister!" yelled Walter.
"I turn to steam when made hot and steam reforms as a liquid, your plan is doomed to fail."
Doctor sinister smiled.
"I am no fool, I came with a backup plan!" Doctor sinister aimed his freeze ray at Walter who was behind him. Pow! Went the freeze ray solidifying Walters feet.
"I can't move!" the doctor approached, Walter hatched a plan.
"I have got you now!" the doctor smirked.
When the doctor grew close enough, Walter pushed the doctor backward.
"WHOAAH!" Screamed Doctor sinister while he tumbled into the empty laser cage.
"Take that you evil egghead!" yelled Walter. Walter slid over to the cage to see doctor sinister melting.
"Curse you, Walter!" Doctor sinister shook his fist in fury.

SCIENCE SUMMARY

During the story Walter (who is made out of water) experiences all three different states water can be: solid, liquid, and gas.

Time to think about...

Animal Encounters

Why are cats good pets?

By Isabella-May Royle



Some positives about cats are:

- Cats are independent
- They have low maintenance
- Cats are affordable
- Health benefits
- Cats teach kids useful life lessons
- Protects your property against pests
- Cats make great apartment pets
- They are extremely versatile, loving, friendly and affectionate



Cats also offer:

- companionship
- unconditional love
- entertainment
- affection
- lots of purring
- comfortable silences
- and they're trainable



Why are cats naturally calmer than most dogs?

Cats tend to be more reserved than dogs due to their independent nature and evolutionary history. Unlike dogs, which are pack animals, cats are solitary hunters by nature. They may need more time to trust and form bonds with humans. However, many cats can be affectionate and loyal companions once they feel secure.

Cats have about 140 degrees of binocular vision, while most dogs only have about 30 – 60 degrees. Because of this, dogs are better than cats at catching subtle movements in their peripheral vision, but they are also significantly clumsier when running and jumping about than their notably graceful counterparts.

Why can cats not be a good pet for starters?

Cats are inquisitive. They can knock things over, scratch furniture, climb up curtains and screens, and break objects. Vomiting on carpets and flooring is not uncommon. Pet owner's intolerant of such mishaps may want to choose a different pet.

Barn owl facts

By Amy White



- Despite being the size of a small cat, Barn owls weight only 430-620g.
- They can fly at speeds approximately 10-20mph.
- Life expectancy is an average of 4 years.
- However, 15 years old is the oldest recorded in the wild and can live up to 20 years in captivity.
- They have a fantastic sense of hearing and can hear a mouse's heartbeat from up to 30ft away!
- Baby owls are called owlets.
- Owls see in limited colour or monochrome, although their eyes are very sensitive to light and movement.
- They cannot hunt very well when it rains, as their feathers aren't waterproof.
- Barn owls gain all their liquid from their food, so they rarely need to drink.
- As a result, they cannot go for more than a few days without food.

Turtles & Tortoises

By Emily Salzer



- Turtles are reptiles.
- Turtle wear most of their bones on the outside.
- Leather back turtles have very unusual shell which is like leather/harder.
- Turtles have roamed the ocean for 100 years.
- The difference between a tortoise and a turtle is that a tortoise has a more rounded and domed shell where turtles have thinner, more water-dynamic shells.
- All tortoise ae turtles but no all turtles are tortoises.
- A Group of tortoises is called a "creep"
- A tortoise enters it hard structured shell when it feels in danger.

WHY ARE OCTOPI THE CLOSEST THING WE HAVE TO ALIEN LIFE?

By Chloe Woodbury



Octopi are very intelligent living creatures that scientific testing has shown can figure out puzzles and obstacles with ease.

- They have blue blood
- They squirt ink
- They have eight brains
- They are 90 percent muscles
- If one of there limbs becomes detached the limb can live, move and breath on its own
- If there' s a crack that is bigger than an octopi beak it can get through because the beak of an octopus is the only hard bit of an it the rest is squishy
- They can change the texture of there skin to camouflage in any environment

WADHAM SCHOOL



PRELOVED UNIFORM SHOP

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We are pleased to inform you that we now have a preloved Uniform Shop, where we hope to be able to offer a range of uniform at reduced prices. Please see ipay for prices. These are items that have been preloved but we feel can still be utilised and offer equal accessibility.

All donations of used, no longer wanted uniform would be greatfully received. Please bring to reception.

Please purchase through ipay or by emailing

Uniform@wadhamschool.co.uk

SPORTS, SPORTS, SPORTS

SMASHING THROUGH THE OPPOSITION

By Frankie Rousell



I started playing rugby at 6 for Crewkernes youth team and really enjoyed it. When I got to the age where boys and girls got separated there was no girls team that had enough players for matches, which was my favourite part. Because of that I didn't play for two years. I went to Chard girls' team to try that but didn't like it and so I didn't join the team.

In August of this year I went to Yeovil Rugby Club but couldn't actually do it the first few times as I was too anxious. Eventually I was able to overcome my nerves and get stuck in. As a result, I have met loads of new people and made friends I would never have met if I hadn't joined in.

Since then I have really started to enjoy the game, a favourite part being the contact. In one of the matches I was made captain. This season I have got 'player of the match' a few times but unfortunately due to the lack of girls teams in the area we have had only seven matches.

A highlight of the season has been who've we've graced the field with. This year I've received training from Marlie Parker, the Captain of the Roses, Englands openside flanker, world player of the year in 2023, winner of the six nations four times and two time winner of the world cup.



Alongside her was Rosie Galligan, Englands tight forward. Having their insight has added immensely to my game.



At the end of the season awards I got coaches player of the season and she later commented to my parents that by the way I was playing I'd be put forward for Baths Developing Player Programme or DPP.

Overall I have really enjoyed this season and have improved a lot. Hopefully next season I will be even better. I got trained by international players and coaches and also have trials for a sevens academy coming up.

SPORTS, SPORTS, SPORTS

NO LIMITS

By Thomas Doherty

On the first weekend of half term I competed at the Dwarf Sports Associations National Games in Wolverhampton along with over 200 other athletes of all ages with dwarfism.



On the first evening I did a powerlifting taster session with one of the British paralympic coaches. We started with some warm up exercises and then we took it in turns lifting weights laying on the bench. We had to lift the highest weight we could manage. This was then halved and we had to do as many reps as we could at that weight. I did 38 at 17 kg. It was favorite event of the weekend.

On the first full day we watched the track events and then I took part in some of the throwing events. I did discus and shotput which I got a bronze medal in for my category. In the evening there was a gala dinner and disco where we got to socalise with everyone from the games.

On day 2 it was the team sports. First we did basketball. There was 4 teams and we played rounds with each of them. Next was the indoor hockey (with pucks) again we played against 3 other teams and the team I was in came first and we all got gold medals. We were surprised to see the Ellie Simmonds (Gold medal Paralympic swimmer) was presenting us with the medals.

Day 3 was the swimming competitions (Ellie didn't compete but she did help organize the races). I didn't participate in this but we went along to watch and support the other members from the South West region. In the afternoon it was football. Unfortunately the rain started coming down heavy so the games were moved into the sports hall. I played against 3 other teams and my team managed to get bronze medals.



Last year the South West region won the nationals trophy but this year we handed it over to Wales.

It was a really fun weekend with lots of excitement. It was nice to be around so many other people with dwarfism and felt very inclusive. I looking forward to meeting up again soon with some of the people for DSA South West for a para-badminton training session and going to the games again next year. Some of the people I met will hopefully be competing in the 2024 paralympic games in Paris later in the summer.

WADHAM SCHOOL DOES...

Changing the world!

By Millie Webster

Camps International Trip to Kenya

In the Autumn term of 2023, a group of Year 9 and 10 students signed up for the Camps International trip to Kenya. This once in a lifetime trip will involve volunteering, community development work, safari, scuba diving and lots more. We are looking forward to experiencing a new culture which will give us a different perspective on life and can teach us about life in Africa. We shall be leaving for this 28 day trip at the end of July and returning in the middle of August 2025.

An important part of this expedition is fundraising and in school we have collectively raised money through bake sales at different school events and parents' evenings. We have also fundraised as smaller groups by having stalls at community events and clay pigeon shooting. In the future, we are hoping to do some more group events, keep your eye out for a quiz next term.

We have also been fundraising independently and tried many different things to raise money from hosting quiz and curry nights, running chocolate tombolas, pet and babysitting, and selling things we have made, from chopping boards and dog treat to sweet cones and cookie jars.





We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all the students, parents and staff who have supported us on our fundraising journey so far. We appreciate your support and hope you have enjoyed the cakes!

Next year, we hope to continue our bake sales at school events and during non-uniform days. We would also love to see lots of faces at our quiz in September. And if you (or your parents) have a workplace or business that would be happy to host a bake sale or sponsor us, please get in touch via Mr Isack. Any fundraising suggestions would be amazing too!

Thank you everyone and have a good summer!

Camp Kenya Students

INTERVIEW

GATHER ROUND AND I'LL TELL YOU A TALE - EXPLORING THE PAST WITH ANDREW CHATER

Foreword by Peter Hopwood and interview by Izaak Gregory

Writer, producer, director and presenter of historical documentaries are all titles which Andrew Chater can claim. Creator of Timelines TV, a historical online resource for British schools, his work has enthralled and inspired school students across the globe. A man who opens the past to those in the present, Izaak Gregory caught up with him to discuss the hows, whys and wherefores of his life.



1. What does your daily routine look like?

I'm lucky; my life is very varied. Home is in Dorset, but I spend a lot of time in America, filming and lecturing. I teach History and Literature at the University of Southern California, which is in Los Angeles.

And I take students on trips to places like New Orleans, exploring literature on location - we call it 'bookpacking'. And then I have filming commitments, which also involves travel, mostly in the USA. So there's no real routine; life is a real adventure.

2. What were you like at school?

For a long time I really didn't like school at all. At my school if you weren't sporty you just kept your head down and tried to get by without being noticed. But then when I was about 16 I discovered drama. Theatre gave me a voice, and I really grew into myself.

And then I realized that all the sporty kids were just like me, really - just trying to survive our teenage years. And the barriers between us all started to break down, and life got a lot more bearable. I think by the end I rather enjoyed school, although I'm surprised to hear myself say that!

3. What were your most and least favourite subject at school? Why?

English was always my favourite subject. I've always loved reading, and English offered an escape. I remember reading 'Lord of the Flies' and classics like 'David Copperfield'. I don't remember disliking any particular subjects, although I knew the sciences were never really going to be my thing. Maths was fine until it suddenly got all abstract and weird! I'm full of admiration for people who can get their heads around science and maths.

4. How did you get started in both history and filmmaking?



I studied history at University, but I didn't know what I wanted to do afterwards. I got a job in TV as a 'runner'.

And then I was really lucky and got onto a BBC training course, and then I started working for a BBC producer who made history programmes for schools, and when she got promoted, I got her job.

In the years that followed I made series about so many different historical periods, from the Medieval World to the Nazis to the American West - and it was just the best job in the world. I love history, I love filmmaking, I love storytelling. I'm just really lucky to have fallen into something that inspires me so much.

5. What advice would you give to young people who want a media career in the future?

Start making films! You have in your pocket a piece of kit (your smartphone) which can shoot and edit material to a higher resolution than the broadcast cameras we were using when I was working at the BBC. So choose a subject - something about which you feel passionate - and start documenting that passion. Start filming!

6. What would you say are your greatest strengths and weaknesses?

I think I'm a good storyteller. As a film-maker and as a University lecturer, that's the basis of what I do - I tell stories. And I can be really passionate about the stories I tell, which I think is a good thing. In terms of weaknesses, I think maybe I can be too controlling. I'm too used to doing things my way; I need to be a better team player.

7. What period of history do you find the most interesting, that you've studied?

That's hard! I'm fascinated by so many different periods of history. But I think maybe the period that inspires me most is the latter few decades of the 19th century. In Britain and America, 1860-1900 were years of amazing re-invention. In tech, in social structures - we were busy inventing the modern world. Heaven knows, we got a lot wrong - especially in our relationship with the rest of the world - but it was a time of amazing potential and possibility.



8. What fascinates you about history in general?

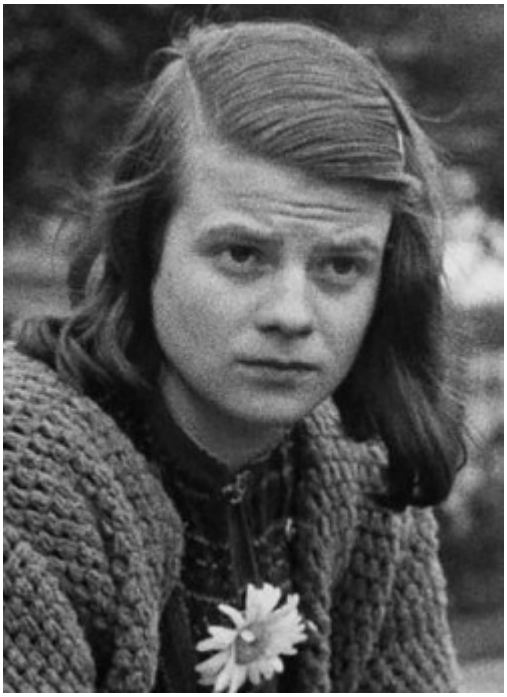
People, and the mistakes we make, and the things we achieve in despite of everything.
Did you ever consider an alternative career? If so what do you think you'd have ended up doing?



At one stage I thought about being a lawyer. I have a romantic image of myself standing in a courtroom, making clever arguments and proving my client's innocence.

9. What makes 'Timelines' your favourite series to have presented?

We had an amazing brief with 'Timelines'. The BBC asked me to unpack the whole history of Britain, from the Norman Conquest to the modern age. That's a really ambitious brief! And I had the freedom to present it myself, so rather than striving for objectivity, I could tell the story as I understood it, stressing what I found to be interesting. And for three years we traveled across the UK, filming in castles and cathedrals and factories and docks. I had the opportunity to unpack everything I find fascinating and wonderful about British history and society. And fifteen years later, that series is still being used in classrooms across the UK. That's so humbling! I'll always be grateful that I had the opportunity to make that series.



What do you consider the most essential moment/period in your studied history?
Without doubt, the 1930s. In that decade people were forced to make essential choices. Some chose fascism, and some chose to fight against fascism. Those choices feel very real again right now, especially in America.

10. Which historical figure do you consider the most influential in todays society?

I'd like to offer up a quiet hero. She might not be 'the most influential', but she teaches us that it's possible to take little steps against evil. Her name was Sophie Scholl, and she was executed by the Nazis for speaking out against the regime. She was just an ordinary student, a teenager. But she could see the evil around her and refused to stand by. That took incredible courage. Good triumphs in despite of everything, because of people like Sophie Scholl.

11. Which of your documentaries have you found the most enjoyable to create?

That's difficult to answer. I've had such fun making so many different documentaries. One particularly memorable shoot was in Morocco. We were shooting a drama set in Biblical times, and the desert landscapes all around us were so beautiful. I remember thinking, how lucky am I to have my job!

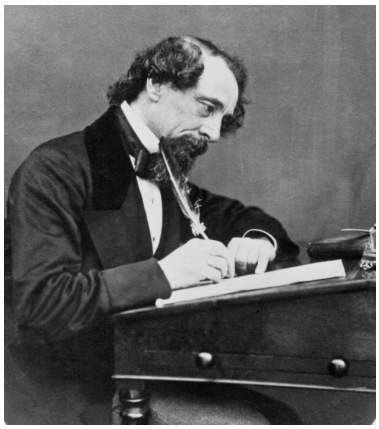
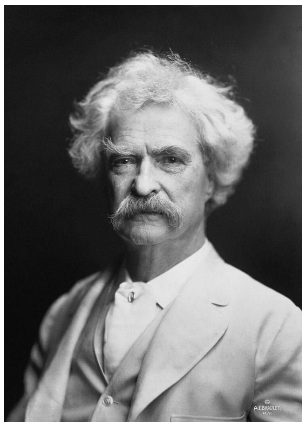
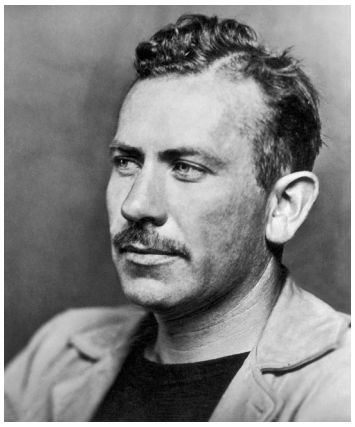
12. Alternatively, which have you found the most challenging to create?

Sometimes, I've made historical dramas without the necessary budget - and that's hard! Once I had to shoot scenes set in a Soviet prison camp, but for budget reasons we had to find locations in central London. It was the middle of summer, and the gulag was meant to be in the frozen wastes of Siberia. We had fake snow on the ground, and the extras were all wearing these heavy Russian coats and hats and gloves - they were almost fainting from heat exhaustion, poor things! But it all looked OK on camera.

13. What are your plans for the future?

We're about to embark on a US version of Timelines, making videos covering American history from the first colonies to the present day. It's a really ambitious brief, and it's going to take up my every spare moment for the next few years. I can't wait to get started.

14. If you could have a dinner party and invite any 4 people from history who would be on the guest list and why?

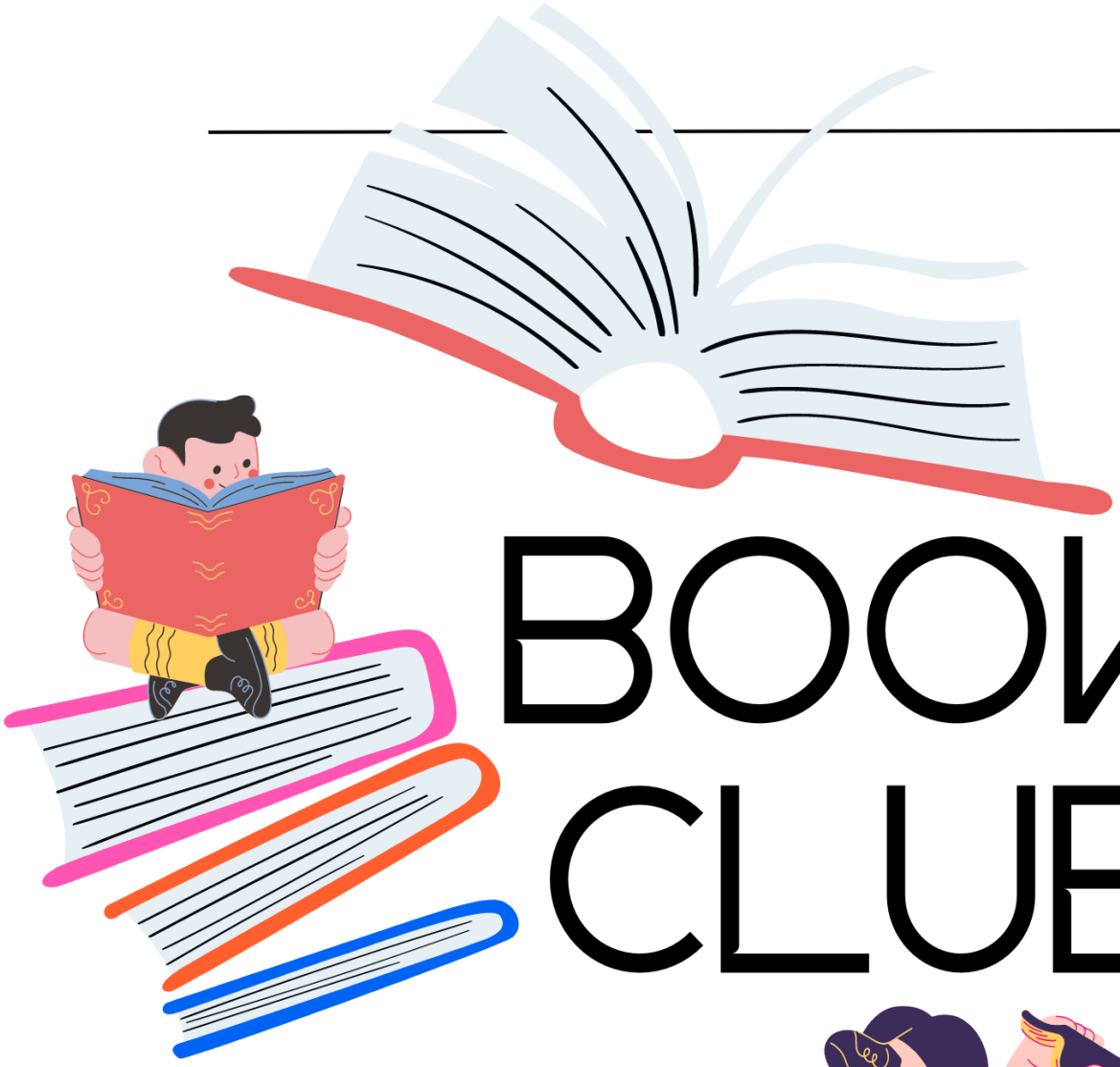

I'm absolutely going to invite Charles Dickens, because I love Dickens' books - they are full of humour and wisdom and compassion.

I might also invite Mark Twain, who's like an American version of Dickens. To hear the two of them talk together would be amazing.

And from the 20th century I want two more American authors, John Steinbeck and Toni Morrison. I would just sit very quietly and let the conversation flow.

15. What 5 words describe 'Andrew Chater'?

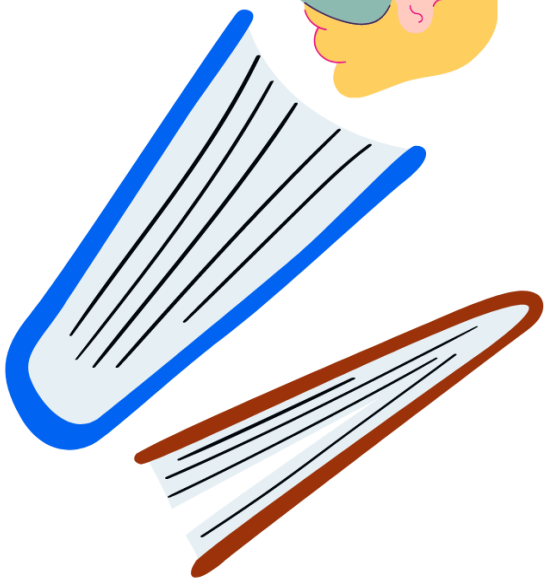
Educator, storyteller, husband, father, friend.



BOOK CLUB



MONDAY
LUNCH BREAK IN THE LIBRARY



YEARS 7 & 8

Wadham School Gets Creative

Enjoy this artwork by Year 10 student Vivian Dawkins









WADHAM SCHOOL DOES...



By Wyatt Plant

Planting a flower bed

Today in Outdoor Learning we planted in the flower bed outside the main hall and here are the steps we did:

1) We took a before picture
2) Next we weeded the flower beds
3) Then we added new soil
4) We added new plants and watered them
5) Finally we tooked an after picture!

















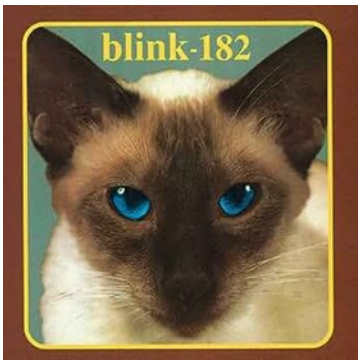
LET'S MAKE SOME NOISE!



By Alfie Cox

In honour of blink-182's newest album and reunion with one more time, I have done a quick review of each album. Keep in mind I am a huge blink 182 fan so my opinion might be either swayed or a little harsh. I have listened to all of these albums at least 3 times.

Between 1992-1998 (different drummer) and 2016-2019 (different guitarist), blink 182 had a different lineup to the iconic and best one of Travis Barker (drums), Mark Hoppus(bass/vocals) and Tom Delonge (guitar/vocals)



CHESHIRE CAT, 1994, 7.5/10

Cheshire in my opinion is extremely underrated, with classic songs like M+M's and personal favourites like *wasting time*, (which is a criminally underrated song) and *fentoozler* forgotten about in favour of other songs. Cheshire cat is slightly weighed down by some meh joke songs but is mostly great.



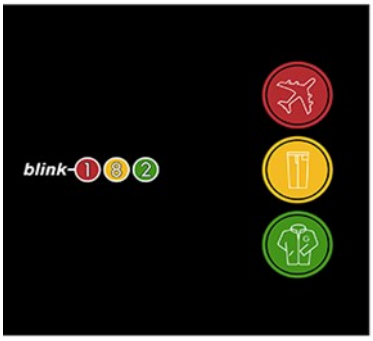
DUDE RANCH, 1997, 8/10

While I originally preferred cheshire cat over dude ranch, after relistening, I discovered how incredible certain songs on dude ranch are. Standouts include *Dammit* and *Untitled*. Dude ranch mainly suffers from the same issues as Cheshire and just has slightly higher highs.



ENEMA OF THE STATE, 1999, 10/10.

The most iconic and one of the best blink 182 albums, This album is just incredible, with no bad songs, a 10/10 is deserved. This album is just perfect on every song and skyrocketed the band to fame. Every single song is incredible.



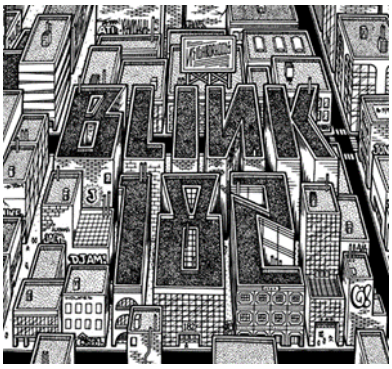
TAKE OFF YOUR PANTS AND JACKET, 2001, 10/10

This album essentially serves as an equal and possibly better, more polished and slightly edgier sequel to Enema of the state. Like its predecessor, every song is perfect and absolutely incredible..



BLINK-182, 2003, 9.99/10

While the self-titled album has some of the best songs, with its best tracks being some of the overall best songs blink 182 have ever released and making up most of the album. The album is however slightly weighed down by a mediocre feature from Robert smith of the cure, and some odd interludes that seem out of place. Overall self-titled is still mostly perfect and would be the best album if not for certain features. It's more mature and darker tone make it very sad in some parts, but incredible lyrically and musically.



NEIGHBOURHOODS, 2011, 9.9/10

While not entirely perfect, The good songs on neighborhoods are my favorite songs ever, not just my favorite blink songs. *Natives* is my favorite song of all time, closely followed by *Ghost on the dance floor*, *even if she falls*, *MH 4.18.2011*, *after midnight* and many more.



CALIFORNIA, 2016 6.5/10

While California is in every way superior to nine, it still fails to capture the blink 182 magic, and the lack of Tom is very evident in the quality. On the positive side, California recaptures the sound of Enema of the state that hasn't been heard since 1999, with amazing songs like bored to death and she's out of her mind. Being the album's highlights.



NINE, 2019, 3.5/10

The only way I can really describe Nine is, pretty repetitive and bland. It's a huge step back from California ,with the same guitar riff used about 13 times. Out of the 15 songs on the album, I only really enjoyed a pair of songs which I think are diamonds in the rough. These songs are *I really wish I hated you* and *heaven*.



ONE MORE TIME, 2023, 10/10

an INCREDIBLE return, One more time completely revives blink, with the return of Tom and a perfect track list full of emotionally mature and nostalgic songs, one more time is the ultimate modern blink 182 album, and one of the best ever.

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A WADHAM SCHOOL STUDENT PUBLICATION

THE QUILL

MOVIE REVIEWS

Book to Film/ TV show adaptations

The good, the bad and utterly ridiculous!!

By Edith Pattisson

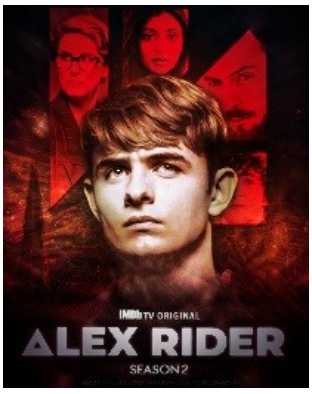


ALEX RIDER Book 1-Stormbreaker- This book was adapted into a film in 2006 and it stars Bill Nighy (as Alan Blunt) Ewan McGregor (as Ian Rider) Alex Pettyfer (Alex Rider) Damian Lewis (as Yassen Gregorovich) and many more. This film follows the story of Alex as he tries to overcome the grief of his uncle's (Ian Rider) death.

Alex is recruited by MI6 special operations to go on a mission only a young 14-year-old boy could do, without being suspicious. To prepare for his mission, Alex has to undergo training with the SAS and go to see the MI6 gadget master, Smithers (Stephen Fry). As Alex finds out, the philanthropic billionaire, Herod Sayle, is not what he seems. In this adventure Alex faces giant jellyfish, contract killers, chemical computers and much, much more.



ALEX RIDER These books in the series were all adapted into a TV series, exclusively on Prime Video, in the years 2020, 2021 and 2023. The series star: Otto Farrant (Alex Rider), Marli Siu (Kyra Veshenko-Chao), Brenock O'Connor (Tom Harris), Vicky McClure (Mrs Jones), Thomas Levin (Yassen Gregorovich) and Howard Charles (Wolf).



ALEX RIDER Book 2-Point Blanc- The first series follows the second book (Point Blanc) with a little bit of the first book woven in for those who did not know the story (the death of Ian Rider, being recruited etc.) In this series Alex has to go to a secret school for rich troubled teenagers in the French alps, called Point Blanc, on a surveillance mission.

But things go a bit wrong when Alex finds out what is going on at the school and that he has to get out before it's too late. This series is 100% binge able and with only 8, 45-minute episodes, you could watch the whole series in just 6 hours!!!! The series contains action packed sequences of, snowboarding, climbing, fighting and, of course, running away from people.

ALEX RIDER Book 4-Eagle Strike- Series two was adapted from book four (Eagle Strike) and follows Alex as he overcomes his PTSD and visions of Yassen Gregorovich and tries to continue with normal school life. Of course, he can't and on a seemingly normal surfing holiday to Cornwall, things go wrong, and Alex is thrown back into the world of spying.

But he can't find the people who can help him on his way. He tracks them down and despite his best efforts, they don't believe him. So, he has to go it alone with only his friends: Jack

MOVIE REVIEWS

(Ronke Adekoluejo), Tom (Brenock O'Connor) and Kyra (Marli Siu), to help him. Can Alex stop a huge nuclear war? or does he have to face the consequences of getting in the middle of things?

ALEX RIDER Book 5-Scorpia- The final series is based on the fifth book (Scorpia). This series follows Alex as he questions where his loyalties lie. After a brief conversation with the contract killer, Yassen Gregorovich (Thomas Levin), at the end of his last mission, Alex feels the need to try and find the woman known only to him and his friends as: The Widow. Little do they know that by doing this, Alex is putting himself right in the firing line for a terrorist operation, known as "Invisible Sword". Can Alex fin his way back to those who care for him? or will he get consumed by the lies and corruption that the terrorists are feeding him as the truth of his, and his deceased father's, past.



I would 100% recommend both the books and the adaptations for this series.

HARRY POTTER-

Harry Potter is one of the most well-known books to film adaptations in history and the most successful franchise worldwide. The seven book and eight film series started in 1991 when the first book, the philosophers stone, by JK Rowling was first published.

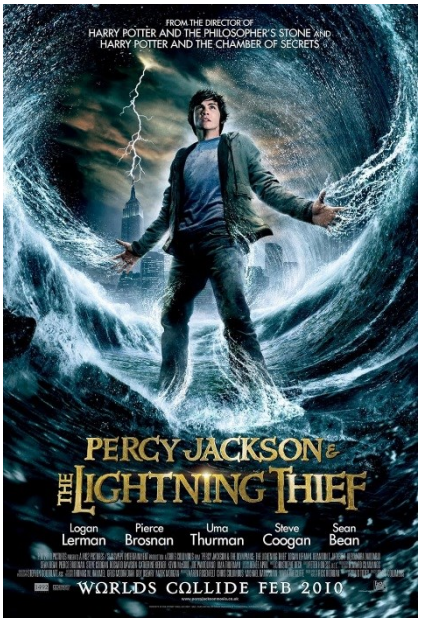
Fans of the series waited ten years for the first film to be released in 2001 staring Danial Radcliffe, Rupert Grint, Emma Watson as the golden trio. Most people will have either heard of, watched or read Harry Potter. My mum first read the books when they first came out, but my dad, who has never been much of a reader, read them on honeymoon in 2000 and was hooked. They then watched the first film in the cinema in 2001, to this day, my dad still describes it as the most amazing thing, and some of the best casting he'd ever seen. Although some may get nit picky about some of it but overall, the series has been transformed amazingly, JK Rowling herself described the adaptations as "magical".



For any who have not seen or read this franchise I would 100% recommend and a piece of advice, read the books before watching the films as you may miss some of the best parts in the series, those who know, know!

MOVIE REVIEWS

PERCY JACKSON-



Percy Jackson is a very popular book series with there being two film adaptations in 2010 and 2013, staring Logan Lerman, Alexandra Daddario, Brandon T. Jackson and Pierce Brosnan, and more recently, and much more popular, the Disney plus series that came out last year, staring Walker Scobell, Aryan Simhadri, Leah Sava-Jeffries, Charlie Bushnell and Dior Goodjohn.

The Author of the Percy Jackson series, Rick Rioden, has never seen the film adaptations as he was so disappointed by the script, he describes the as his "life's work going through a meat grinder". Rick Rioden and his wife are executive producers for the new series and were both heavily involved in casting and even let the twelve-year-old actor Walker Scobell (who is now 15) know first hand -via zoom- that he got the part.

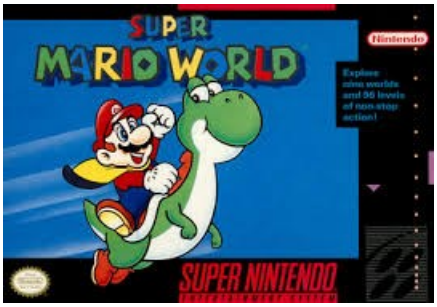


The second series will commence filming in August of this year and should be finished in February. The first series follows the first book, the lightning thief, as Percy discovers that he is a demi-god, the son of a Greek god, and has to try and find his way through this new world to try and clear his name of stealing Zeus' master bolt along with saving his mum. His two friends Annabeth, daughter of Athena, and Grover, a satyr.

I would definitely recommend this series to those who really want to escape.



Super Mario World
By Luke Pearce



Super Mario world is the 4th instalment of the Mario franchise and the title game of the SNES.



It introduces us to many new enemies and the first appearance of the beloved Yoshi who would appear in many later games and is still very popular to this day. This game isn't based in the mushroom kingdom and is instead in dinosaur land where the king of Koopas Bowser has trapped the Yoshi's in eggs and kidnapped the princess. Mario has to go to the 8 areas in dinosaur land and free all of the yoshis.

Each world will have a koopaling boss apart from world 8 which is Bowser. The game is lots of fun to play and each level is unique and it is very hard to get bored. The bosses are also different and have unique plays stiles. Once you have beaten a boss a cutscene of Mario destroying the castle will play and they are actually quite funny and after some writing will come down explaining what happened.

The ghost houses are also fun but also really challenging. Yoshi isn't aloud inside the ghost houses or the castles so he will wait for you outside. Inside some levels you will find some keys and keyholes. Once you put the key in the keyhole you will unlock a secret area usually leading to a giant switch unlocking one of the coloured blocks that can help you through your journey.

This game also introduces us to the new item the cape feather which allows Mario to fly into the air once ran fast enough. It can also slow down his fall. This is the only game to ever include this item apart from Super Mario advance 3 and Mario kart. It's a shame because its really fun once you've got the hang of it. Once you've beaten the game you unlock star road which is 8 difficult courses to end the game on. There are different colour Yoshi's which have special abilities. Also when Yoshi eats certain colour shell he gains abilities which he can only use once. This game was actually announced before Super Mario Bros 3 released in a Nintendo power magazine.



Overall I give this game 4.5 out of 5.





Chivalry 2

By Jacob Prouse



Developers: Torn banner studios

Description: chivalry 2 is a 2021 multiplayer first person medieval slasher inspired by epic movie battles. The player is thrown into the action of every iconic moment of the era; from clashing swords to storms of flaming arrows, to sprawling castle sieges and more this game never disappoints the average gamer. It requires teamwork skill and game knowledge to be a good player and conker the battle

Platforms: chivalry 2 supports Xbox new and old gen and the same with PlayStation it's also available on Microsoft windows.

My opinion: I think this game has very appealing graphics and the playstyle is one of a kind.

Levelling up system: As you play you won't just get better; you'll also get different equipment to slay your enemies. It doesn't take long to level up so you will be satisfied with the number of weapons you already have.

Classes: there are four classes for you to choose archer, vanguard, footman and knight. Archer takes you through a journey of precision timing and awareness as you draw your bow or pull the trigger on a crossbow; range to your enemy is key if you want to stay sneaky, but don't worry every archer comes with a close-range weapon.



Vanguard is my favourite because there all about charging to the enemy and giving them a devastating blow. They usually have heavy weapons like two handed axes or swords, and they do a lot of damage especially on heavy attacks.



Footman is a balance between defence and offence coming with shields, spears, swords, axes and many more. I use this often.

Knight is like an officer or commander wielding shields swords and many more they are the king of the battlefield leading hundreds of people.

Subway Surfer

By Theresa Siju



Subway Surfers is an endless runner mobile game which is co-developed by Kiloo and SYBO Games, private companies based in Denmark.

It is available on Android, iOS, Harmony OS, Amazon Fire Tablet, and Windows Phone platforms and Subway Surfers is a single player mobile gaming app and website developed by Kiloo.

The aim of the game is to outrun a train inspector while dodging oncoming trains, barriers and other objects. Collecting coins on the way gives players advantages such as hover boards and increased high scores. These coins can be also be used to buy power-ups and unlock new characters.

The game also features weekly challenges which give players the chance to earn more rewards. Well in favour of Subway Surfers, its Beneficial, because it can reduce your excess stress and can be useful in improving your response time.

I would recommend this game to other players because it can reduce you stress. Subway Surfers looks and sounds great, but it does not add anything new to the endless running genre. It's fun to play, but it feels a little too much like games that have come before.

Subway Surfers never jumps the tracks, but it never goes off the rails either.

Roblox

By Poppy Green



Roblox is a game where you can play a wide variety of games. It is a platform where you can choose what type of game you want to play whether it's a fantasy game, car game or a building game or much more. What is good about the game is that you can choose the type of game you play and that there is thousands of options to choose from.

You can communicate with lots of people and have fun with them. If someone says something bad you can report them straight away while playing the game and Roblox will ban them depending on what they have done.

Roblox is different from a lot of games because on most games it is normally just on the same thing but on Roblox it focuses on everything. You can also customize your character which will be you will playing games and if you feel like changing it you can just go and change it in the customizer.

On Roblox there is an in game currency called robux which you can buy. Robux can get you lots of outfits (that you choose) and game passes in the games you like to play. You can do all these fun stuff on Roblox and guess what….it's free!!! Overall I would give the game 5 stars.



The Carnegies was established in 1936, a British literary award that takes place every year. Book discussions and other activities take place throughout this, where we complete tasks and activities set by the authors of the nominated books.

An example would be the poems we wrote that related back to topics covered in these books, or the actual book titles themselves. We gathered occasionally to discuss our own preferences, and what we liked and disliked in each of the books. We got to vote on our favourites, and completed several tasks, mainly relating back to our chosen book.

Another example of this would be the character planning that was a challenge set by Hiba Noor Khan (author of Safiyyah's War). An example of this would be the questions we were asked about the characters starting with generic ones, like the characters name and age. Ending with more obscure questions like what shoes they wear and how they would react in certain situations.

Each book was unique and detailed differently, and included equally as important, stories. Unfortunately, only two could win an award, and only one could take the Judge's vote.

In the end, Crossing the Line (written by Tia Fisher) won the student vote, while The Boy Lost in the Maze (written by Joseph Coelho) won the Judge's choice. These books undoubtedly deserved their win, just as much as those that didn't win, deserved their nomination.

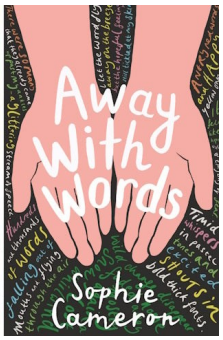
Judging by the group of pupils who participated, the artic jellyfish was hopeful in our minds. However, it unfortunately didn't win (this was an award for illustrations over writing).

What's worth a read?

Away With Words – by Sophie Cameron

By Lily Obern



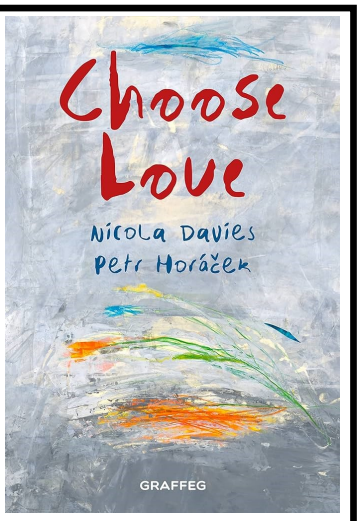


There is this young girl named Gala who comes from Spain and speaks Spanish and Catalan and moves to Scotland with her dad, at first she doesn't like it and wants to go back home. Eventually she meets this girl called Natalie and she is a selective mute. They become good friends and start collecting words that other people have spoken together. They find their own way to communicate and Gala finally settles down until someone changes it all for them.

My opinion is that it's an interesting book. It was not what I expected it to be and it is amazingly easy to read. The way the author describes the words makes it seem like the word has its own mood sort of. The way the pages are decorated with words that Gala doesn't understand and how they just fall to the bottom of the page is really interesting. All of the ways that colours and fonts describe the words makes the reader understand the way the characters feel more. Overall: the book was really good, not usually what I read but it was

Choose love — Nicola Davies and Peter Horacek

By Eszter Kozari



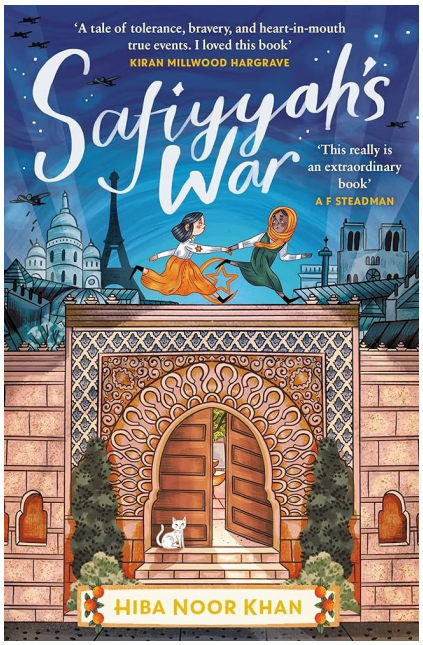
Choose love is a poetry book which tells the stories of many refugees that had to leave their countries because of terrible wars and extreme crisis. The poems convey all emotions of the people through their journey in a heartfelt way. To accompany these stories, there are abstract artworks that show the same story in a creative way and in the same way they carry deep emotion.

Choose love tells the story of millions of people in quite interesting way for me personally. Instead of a long soul crushing story, we as the reader get presented this in the form of heartfelt poetry just as rich in emotion as a normal story would also be. As I am not a major fan of poetry, I was pleasantly surprised by how well the message was put out there. However, there is certainly some weight to go with this story, while reading these poems there is that thought lingering in the back of your mind that these are stories of real people. However, this helps us connect with these people and allows us to see the world through a different lens of hope and fear.

I would give this book a 5-star review, it was a nice mixture of emotions of joy and hardships. It was interesting seeing stories be told through this kind of medium, and I highly recommend it to others whom are interested in such storytelling and abstract art being used for symbolism. Audience wise, this book is for a more mature audience, this is not because of the contents of the book it is because it may be a bit difficult for a younger audience to understand this way of conveying a message. However, as I have previously stated if you are interested, I highly recommend it and I can grantee you will wish to read it again!

What's worth a read?

Safiyyah's War — by Hiba Noor Khan



By Lily Madgin

It has been really interesting because it is like a different take on how books to do with World War II are written. This book is about a Muslim girl living in Paris as the Germans bomb and invade the capitol city. This is interesting because most books about this time are written in the perspective of a Jew or a normal atheist or Christian civilian living through the war.

It is really engaging to read something from the perspective of someone of a different religion to these live through the war with their customs and ways of life being interrupted differently to others around them. Safiyyah enjoys reading and maps and finds herself in the library quite a lot.

I feel like this could be relatable to the audience reading this book as they can also find themselves engrossed in books and pouring over maps often. She seems to be able to make friends with most people she comes across, and has some people who, back then, could be considered outcasts and not worthy of the average person's trust or respect such as Monsieur Cassin and Timothée.

She has a very loving family, and she had a really good relationship with her father, helping him with running the Mosque, but now he has become distant from Safiyyah and locks himself in his office and sneaks around the Mosque apartments at night. I feel that the book has lots of different storylines that Safiyyah explores throughout the book.

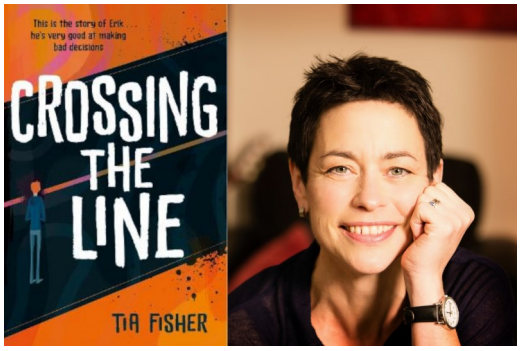
I really like this style of book where the character has lots of things going on at once; it makes the reader want to come back and read more! She has an interesting relationship with her grandma, Setti, who teaches her everything but unfortunately passes towards the end of the book. Her dad ends up sneaking Jews into the safety of the mosque and taking them through the Paris catacombs and tunnels to get them shipped to a safer are.

My only dislike about this book is how rushed the ending is, there is also little to no context about what happens after in the epilogue, and everything seemed rushed compared to the pace of the rest of the book.

4.5/5 stars :)

What's worth a read?

Crossing The Line — Tia Fisher



By Alfie Cox

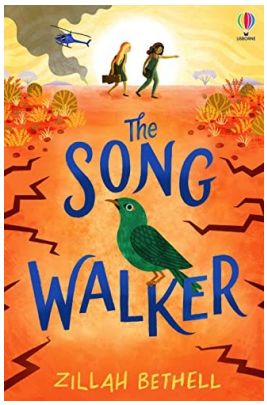
Crossing The Line is a book written by Tia Fisher, and it has been nominated for the Carnegies Medal for good reason. It tells the story of Erik , who is 'very good at making bad decisions.' He gets caught up in County lines and drug Trafficking after a series of unfortunate events including his father's death, and his stepdad leaving his mum with two babies.

Tia Fisher uses text placement creatively to show the scene, Tone or atmosphere.
The verse is often arranged to reflect the tone or atmosphere of the text such as boxes when Erik is talking about compartmentalizing his thoughts.

Crossing the line is one of the only pieces of media to bring County lines and child drug trafficking to a greater public awareness in a more creative light rather than a rare documentary that even then is hard to find.

It handles its subject matter very well and is very impressive for doing so.
Generally, I don't tend to like books written in verse/prose, but I think it works here.
I think Crossing the Line is a very innovative and a great novel.

The Song Walker — By Zillah Bethel



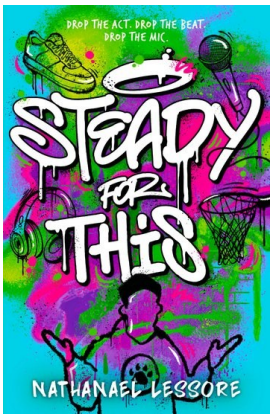
By Emily Wood

The Song Walker is about a young girl, lost in the unforgiving desert. She doesn't know where she is or how she got there, in fact, she doesn't even remember her own name. Then she is found by another young girl named Tarni, who is on her own mysterious quest. The girls decide to team up and so begins a wild adventure in The Outback.

I enjoyed reading the journey of the characters in The Song Walker, they were all very endearing, detailed characters; it was hard not to fall in love. The twists throughout the book were unexpected and absorbing, and the end tied everything together neatly.

Four out of five stars.

Steady For This — By Nathanael Lessore



By Emily Wood

Steady For This is about a boy called Shaun, struggling with the problems a normal teenage boy faces daily.

However, when a particularly embarrassing Livestream goes viral, he and his friend, Shanks, face many challenges. Especially when it's looking increasingly likely that he might lose his house.

Steady For This is an interesting read, it conveys the personality of its spunky protagonist through the erratic writing style. It is a compelling, humorous read.

Four out of five stars.

Doing Wadham Proud, Former students changing the world



By Peter Hopwood

Name - Evie Sibley and Kiah Willson Male

1) What years were you at Wadham?

Evie—I attended Wadham from 2010 - 2013.

Kiah—I attended Wadham from 2010 to 2013.



2) What memories do you have of Wadham?

Evie—I fondly remember our lunchtimes the most; my friends and I would often hang around the art block or in the library, I think it's fair to say we sometimes caused chaos but they're some of my fondest memories. Aside from that, I have fond memories of making new friends.

Kiah—I remember my time at Wadham with mixed feeling. I enjoyed my time at Wadham, especially when I was in the more creative class. However I do also remember approaching my GCSEs with apprehension, especially my English GCSEs as essay writing was never my strong suit.



3) Who was your tutor?

Evie—My tutor for a while was Ms Parker and then, closer to my GCSE's I had Dr James as my tutor.

Kiah—My tutor was Mrs Parker for the full 3 years.



4) What subjects did you enjoy the most at Wadham and why?

Evie—I definitely enjoyed English the most, I think a lot of that comes down to having Mr Hobhouse as a teacher but also, I've always enjoyed reading and writing (still do), so for me, English was always enjoyable! I also enjoyed art a lot, I have always been interested in different art formats and it was exciting to explore those further.

Kiah—I really enjoyed my Music and food tech classes as I was able to be creative. My music classes allowed me to build on my skills as a pianist and bassist and start to learn how to play with other musicians. In my food tech class, I was able develop my cooking techniques and experiment with new recipes and flavours.

5) What did you decide to do post 16 and why?

Evie—I went to Yeovil College and did a BTEC in Media Studies. I chose this as I wanted to experience education outside of a 'school' setting. I always enjoyed films and TV shows and this was an exciting opportunity to understand how they are made.

Kiah—I left Wadham at 16 and went to Yeovil College to continue my education. I studied Music and got a triple distinction in my BTECH. We covered almost all aspects of music from writing and performing, to studio recording and live sound. We also focused on music theory and I took and passed my grade 5 music theory during my time at college. I enjoyed my time at college, not only did I develop my skill as a performer, but I also grew in confidence of my abilities as a musician and as a person.

6) What did you do after you left Wadham?



Evie—I went to college, studied there until the end of my course and immediately after that I went into working full time as a supervisor for Saltrock; since my job at Saltrock, I worked at Claire's as a supervisor and then moved onto working in more admin-focused roles, I prefer the office environment to retail. I worked at Bradford Building Supplies and then moved into my role as a buying assistant at Toolstream in February 2019, where I found my passion for a career within buying.

I met my now husband in 2019, we moved out together to our first home, in Misterton just before covid hit in 2020! We now share the home with two cats, much to my husband's dismay sometimes.

We got married in November 2023 and I now (officially) have a ten year old step-daughter, who means the world to me.

Kiah—From college I went onto study music production at Leeds Beckett University, where I graduated with a 2:1 BA Hons. My favorite parts of this course were the studio modules and my live sound modules. I enjoyed the studio modules as I was able to take a musicians ideas and turn them into fully developed songs.

During this time I also worked to support my studies. I main worked in a pub but would also pick up work at festivals and local events in Leeds as a sound engineer. As a sound engineer I would normally help load in and set up all audio equipment before the event started and then would be behind the mixing desk during the event.

7) What job do you do now?

Evie—I am a buying / trading assistant at Screwfix and I get to work with my childhood best friend, Kiah who also works as a buying assistant for a different category!

Kiah—When I finished university I continued to work in live events in and around Leeds until the Covid 19 pandemic. Due to the pandemic I was unable to work. I moved back to somerset to be closer to family. I started looking for work during the pandemic and applied for a job at Screwfix as a Customer Service Advisor.

I worked on the phones helping customers with all query's from, how does a product work to what has happened with their delivery. Since then I have worked my way up to my current role as a Trading Assistant for Screws, Fixings, Ironmongery and Security. It is a faced pace work environment which I really enjoy and I have come also full circle as I work with my best friend from Wadham Evie Sibley.

8) How has your time at Wadham helped you?

Evie—I think Wadham helped me and taught me the importance of being myself and remaining true to that at all times.

Kiah—Wadham help me pass my GCSEs without which I do not think I would have got onto college as easily and probably would not have gone to university.

9) How would you describe Wadham School in 5 words?

Evie—A place of fond memories

Kiah—I would sum my time up at Wadham as engaging, challenging, encouraging, interactive, and fun.









...to everyone who has helped put this edition of *The Quill* together.

MJ Jones - Ellie Johnson - Grace Long - Emre Tunc - Eszter Kozari
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Tom Doherty - Millie Webster - Izaak Gregory - Vivian Dawkins
Wyatt Plant - Alfie Cox - Edith Pattisson - Luke Pearce
Jacob Prouse - Theresa Siju - Poppy Green - Lily Obern
Alfie Cox - Emily Wood

***The Quill* is a magazine for Wadham students and is open to anyone. We want writers, artists, reporters, photographers, reviewers, critics, etc from all across the school.**

If you'd like to get involved in our next edition please speak to Mr Hopwood via teams or in B23 at break & lunch or via email on Phopwood@wadhamschool.co.uk