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Season of Change | Tarporley Sixth Form

Has COVID Killed the Economy?

The Evolution of the John Lewis Advert

The Forgotten Freshers

Depths of the Black Mirror





Editor's Note



After the first TERM meeting in February 2021, which took place on Teams, looking at the blank screens, the glitching faces, and being cursed with bad internet connection, the journey of being TERM's seventh Editor began with a rocky start.

However, over the last ten months, the whole publication has flourished. Everyone has been so eager in the process of creating this edition, and I strongly believe the content from everyone involved will only excel in 2022 when the new Year 12 team take charge. Every individual, whatever the contribution, the work presented has been awe-inspiring. I once again believe TERM has been able to allow anyone and everyone to express their artistic flare whether that is through writing, photography, or art.

The past couple of years has been difficult for everyone, creating, 'Life on Pause', as well as this term's edition 'Season of Change', has placed light on a time of uncertainty for so many of us. As Editor I couldn't be prouder of what we have achieved, from receiving five commendations at the Shine Awards to gaining friendships and true confidence to continue striving for excellence, I believe together, as a team, TERM has been able to become what we all hoped, a community.

I hope you all love this term's edition, just as much as we enjoyed creating it!



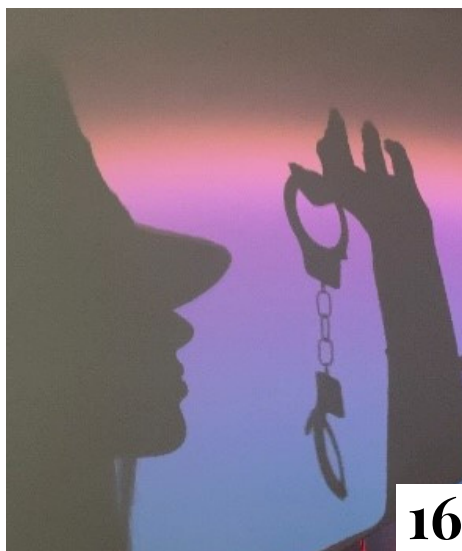
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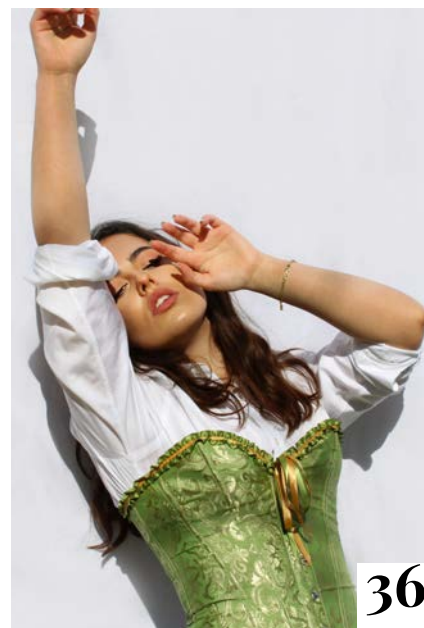
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'SHINE' AND THE CITY

By Millie Appleby

On the 27th September, Meg, Beth and I were lucky enough to attend the Shine Awards 2021 alongside Mrs McMillan. Arriving at Crewe train station the anticipation was high, after months of perfecting TERM's first 2021 edition 'Life on Pause', it was finally the time for us to receive the awards that we worked so hard for.

With the three-hour train journey to London ahead of us, we sat and discussed what our day would become, from the experience of a meal within the Guild Hall, to the walk along the Southbank later that afternoon, we knew our day would be full of once in a lifetime opportunities and were taken back by number of individuals within creative industries wanting to talk to us about the creation of TERM, something all three of us are so passionate about.

Getting off the tube at we were in a daze. Surrounded by sky scrapers, and iconic architecture, none of us could still believe what we had achieved. Arriving at the Guild Hall we were greeted by Matty Davies, Tarporley Sixth Form alumni and part of TERM's original team, it was inspiring to hear about the origins of what now is a year-on-year award winning magazine. It was an honour to discuss with Matty, now a photographer working for David Bailey, the struggles he had also faced with the production of TERM, similar to our own, it allowed all 3 of us to appreciate our journey in the creation of 'Life on Pause' and enabled us to reminisce on the friendships, the experience, and skills we gained on the build up to the Shine Awards.

After an introduction from 2020 Editor of the year, Vivienne Zhang Wei, we were taken back to what we had faced during the pandemic; she highlighted how the media has kept, and continues to keep the world constantly moving due a time of such standstill. Every publication was able to reflect on the process of the production of their magazines, newspapers and podcasts. It allowed us to remember that even through the height of the second lockdown we were able to pull our teams together to create something now appreciated by individuals all across the nation.



Once the ceremony began, we were taken back by the amount of times TERM was called forward to collect an award. Coming away with Best Photography and being highly commended for Best Online Magazine, Best Business and Marketing Strategy, Best Audio and Best Environmental Strategy we couldn't have been happier with the result. We then collected our tote bags and winners books and headed for the Millennium Bridge. Although there was a pretty intense breeze and slight chill in the air, the sun didn't stop shining. We got as many photos as we possibly could to remember the day and ensured our social media account was up to date, posting the highlights of our afternoon in the city. Next stop, Tate Modern.

When entering the Tate we didn't quite know what to expect. The open, raw space felt so empty yet so beautifully breathtaking, the exposed industrial pillars, unfinished brick walls all within the Turbine Hall, welcomed us.

The art gallery which sits along London's Bankside strives to highlight the need for modernism, as well as being a place people can go to reflect on our ever-changing society. We were able to view art from the likes of Edward Krasiński, Ana Lupas and my personal favourite Sharon Hayes. From five speakers the recordings of her reading aloud love letters in New York City produced during an unstable time where the USAs continuous battle within Iraq seems never ending, she speaks of anger, hatred, and annoyance, but always returns to the yearning hope that her nameless lover can once again hear her words.

Finishing the day with ice cream and a walk along the Thames, heading towards the London eye, we reflected on our day in the city. We felt so proud for our work to be appreciated by so many, especially with Meg, Beth and I so passionate about careers in Media, Photography and Journalism the whole experience allowed us to get a real sense of our potential futures. The experience we gained from the process of creating 'Life on Pause' will forever inspire us to continue striving for perfection.





The Last of the Leaves; you either Love it or Loathe it...

There is Always Two Sides of Every Season

By Emily Taylor

“I believe with my whole heart that autumn is the epitome of absolute trash”

I hate autumn. I don't just dislike it, I don't just think it's alright but it's not my favourite, I don't even just dislike it with a passion – I hate it... strongly. Hate is a word I reserve for only a few things, such as wasps, fish and Trump; but autumn has slowly but surely added itself onto my list.

I am aware that this is a wildly unpopular opinion, that will upset many people who claim their favourite season is autumn because of the “colourful leaves” and the “cute scarves” but I believe with my whole heart that autumn is the epitome of absolute trash. I understand if you love autumn and you're from Canada, or somewhere that has actual seasons, as I'm sure “fall” is a gift sent from the heavens that fills the hole in your heart with candy corn. But here, in the grey and bleak England, autumn shows you the gates to heaven and leads you into a rainy, foggy hell.

Countless amounts of times have I walked to and from school in the pouring rain, ruining my for-once-looking-good hair and causing my clothes to be damp and itchy for the rest of the day. “Wear a coat”, I hear my mum yell at me as I leave the house, about to get drenched for the third time this week; but no. Autumn is not winter. It's not that cold outside. Instead, it is a stupid temperature like 14c with strong winds. I work up a sweat, whilst my legs freeze, and my face drowns in the rain pour... but don't even get me started on those bloody leaves. The “colourful trees” and the “crunchy sound under your feet”. I will repeat: this is England, the chances of it having rained in the past 48 hours are miserably high, so your crunchy leaves just become soggy leaves that stick to the bottom of your shoe and your arrays of colours just becomes brown. I write this now, looking out my rain-tainted windows, at the grey skies, wondering how anyone enjoys this.

All jokes aside – autumn is also a difficult time of year for those who are homeless or in poverty. Autumn sees the end of summer and for those who can't afford heating in their houses – or any house at all – really feel the effects of the drop in temperature. The colder weather and the earlier nights and the wetter weather they can't shelter from. Its not all pumpkins and pyjamas for everyone, for some its thinking about the electricity bills again or sourcing more blankets. Many take those things for granted and are too focused on snapping that Insta of your Starbucks pumpkin spiced latte to realise that around the corner is someone just wishing for a dry night.

Picture it. The orange-coloured leaves dance in front of the pink painted skies as you hold your spiced latte, standing in the pumpkin patch you've been thinking about all year. It's that time of year again – autumn has returned. The opportunities it creates for us to live our best lives - from pretending to be in an early 2000s music video when you look out your car window as the rain runs down, to its symbolism of the inevitability of change.

“Everything is just a little bit cosier in autumn. It is pure perfection.”

Sweater weather. There's something so comforting about putting on a jumper with your favourite trackies and your warmest coat, paired off with some bulky timberlands. Or you can go down the more stylish route of jeans and a cute sweater, and the warmest pair of Uggs you can find. But either way, you can style them with a big scarf and bobble hat – the ultimate autumn accessories. The weather is cooler, the air is crisper, and everything is just a little bit cosier in autumn. There is no better feeling than walking through the door, lighting up the fire, pulling out a blanket and listening to the rain hit the windows as you catch up on Bake Off. It's pure perfection. It's autumn.

Autumn is also home to some of the best holidays and celebrations that warm your insides in the same way a hot chocolate can. Halloween is mysterious yet exciting. It's the perfect opportunity to pull off that group costume you've been talking about all year or, it's simply a perfectly acceptable excuse to eat way too much chocolate in one night. No matter how you celebrate, there's always a way to make entering November a fun night. But, its these specific memories that make the season special for so many - It's a season of love and comfort that creates a sense of community. And it has colourful leaves.





The Fuel Crisis: “The First for a Full Tank”

By Sam Heaton

Good old England! Luscious countryside, delicious cuisine, and intriguing wildlife, but one thing we've not got, no bloody fuel! With the truck drivers going on strike and the government shockingly doing nothing about the queues of angry petrol addicts with a thirst for a full tank. Even getting one woman to put on Twitter “I just panic bought some petrol. Like really panicked. I haven't even got a car.”

Fights at the pump, middle-aged women bickering about whom got there first at your local Shell and even in the worst case, a man pulled a knife on a cue jumper in London; A friendly reminder to not skip a cue on an English person.

The entire electric car owners are laughing, watching the chaos ensue while they charge their Tesla, sat at home with a Red Bull and an ego bigger than their car. Pity the price of electricity is going through the roof now! whilst Bob and Gill next door are in an hour-long queue to get £20 worth of petrol in the car.

What's also funny about all this is the media and news outlets making it out like all the oil reserves in the world have run dry and we are all going to have to ride a bike to work and school like some prehistoric Fred Flintstone flint-mobile. God forbid we stop using fossil fuels for one day!

Isn't this all a little bit reminiscent of an early lockdown shortage we had? Yes, the good old toilet paper stockpile. To be honest I bet it's all the same people filling canisters of petrol up; and their boots if they could! They were basically recreating the Hunger Games to get a pack of loo roll- I do still wonder how many families still have a lifetime supply under the stairs to last through an apocalypse.

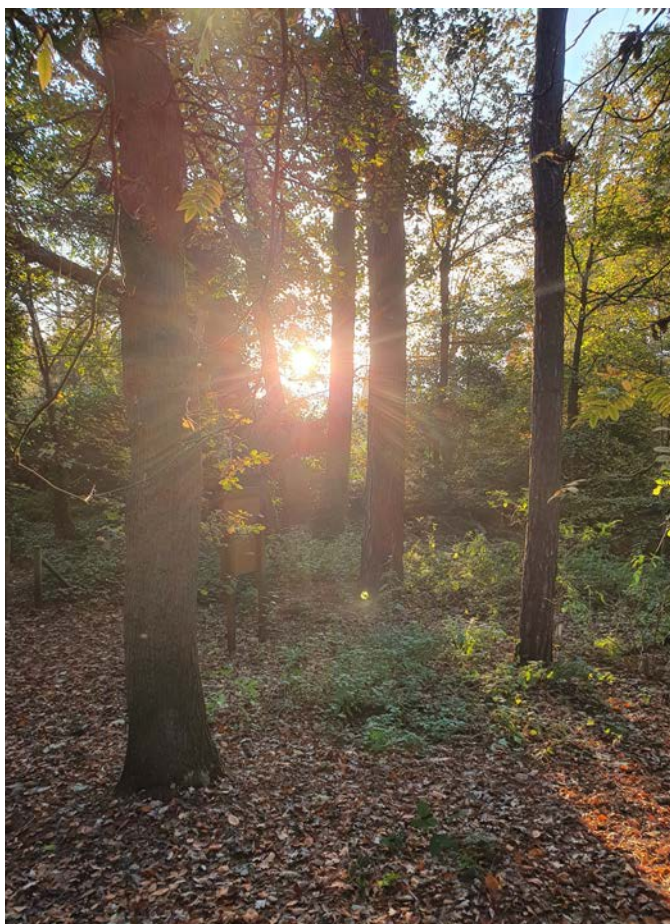
I even saw an old lady filling up small canisters of fuel this morning and taking them to her boot one by one like a snail powered by petrol consumption. She cleaned the Spar's fuel reserves dry!

But what will all this high demand for fuel cause? Depletion of the oil reserves? Then the shutdown of petrol stations? Loss of jobs? Shutting of hospitals? Could this crisis turn into a catastrophe?

But the BBC sending reporter Phil McCann to a gas station to cover the unfolding events maybe wasn't their brightest moment. Get it? “Fill me can.”

And now we are sending our loyal army to drive technical fuel tankers (With a day of training, may I add) to rescue our fuel deficient citizens gasping for a gallon of the good stuff.





The Top Five Best Things About Autumn

By Lucy McMillan

It starts to get dark earlier

Some people see this as a bad thing... maybe I'm just an introvert, but it's my favourite thing when it starts to get dark on your way home from school. It means: getting home and immediately closing the curtains to shut out the world, turning on your pretty twinkly lights for the first time in months, and it becoming socially acceptable to wear fluffy socks and Christmas pj's at six o'clock just to go to bed at eight.

Halloween

The costumes. The spooky vibes. But most impotently, the discounted sweets. There's something for everyone, whether you're a party animal or a horror film fanatic Halloween is one of the few holidays in which you can celebrate however you want. Extroverted? Go out out to a Halloween do. Introverted? Spooky film marathon with a frankly disappointing amount of sweets. Still, holding on to your childhood? Trick or treating. The list never ends.

The leaves start to change colour

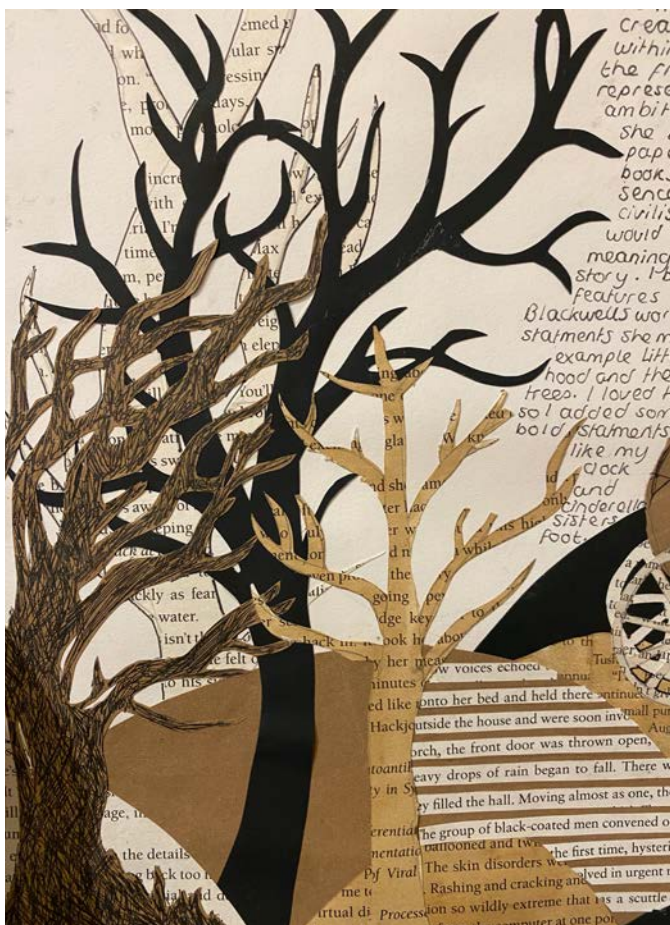
Sure, it may be a cliché but it's hard to deny that the trees turning different hues of orange, green, brown or yellow isn't beautiful. But after they drift onto the floor, it's even better when you step on a perfectly crisp leaf and feel the satisfying crunch under your shoe.

Busting out your autumnal wardrobe

I'm talking bigger boots, thicker coats, scarves, and jumpers so warm that you forget it's five degrees outside. As much as I enjoy wearing sandals and floaty skirts in summer, there's just something more satisfying about wearing big coats and corduroy. You swap your little tops for oversized jumpers, your flip flops for doc martins. When you whip out your massive coat after months of it being stuffed in your wardrobe, you find those keys you couldn't find or a mystery fiver, or likely about five masks.

Bonfire night

Arguably the most underrated British holidays to ever exist. Bonfires, fireworks, caramel apples and cinder toffee- it's the epitome of Autumn. With the smell of smoke permeating your clothes and the dazzling fireworks inspiring 'oos' and 'ahhs' from all around. This is what makes bonfire night is one of the best holidays in British culture. It may seem weird for Americans that we all gather around to burn an effigy of a random criminal, but it's a tradition that isn't going anywhere.









In Girl World, Halloween can be HELL

By Rosie Marsh

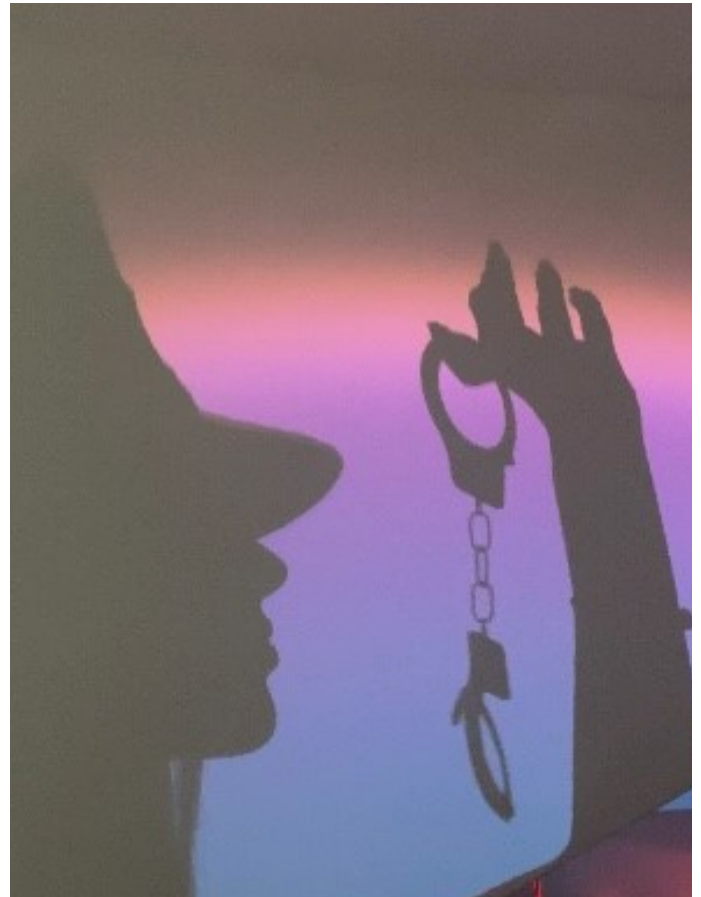
Halloween: an opportunity to celebrate feminism and empower ourselves through wearing and dressing up as whatever we want.

However, not all of us feel the same way. Many women say they feel completely objectified by the expectations that are placed upon them every year when the 31st comes around. Somewhere between the late 90s and early 00's it became the norm and almost an expectation of women to look incredibly sexy on Halloween.

I mean, maybe it's the subtle reinforcement of gender roles, perhaps it's the societal norms placed upon women to look their sexist yet- or maybe it's simply the consequences we fear if we don't uphold this societal expectation.

It's only Halloween- it's not that deep, you might be thinking. But it's only today's example of how subtle sexism is still prevalent everywhere.

Due to the influx of social media in the last 10 years, celebrity influence has become more prevalent than ever. Instead of just seeing your favourite celebrity in the media or on the front of a magazine you buy every week- we are bombarded with images and subtle suggestions of how we should live our life. And its constant.



From Kylie Jenner to Paris Hilton, every year a new incredible outfit. Personally, I love seeing everyone's Halloween outfits- not only is it a form of self-expression and art but I love getting inspiration for next year, whether it be through vision boards, outfits or intense makeup looks that I know realistically, I will never be able to recreate to quite the same standard. But there's something quite nice about that.

Undeniably, there is an extortionate amount of pressure placed upon women and young girls every day, which is only intensified by holidays such as Halloween which for many can be a daunting celebration. The discussions start at the beginning of the month- 'what are you gonna wear?' 'What are you doing for Halloween?' all circulate for many girls to stretch the concept of 'bunny' or 'cat' as far as possible. The most important thing is that if you want to celebrate, wear what makes you feel confident and surround yourself with people that make you feel good.

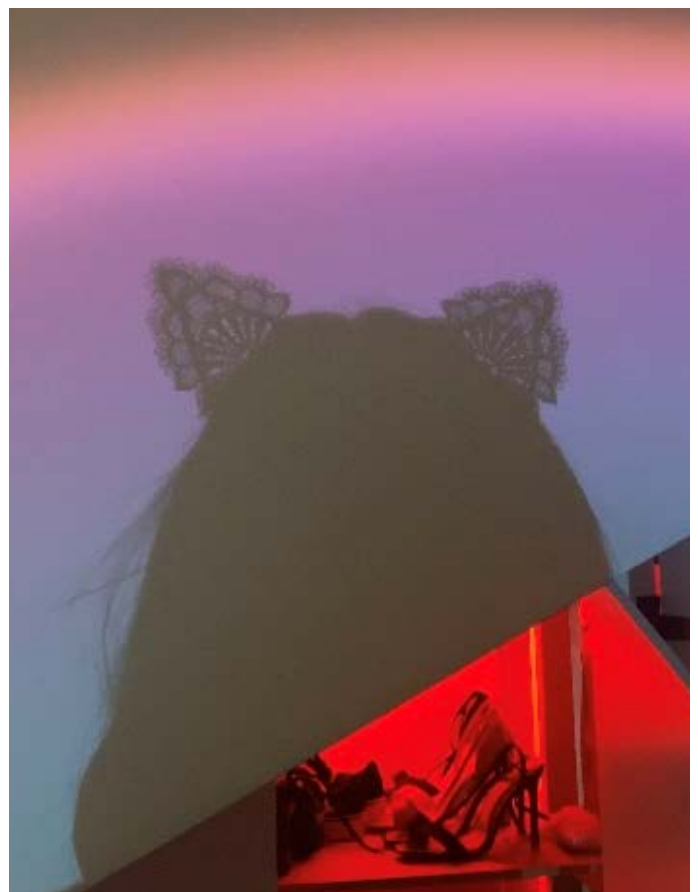
The 00's marked an evolutionary shift in terms of female empowerment, as well as the increase of slut shaming; despite discrimination against women has existed for centuries prior.

“In the real world, Halloween is when kids dress up and beg for candy. But in girl world, Halloween is the one time of year a girl can dress like a total slut and no other girl can say anything about it”- Cady Heron

Does this iconic phrase from mean girls not just highlight how constrained women's sexuality is meant to be for the rest of the year, with the emphasis on the importance of being your best self for that 'one night a year'? If anything, it just highlights how necessary such once considered 'rebellious' acts like dressing however you want, are. Ultimately, Halloween is an amazing opportunity for people to experiment within the boundaries of their own fantasies and get creative, but there's no denying that the now-highly capitalised celebration has become a stressful event for many. Even the gender differences in Halloween costumes are so blatantly obvious. The asymmetry in gendered marketing reinforces societal expectations on another level, suggesting that women should wear as minimal as possible, and men should cover up with masks and fun costumes.

Unsurprisingly, 93% of women's costumes on the market are deemed tight and show a substantial amount of skin, opposed to only 28% for men. This is just a pure reflection of how society sexualises women from such a young age. Let's reclaim Halloween as an act of celebrating our bodies for what they are, and not just fulfilling an expectation because society has given you the 'okay' to do so.

For me, there is nothing more empowering than acknowledging a stereotype, then ironically fulfilling it, and going above and beyond, just because you can. Sexual expression should be an act of intention and choice, rather than solely an act of compliance with objectifying norms







We have all been affected massively by this deadly pandemic, but some of the most affected groups are the younger generation especially university students. This has even been seen in the media recently with the proposal of forcing graduates to start repaying their loans earlier putting even more pressure on the Covid generation, hitting the lower earners hardest.

University applications receive a record number of applications in lockdown -, so many of these students experienced a false and obscured first-year experience that has never been seen before in the education system, many lessons have continued online and students isolating in tiny accommodation rooms have suffered massively to their mental health and felt as if university is more of a burden than the best time of their life's. Fortunately, many students did defer from university in 2020 however this means that 2021 had a massive surge of deferred students into the mix of the 2021 college graduates

Fresher's week is one of the most quintessential weeks in a 1st year's transition from college to university. Normally fresher's week will contain many ice breakers to meet new people but most famously to go out clubbing go embrace your university's local area nightlife scene. However due to COVID, of course, none of these events occurred last year or if they did they were under strict lockdown rules, unfortunately, this caused many students to become isolated in the lockdown in a new city without meeting new people.

One thing that has become an increasingly difficult challenge for university students is the inaccessibility of some major equipment associated with their chosen course, Such as Art base subjects; they have missed out on using specialised cutting, engraving, and printing machinery, meaning many missed opportunities and in cases poorer quality work being produced.



The Forgotten Fresher's; Where Everything Went Wrong?

By Sam Heaton

Interview with Alex Moore, Second Year Fine Art Student

"Fresher's- I managed to have a restricted fresher's experience but it wasn't very much fun and we were only allowed to sit in groups of 6 at a table in a club even though there were 8 of us in our flat. So we had to sit separately from the people who we lived with. My boyfriend also paid £50 for a pass to fresher's events, all clubs and events were closed and so I didn't have a fresher's experience. I asked for a refund for the £50 pass which I couldn't use was also denied.

"Accommodation- The university accommodation employed security to ensure everyone who came in and out of the building was monitored. Those who didn't have proof that they lived in the building were denied entry and so it meant that paying tenants were not allowed to have guests in their home and it wasn't a pleasant experience to be questioned every time you enter what is essentially your home for that year. Security also would also let themselves into your flat whenever they felt like it without knocking or giving warning because they liked the power of being the covid police.

"Online- It felt lonely being on zoom rather than in person but my tutors were as helpful and as understanding, as they could be under the circumstances. They didn't put too much pressure on us to impress as they understood our limitations at home. With my course being a practical subject (Fine Art), we had no access to the university facilities or resources which would enable us to create our work and the tutors were very understanding of this. However, my boyfriend said he actually prefers everything being online as it is much more convenient not having to go to and from uni. However, it felt as though we have had very little support from our lecturers with one refusing to help me with the essay one month into my first year. All of our lecturers then went on a strike at the end of the year delaying our first year results by months. I personally prefer the independence but it doesn't feel like I received £9000 worth of insight, support or teaching in my first year."



COVID it's Over. But I am Keeping the Grades.

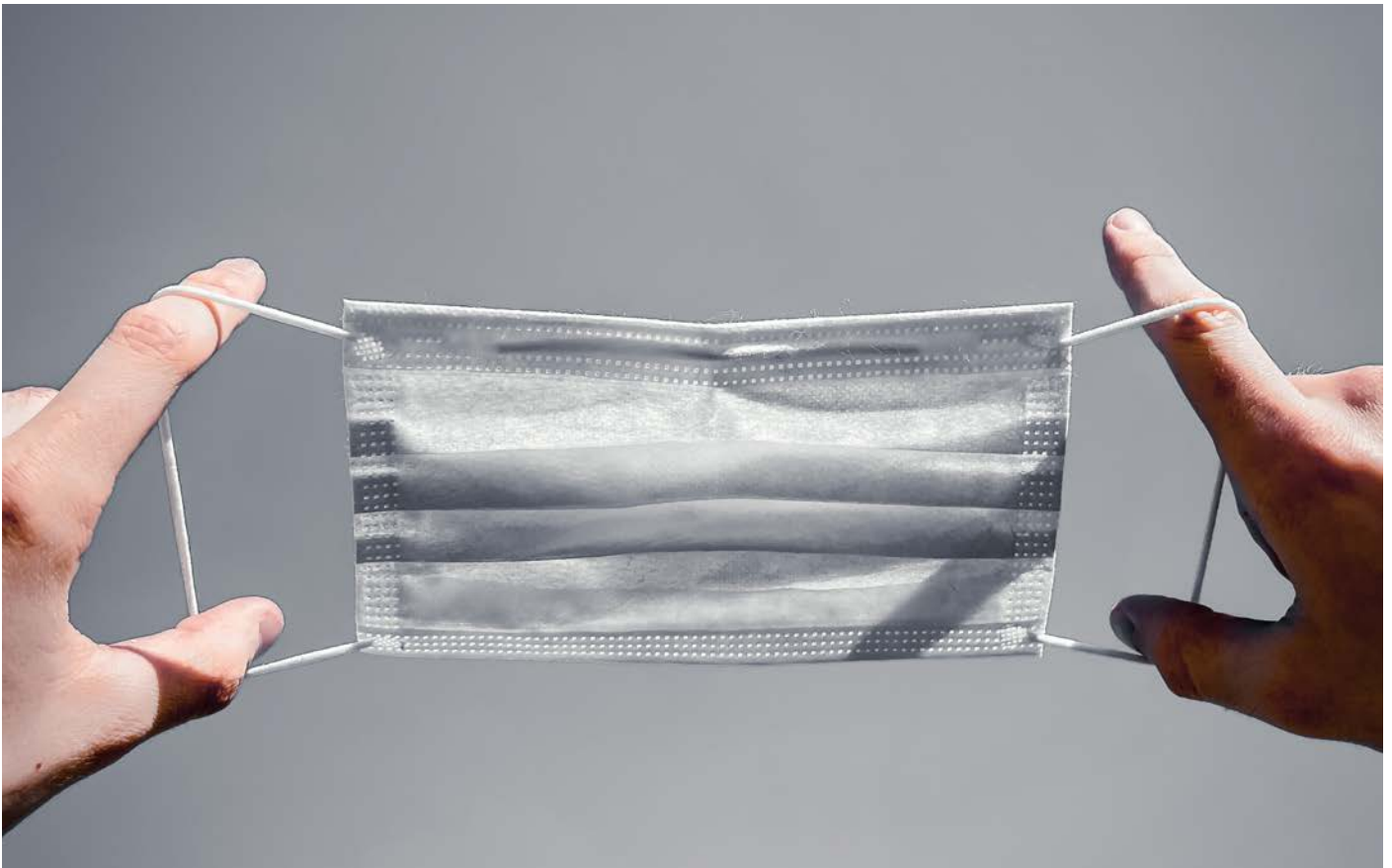
By Ellinor Linsdell

Dear covid, it's over. You're leaving. You can keep the banana loaves and it's not because it's given me a desperate need for the gym. It's because you're just too 'been there done that'. You were fab back then. I read lots of books, baked those infamous banana loaves and slept in till 10 o'clock. You gave me time to sit and relax. You gave me chance to do all the things I don't normally have time for. I had independence, time and freedom. I liked that. You made me binge my way through the rainy days and motivated me to exercise through the sunny days. You forced me to get out more when I could, meet up with somebody to go on a socially distanced walk. You were good like that. You helped me and my sister join in on those Joe wicks PE lessons (even though sometimes we just sat and watched them instead). My Instagram was busting at the seams, a flowing feed of positivity and productive people. Later, when I had that craft phase, kitting in front of the tv while eating cereal, you never once judged me, or called me a granny.

When online school hit, you made the weekdays a little longer and the weekends a little shorter. A reality check you called it! It dragged me out of bed and gave me more of a reason to make an effort in the mornings. The zoom calls were good for while. It was almost laughable knowing that we were all sat at a desk staring into the world that was our computer screen. Everyone seemed to live online, the only connection through media and our phones. Life was like living in a dystopian novel. But then...it hit?!

You stopped being so cool and fun. You began preaching about medical masks, hand sanitiser and danger. You were the danger, you made going to the super market a weekly challenge. You separated people and isolated homes and villages. You criticised my need for socialisation, my exercise habits, and my eating habits. You fuelled the idea that I was losing education and the time to study and learn for my exams. You got the schools back in business, however we were asked to learn hidden under our masks. Someone said that you made getting my grades easier. Though I suppose you helped to make it seem little less scarier. However, I still earned those grades, their mine, you gave us hell to get them, so I'm keeping them, they are mine!

I soon wanted normal again, different got boring. Once you watched that Netflix programme, you've watched it and once you read that book, its read. When its scone it's gone I guess. I eat too many of those too, the scones were delicious with jam (if I could find any in the shop). 'Normal' soon came, if you could call it normal, it was surprisingly worrying and a little odd. Not many people have seemed to remember their supermarket manners that's for sure. Oh covid, you wouldn't be so bad if you didn't make anybody ill, separate people and irritate people. I love somethings about you, but I need you to leave now. You have done your job. It's time for you to go and never come back. Thank you for visiting... you were a terrible guest. Covid it's over. You're gone, and I'm keeping the grades.



“I am the sugar at the bottom of the English cup of tea”: Windrush, Empire and the fight for justice

By David Quinn

There was a strange atmosphere on the docks that day. Half-jubilant, half-fearful, crowds of photographers and journalists gathered around to catch the first sight of the Vessel. The Vessel had never been intended for this usage, transporting immigrants from the Caribbean to Britain, it had instead been transporting British servicemen, some of them having experienced Britain for the first time fighting for it in the second world war. Yet, there were spaces left on the ship, spaces that offered a journey to a different world. For their part, many of the immigrants on board were looking to Britain simply for these new opportunities, filled with the vision of Britain as had been depicted again and again in their colonial education; a Britain that would now welcome its colonial subjects back to “the mother country”. As they had been told; assured, “you’re all welcome, you all British”.

Despite all this hope of mythical Albion, the reality that John Richards saw when he disembarked that day made the situation explicit. “When you come here you realise, you’re a foreigner and that’s all there is to it. The average person knows you as a colonial and that’s all. You cut cane or carry bananas and that’s it.”. As the HMT Empire Windrush docked into London on the 21st of June 1948, and 802 Caribbean immigrants disembarked, two parallel stories; inexorably entwined, began. This was story of modern multicultural Britain, of the proud nation of immigration, but also the remnants of colonialism, and the lingering shadow of empire that casts itself over Britain to this day.

For the government at the time, this influx of immigration was an



unforeseen consequence of the new 1948 British nationality Act. The Act itself was a direct consequence of the dismantling of the British empire and the damage Britain had received during WW2, with the rights of its citizens being claimed independently of their colonial overseers, like the newly liberated India and many urban areas in Britain reduced to rubble. To counter this loss in labour, cities and prowess, the Act would grant all people in Britain and its colonies British citizenship, and therefore the right to come to Britain. Despite the act and its intent to encourage immigration for a restructured Britain, the secretary of state for the colonies remained adamant that the government was opposed to this immigration⁴. Both the colonial office and the Jamaican government would try to discourage it, despite its legality. It was now clear. The British government could not, or would not, fully move away from its colonial ideas of perceived superiority. While immigrants could come to Britain, they would not be welcome. Tolerance was exactly that, tolerance without true acceptance.

This is not to say that the immigrants expected to stay in Britain either. Many had only considered staying for a year for the experience, but post-war Britain now offered opportunities. Here was the burgeoning NHS and welfare state, and country trying to reassess its place in the world after empire, a role that is former subjects both should and must take part in. There is little to do more service to this generation than the fact that Enoch Powell, the man who would gain historical infamy for his racist attack on immigration as leaving “rivers of blood”, would; in his time as Health secretary, actively recruit Caribbean nurses for the NHS due to their dedication and their commitment to their job. This was, and remains the double standard of government, immigration supported when it is beneficial, and denounced when is seen as a danger or, as David Cameron phrased it, a “swarm”.

Perhaps this issue is best represented by the Windrush ship, a ship of two contrasting pasts itself, having been utilised by the Nazis during WW2, and now to become the symbol of racial liberation. One passenger, Sam King “did believe in the British Empire” specifically to “fight Nazi Germany and by the Grace of God we won.” For King, helping Britain in the war now meant helping it recover itself, but he felt rebuffed by the government, refuting “we are here, and I and my people are here to stay”. The ship of a dark past had now become the defining symbol of this generation’s liberation. Yet, immediately preceding the word “Windrush”, the word that would come to define this generation of immigration, there was “Empire”, exactly the dark past this ship could not escape. For all King had celebrated Empire in his education, it had been that empire that had exploited the West Indies, and that empire which was scornful of his desire to help it.

For all these challenges, there remained one thing of which there could be no doubt. These people, people who had now lived most of their lives in Britain as British citizens, were British. What they didn’t know was that in 2010, completed under the watch of then newly elected home secretary Theresa May, their landing cards; proof of their British citizenship, were destroyed. The people, for whom the UK had been their home for most of their lives, were now no longer able to have the rights that many of them had contributed towards. Albert Thompson, one of the most infamous cases initially reported upon, had to pay £54,000 pounds for his cancer treatment. Having paid his share into the

NHS, he now had to shoulder the economic burden of his treatment. He didn’t mince his words. “It feels like they are leaving me to die”

To understand why this change came about, it is vital to understand the atmosphere of the Home office responsible for immigration between 2010 and 2018 when the scandal broke. In 2012, Theresa May was clear that the role of the Home office was to create a “hostile environment” to immigrants, deliberately making the ability to use “fundamental services including the NHS and the police” challenging, while also making it “illegal to work, or for a landlord to rent them a property.” The result of all this is that “it could take black, Asian and ethnic minority people and migrants up to twice as long to find a property to rent as a white British person.”. These policies continued becoming law under the Immigration Act 2014 and then expanded in the Immigration Act 2016, cementing their place in British law. The horror of these laws is then simple. Entire generations of immigrants, many who have contributed to Britain’s insinuations, its nationhood, and its pride, are now dejected from these systems, and abandoned by the country when they need it. As Renford McIntyre states “I’ve worked hard all my life, I’ve paid into the system”, and yet despite sending them a lifetime of documents and national insurance payments, he was rejected for citizenship by the home office. “How do they expect me to live? How am I expected to eat or dress myself?”

When these stories broke in 2018, condemnation was fast. The MP David Lammy stood up in parliament and delivered a speech that captured the pain of the Windrush generation. “The Windrush generation have waited for too long for rights that are theirs. There comes a time when the cup of endurance runs over. There comes a time when the burden of living like a criminal in one’s own country becomes too heavy to bear any longer. That is why in the last few weeks we have seen an outpouring of pain and grief that had built up over many years.” However, as Lammy identified, the problem went further back than Theresa May, and



further back than the fateful day HMT Empire Windrush disembarked. "My ancestors were British subjects, but they were not British subjects because they came to Britain. They were British subjects because Britain came to them, took them across the Atlantic, colonised them, sold them into slavery, profited from their labour and made them British subjects. That is why I am here, and it is why the Windrush generation are here. There is no British history without the history of the empire." Immediately, an apology was issued by the home office, and later, the then-home secretary Amber Rudd resigned.

Yet the issue remained.

As these words are written, yet another victim of the Windrush scandal is denied their citizenship. Theresa May refused to apologise for her "hostile environment", which remains within current law, despite the government's promise to give compensation to victims. Yet again, the reality could not match its promises. At least nine victims of the scandal have died before getting their compensation, and the issue remains how much money others will receive. The opposition's Windrush motion that would release documentation was rejected by the government, especially unfortunate given that it was documentation that had led to the scandal's most devastating effects. In the summer of Black Lives Matter, these stories did not resurface quite in the same way that the atrocities committed in the US did. The shadow of imperialism remained.

Imperialism remains a difficult spectre to exorcise, because of how pervasive it has become within the social body of Britain. As Lindsey German and Andrew Murray discuss, "Imperialism is defined in different ways, although few today would still tie it exclusively to the formal control of territory in the classical colonial fashion." While there no longer is a secretary for the colonies as there was in 1948, there still remains a connection between Britain and its former colonies, literally within both its language and its blood, one that cannot be easily severed. "The level of racism in Britain today – and especially at governmental and institutional level – is rooted in the history of imperialism and its consequences. The legacy of empire is reflected in issues such as the Windrush or Grenfell scandals." This is not an issue that can be removed just with new legislation, or through simple recognition alone. It can only be changed by real action, an action that can now just as easily be put down by the government despite the right to protest. It may have changed appearance, but the imperialist agenda remains.

Yet there also remains hope.



This writer questioned Tarporley's local conservative MP Edward Timpson on the government's culpability for the scandal, and he acknowledged the failure of the government. "Over several decades the members of the Windrush generation were not treated with the respect they deserved. I fully accept that some members of the Windrush generation suffered great injustice over many decades at the hands of successive governments. This was wrong." With this, Mr. Timpson welcomed a movement for change within the government. "I do welcome the firm commitment by Ministers to do everything possible to right these wrongs and ensure this can never happen again." Neither were the findings of the Windrush lessons learned Review varnished. "The report is clear; lessons must be learned at all levels and by all political parties. I agree that this is a national scandal and must be treated as such. The independent advisor suggests that the Home Secretary considers the findings outlined in the report. I agree that a detailed formal response must not be rushed to allow for the most difficult questions to be answered. I welcome that the home secretary has said she will be accepting the recommendations in full. I sincerely hope this process can mark the beginning of a new chapter at the Home Office where no one is made to feel unwelcome in their own country." Perhaps Timpson cannot offer the necessary radical change, but these first steps will be vital for any form of progress.

For there is a movement here, and it is real. From the protests of last summer to the need for understanding of Britain's colonial past, there comes change. This change is not quick, and this change is not easy. There are centuries of history against it, and the retrospection of the crimes of this country can and will bring pain. But if the communal spirit of the Windrush generation can still have an impact today, then it must be in the communal effort to ensure such a scandal will never again happen and a communal spirit to overcome just as they did.

It is left to Mr. Timpson to sum this generation up. "These men and women came to the UK, built their lives here, and enriched our communities. To put it simply, members of the Windrush generation made the United Kingdom a more successful place and are rightly a central part of our great national story". We owe them much, but their story isn't over. It will be left to us to ensure its happy landings.

Has COVID Killed the Economy?

By Fliss Stockton

When COVID-19 reached the UK in early 2020, little did we know that 18 months later, after countless lockdowns, endless restrictions and a myriad of shortages nationwide, that we would be living in a world with empty supermarket shelves. So.. has COVID killed the economy?

At the start of the pandemic in March 2020, GDP fell by 5.8% which is the largest fall since monthly records began in 1997. This foreshadowed the ubiquitous pandemonium which ensued including panic buying toilet rolls and queuing outside supermarkets from dawn. Furthermore, 13 of the 14 sectors experienced a fall in output, with accommodation and food services falling by a huge 31.1% due to the harsh restrictions imposed on businesses.

Now, just over 18 months down the line, after the economy contracted by a monumental 9.7% in 2020, businesses and workers still face uncertainty about their stability and security within the economy. With the furlough scheme ending on October 1st, 2021, more than 1 million British workers are looking at an unprecedented future and potentially unemployment. Britain's unemployment rate was 4.6% in the three months to July, up from 4.0% before the pandemic hit last year, despite the fact that the scheme cost the government more than £68 billion in total. Many employers in the UK are reporting record-high job vacancies, however, one of the jobs worst affected has been truck drivers as industry bodies estimate there is a shortfall of about 100,000 HGV drivers.

Noticeably, COVID has caused persistent worries about the cost of living, as food and energy prices rise, alongside cuts to universal credit. Although, spending on retail and hospitality surged after lockdowns lifted as household spending was also the

biggest contributor to the post-lockdown economic boost. In July, the growth was just 0.1% (down from 1.4% in June) due to the 'pingdemic', meaning many employees had to isolate and denting the economic growth. The motor industry has been affected throughout the pandemic from petrol prices to microchip shortages. When travel was reduced under lockdown restrictions, average petrol prices stood at 113.1 pence per litre, compared with the current average price at 134.6 pence per litre. Currently, global vehicle production has been halted due to a shortage of microchips, influencing new and used car prices to increase. Another sector that has been impacted drastically is the housing market with a typical home now costing £256,000, opposed to £246,000 in February 2020 before the pandemic hit.

Nonetheless, it's not all bad news! From April to June the UK's economy grew by 5.5%, despite only previously being estimated to grow by 4.8%. The sectors providing the strongest contributions included accommodation and food services and arts, entertainment, and recreation as household savings have been less in recent months than previously thought. This is said to have been caused by eased restrictions, meaning people are able to spend their money more freely in different sectors of the economy. The sports activities, amusement, and recreation activities industry has recovered to the extent that it has now risen above its February 2020 level. This growth comes from theme parks and amusement parks, and the return of fans to football matches. Additionally, government spending was up by 8.1% in the second quarter of the year as they try and assist the recovery of the economy.

So, in short; COVID didn't kill our economy. It damaged it to inconceivable measures, but it survived and is recovering, similar to us in our daily lives.

The Post Pandemic Future

By Megan Drinkall

Well, we're back- sort of. While Corona still has its flaws, the prejudicial pandemic isn't completely ruining our lives anymore. Restrictions have been eased, and many of us are beginning to console over the prospect of getting 'back to normal.' It's quite predictable that things will never completely return to the way they were; they'll still be: an abundance of hand sanitiser, tedious covid tests and insufferable masks, as well as the annual resurfacing of isolation memories. But despite this, the idea of normality supplies us all with much-needed contentment, as 2021 comes to a close!

Some brilliant, and others not so much, here are some changes we'll experience as we vacate away from the virus.

Back to school.

Starting with the benefits of normality as we painstakingly rid ourselves of the virus; we can't possibly miss out on being back to the classroom cheer and workplace wonder! Every once in a while, my phone flashes. "Snapchat memory from the 30th January 2021." The torment of teams and FaceTime frustration come flooding back. For the most part, lockdown faded into a blur, given the fact that one day was identical to the next. But I could never forget the blank screens or the Internet failures or the overdue assignments or the continuous silences.

Let's be honest. How often did you check your microphone, just to make sure that you were still muted? If not very often, you must've at least checked to make sure your camera wasn't mistakenly switched on. If you didn't do that, you definitely didn't attend your online meetings- which most people probably envy you for!

Being able to socialise in the flesh again, is simply amazing.

Holidaying abroad.

Similarly, holidaying abroad (while we can) it's certainly one of the most significant perks of returning to 'normal.' The idea of duty-free, airplane 'cuisine' and the picturesque scenery is very well rewarded.

I also definitely can't wait to be reacquainted with the multitude of travellers you observe while jetting away. You're likely to spot the 'over-packer' first. Symptoms include: lots and lots of luggage (usually three substantial suitcases just for themselves!) It's fairly effortless to spot Kim Kardashian's offspring amongst the airport congestion. Once through airport security and the duty-free signs begin to appear, 'the shopaholic' can't help but purchase every item they see. Finally, there's 'the dad,' who feels that they must keep hold of all of the money and the passports and the tickets, just to make sure nobody loses anything. Their so serious about the whole experience, that every other passenger is left in sheer apprehension. For the most part, the garden sunbathing and UK holidays were enjoyable, but nothing compares to the diverse foods and radiant rays of sunshine you experience while abroad.

The abolishment of bubbles.

Although we were able to spend time with a maximum of one family last Christmas, I simply can't wait to be reacquainted with Christmas 2019 (pre-pandemic!) I suppose we were lucky to be able to spend time with family at all. But choosing that family wasn't very easy. Every Christmas before 2020 consisted of: grandparents, cousins, aunts and uncles, which I suppose just makes last Christmas feel empty. Remember the perfectly arranged kitchen table. The dancing and singing to "mistletoe." The exchange of gifts, face-to-face. The immense turkey with all the trimmings (feeding 12 people!) I absolutely can't wait to experience that again!

The rise of common colds.

Diverging away from the positives, and more annoyingly focusing on the negatives, we move on to the dreaded common colds. Enigmatically, since restrictions have departed, everyone's caught some sort of cold, and I mean everyone! Although the majority of us love returning to social environments without the insufferable masks, the two-metre rules, the irritating one-way systems and the endless queues, illnesses are spreading like another epidemic. What about the apprehension caused by coughing or sneezing. "Corona," one person whispers to the other. Everyone moves away, and the bizarre looks flood in your direction.

Working from home.

Many workplaces have made working from home permanent, which means: no spending on offices, no spread of coronavirus and no need for isolation or recovery after getting the virus from work. It's understandable why many workplaces have made working from home permanent, but is it really justifiable in the long term?

Okay... granted, most people would much rather have an extra hour in bed, waking up at 8:29 am, for their work call to begin at 8:30 am. In the comfort of their own homes; coffee in one hand, laptop and the other. But what about the social aspects of work?

No more office parties. No more workmates. No more annual Christmas parties. Does the extra hour in bed really make up for the eight hours of boredom throughout the day? No. No it doesn't!







Tik Tok Made me buy it.

By Philippa Meachin

I don't know about you, but when I see a good bargain online it's an easy decision! I spend numerous hours on Tik Tok a day and see some phenomenal pieces and some exhilarating fashion inspiration. But unfortunately, this appeal to new things creates more damage than it seems on the surface... Let's tackle this Gen Z!

Ever since Tik Tok rose above the water two years ago, brands have been taking advantage of the global sensation to increase sales and easily reach out to a wider audience. Currently, Tik Tok has around 1 Billion users a month; this is an astonishing number of which businesses utilize to reach their target audience! Familiar brands such as Pretty Little Thing, Fashion Nova and Shein have recently climbed the popularity ladder. Not only do these businesses flourish from the platform, but they collaborate with the trendiest and most popular fashion influencers who are well known on the app. This obviously plays a huge role in bringing a large number of sales to the companies. According to a study "If you look at females aged 16-24, it's a 60% reach".

Tik Tok has a great appeal to our generation, as we are known for being huge online consumers. Generally, if our favourite celebrity shows off their fabulous new style, we would want to copy it, am I right?

Part of the attraction to the app is the unfiltered and aspirational nature of the content. So conclusively, this increases the fast

fashion industry massively! But what effects does this actually have on the earth?

Most importantly, the largest consequence of the fast fashion industry is that it contributes to around 10% of global greenhouse gas emissions (1.2 Billion tons of CO2 per year). As well as this, it is the world's second-largest consumer of the world's water supply and pollutes the oceans with microplastics, which is extremely harmful to aquatic life. 85% percent of textiles go to the dump each year, immensely contributing to ditched waste. Additionally, Cotton, which is in a large number of fashion products, is not environmentally friendly to manufacture.

Working conditions are appalling too; sometimes with no ventilation, breathing in toxic substances, inhaling fibre dust, or blasted sand buildings. Accidents, fires injuries, and disease is also very frequent in this low-paying condition. These are just some of the many outrageous consequences of fast fashion.

So, I hope you're thinking how can we prevent or reduce fast fashion? Some methods include: buying less, buying from sustainable brands, buying better quality (so clothes may last longer), buying second-hand clothing and buying timeless pieces that can stay in your wardrobe.

On the whole, Tik Tok majorly fluctuates fast fashion and we should make a conscious effort to reduce the industry and the effects it has on our world, after all, it is important!

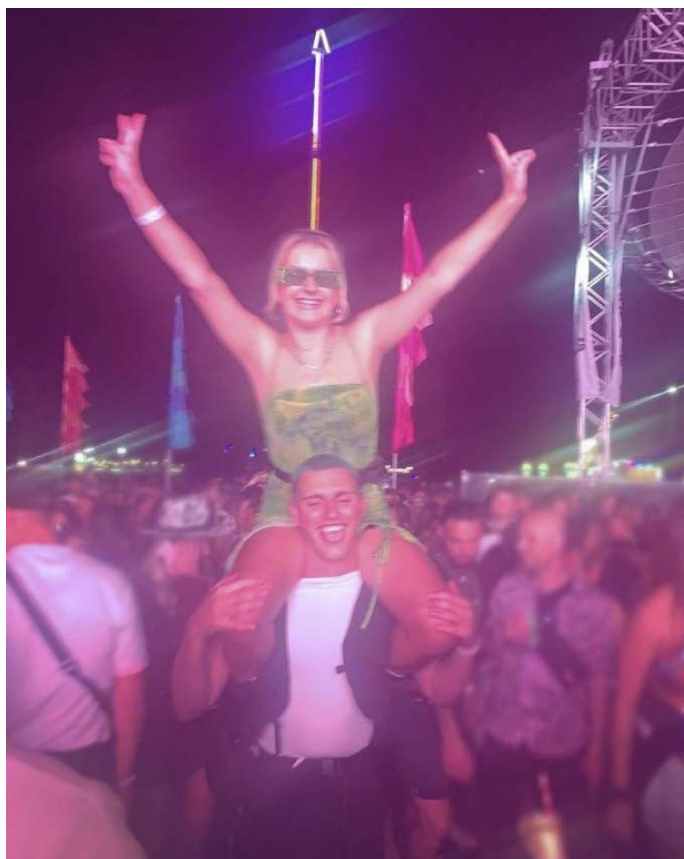
Festival Flu

"THESE THINGS ARE WHAT WE REMEMBER FROM FESTIVALS: THE HORROR STORIES, THE AMAZING MUSIC AND MOST CERTAINLY NOT THE COUPLE OF WEEKS OF ILLNESS FOLLOWING THIS BEAUTIFUL INSANITY"

By Lucy McMillan

Sure, the toilets are definitely as bad as legend says, and the food is ridiculously overpriced (I'm talking £3 for a cup of tea overpriced... because that's definitely all I drank all weekend, honest) but these are the clichés to expect with festivals. But, something I'd heard of but never taken seriously was the phenomenon of 'festival flu'. A bit of a sniffle wouldn't be the end of the world, I've had a cold before. I, and most of the UK, was ready to go all out for one great weekend after being isolated for a year. Which I think is why we have all gone through a universal phase of festival withdrawal.

Picture the scene: you're in a crowd of people without a mask for the first time in a year, the bass starts up and vibrates in your chest, neck and hands, you meet a stranger and bond over something that you won't remember the next day, and you're finally out in the outfit that's been in your wish list since the dawn of Covid- yes your feet probably hurt, and you've probably been shoved a couple of times in the crowd, but it's all worth it. You see the band that you've been listening to on repeat for years in person, and your blisters miraculously stop hurting for that half an hour. Nothing compares to the drive home from a festival. You're drained and aching, you feel grubby as anything and can't wait to brush your teeth in peace... yet you're somehow sad to be going.



When you get home, after appreciating the softness of your mattress and having a flushing toilet, you begin festival withdrawal. You have to go through your phone and unadd all the randomers who, for some reason, you gave your Snapchat to, delete the videos which are dominated by your atrocious singing, and learn that the silent disco wasn't as silent as you thought. Whilst counting the mystery bruises and scratches that you've somehow accumulated, the reality settles in that the weekend is over. After being rescheduled twice and being the only thing to look forward to during those years- this fantasised weekend is now finished.

After arriving home and trying to get back to normal, your ringing ears and a sore throat persist, but assuming it was from the aforementioned atrocious screaming and deafening bass- you take ibuprofen and carry on. The next day these symptoms just get worse. ..

My hearing was completely gone, my throat made it feel like I was swallowing glass and I was coughing constantly, everything was spacy and my whole body ached- but it somehow wasn't Covid. It becomes exhausting to have to constantly say the phrases 'it's not Covid I promise!' or 'I've done five lateral flows' or 'don't worry, I've had a PCR!', all phrases that would have made no sense those two years ago when you bought the tickets. I thought it was inevitable that me and my friends would all catch Covid, in that crowd of an estimated 100,000 it was basically Coronavirus soup. I'd already warned my boss that I'd likely get it and be unable to work.

Yet instead, we've created some mystery illness that somehow wasn't Covid, but was miles worse than an average cold.

So, you will feel like crap for a couple of days after a festival because 'festival flu' is definitely a thing and should never be underestimated. But illness is temporary. I would never give back those thirty minutes when I saw Girl in Red (my favourite artist and gay icon) who happened to be the final act performing on the last day- it seemed like fate and the crowd was insane. I won't lie, I was sobbing after the first two songs it was that good. Nor would I take back my first experience in a proper mosh pit when I ripped my brand-new top. Or the time I bought a single round of drinks that ended up being over £50.

These things are what we remember from festivals: the horror stories, the amazing music and most certainly not the couple of weeks of illness following this beautiful insanity. So whatever chance you get, get yourself to a festival at least once, I promise it'll be worth it.

See you there!

The Depths of the Black Mirror

By Emily Anderton

"WE LIKE TO THINK WE CONTROL THE MACHINE, BUT IS IT OURSELVES THAT HAVE BECOME VICTIMS TO THE ADDICTIVE CYCLE OF ITS ESSENCE?"

Instagram. Snapchat. Facebook. Twitter. Tik Tok. YouTube. The altering faces of The Black Mirror.

Technology is romanticised in a sense; we are drawn in on the aesthetic exterior of devices. Compelled by the intricate pieces of metal within our possessions. Machinery that unlocks a whole new world that without them, would remain forbidden and impenetrable to mankind.

As technology advances, our natural skills seem to decrease. The Black Mirror appears to now be an extension of ourselves; they are our brains, communicators, a tool of expression, a symbol of wealth.

We like to think we control the machine, but is it ourselves that have become victims to the addictive cycle of its essence?

This symbiotic relationship between man and technology has spiralled into a global concern throughout the younger generation. It has become the fabricated foundation of perception. It tells us what is good and what is bad; what society yearns for, and what is cast out. It fills our minds with unattainable perfection, allows us to believe that everything we see upon the screen is real and tangible.

The Black Mirror may be the cause of societal growth and expansion, yet it is also the source of conditions such as body dysmorphia and eating disorders. All of which are found within the youth of society.

We are slowly killing the future of our race by attempting to better it.

Social media; a branch of The Black Mirror that seeps into every aspect of life. Its use is for us to document our lives for the world to see; the part of our lives we chose to share. This is the dominating reality of the screen.

By utilising The Black Mirror, we are able to become clones of those we idolise; manipulate mechanical reality into what we crave to appear as in our true existence. This is where the toxicity of The Black Mirror spirals from.

Cloning threatens humanity. It allows us to present false security through which people present their social platforms to be identical to people of popularity.

Instagram, an American photo, and video-sharing social networking service; a platform in which people from the ages of 12 and over can document their memories and share them with the world. It is here the cloning of Kylie Jenner is present. It isn't hard to find young girls on Instagram with millions of followers, whose feed, when compared directly to Jenner's herself, is practically identical. Young girls from the 12 years old, adopting a façade of a woman they have only witnessed online, due to the honest fact that she is deemed the epitome of being a beautiful woman.

As you're reading this, The Black Mirror is consuming you. You are thinking of it, wanting to interact with it, perhaps you are even reading this on it. No matter how much we say that we are not slaves of the machine, we are. Our consciousness is tied to it within a relationship that we cannot stray from.

We are lost within The Depths of The Black Mirror.

How our Devices Became our Closest Companions During the Pandemic

By Jess Bradley



It's fair to say that the pandemic has hit this country like a storm. From the social distancing to the constantly wearing masks, it has just become the 'norm'. However, the one thing that has kept everyone's sanity tacked, has kept everyone's spirits high and feeling motivated is that one click of a button where we are able to keep connected with friends, family and the rest of the world over the internet, it changed the way we viewed the most contagious virus that has hit the planet.

Despite our parents constantly saying "you spend too much time on that thing!", they all of a sudden became extremely hypocritical as they would use their phones for every little thing, just so they can escape the complete boredom that the virus for filled us with. This just shows how the pandemic has changed generations and brought everyone closer even after the pandemic.

The zoom generation: Let's be honest, before the pandemic did you really know what zoom was? Zoom took over the technology world over the past 18 months, not only was it the most popular app during the pandemic but it allowed 100 people to connect with each other at once on the same call, making it extremely conventional and well worth having on your devices. Zoom was used for chats with friends, work calls, and even at-home gym classes for all them fitness fanatics unable to go to the gym. Zoom is a way to connect with friends who you may not have seen since high school, and even can be used for family reunion's, therefore this revolutionary app has brought people from every nationality across the world together and especially throughout the pandemic has kept mental health stable through all the carnage. Apps like zoom gave people a sense of familiarity with the world during the pandemic as they could still see the faces of work colleagues and loved ones. However, the most important aspect of it was that it gave everyone something to look forward to after their days of confinement, having something planned in the day during the days of isolation gave people hope that we would eventually beat the ongoing struggle.

Social media: social media is essential for most teens in our generation, phones are almost constantly glued to their hands, it's almost as if they wouldn't be able to survive without it. Despite social media impacting teens' lives so much, it has somehow crawled its way into the older generation throughout the pandemic; from the constant texting to going viral on tik took, adults and the elderly have suddenly become submerged in the life behind the screens. One of the biggest stress relievers and cures to boredom was tik took. Tik Tok became one of the world's biggest phenomena during the covid-19 period, overtaking Instagram and snapshot in being one of the most popular social media platforms to exist.

This revolutionary app provided us with hundreds of dance trends to do with friends and family and even seeing everyone all over the world doing the same thing you're doing made people feel as if they are fighting the same battle. You never would have thought that the elderly would keep up with the latest trends but they outdid themselves, some even going viral and becoming the country's sweethearts. This just shows how the stresses of the pandemic have led to every generation becoming closer and seeing how we all live our lives. As we're easing out of the destruction that the abominable virus has caused, social media &

staying connected is still ongoing as people are using it to promote their businesses and gather a bigger fan base, the pandemic hit many small businesses hard, so social media has been a hidden gem for them in building them back to their pre covid successes.

Let's be honest, checking our phones at least 100 times a day has now become the new normal, as bad as it is technology is rapidly developing and making our world seem like its run by robots, this is why it's extremely important to take time now everything is going back to 'normal' to remember what life was like before the pandemic and take time to indulge back into everyday life without the excessive number of social media and technology.

*I don't want to change the world
I'm not looking for a new England – Billy Bragg*

What does it mean to change the world? So often, major global events are discussed as if their effects are so great that the world could never be the same again. Whether that's the environmental conferences of world leaders discussing the "acceptable" level of carbon emissions, or the cultural movements for representation and justice, they are described as world-changing. However, we must ask if this is enough. Certainly, any environmental policy or cultural diversity is a step in the right direction, but the victories ultimately can seem small amongst systemic environmental damage and prejudice. That leaves one key question, a question that is often easier to ignore. What could, what should a changed world look like? A world where there is no pollution, where there is no prejudice, what would such a world be? Is it too idealistic to dream of such a world, or is that dream vital to fix in our minds as we push to truly change the world?

*When Adam delved and Eve span,
Who was then the gentleman? – John Ball*

The idea of a greater world is no new idea, despite the science we may apply to it now. In most cultures, there is some conception of a better place either in the past or the future, such as the Aborigine "Dreaming" or in the philosophy of Plato. Plato set out in the Republic to create the model of a perfect society and how it could be run. Unsurprisingly for a philosopher, he concluded that it should be philosophers who created such a world. Yet, the appeal of the Republic is not exclusivity, but the solutions it offers to Ancient Greek society. When he explored Greece's wars and its inequalities, the Republic offered a solution to guide subsequent generations with a targeted ideal. Christianity has also provided such a place within the Garden of Eden, where all creatures live in harmony with the natural world. Though interpretations of Eden have often been limited by the context of its interpretations, with Eve portrayed as inferior, the relationship between Adam and Eve could just as equally be interpreted as one of equality. It is that concept which proved so powerful when the English peasantry revolted in 1381, guided by John Ball's teaching "When Adam delved and Eve span, who was then the gentleman?", in other words meaning that all were equal in Eden and that "from the beginning, all men by nature were created alike, and our bondage or servitude came in by unjust oppression". Such radical thought led to Ball's execution.

*They be all thereof partners equally,
Therefore can no man be poor or needy – Thomas More*

Where does a Utopia come from? In the mind of the statesman Thomas More, there is an island named Utopia. On his island, no one owns property, no one is unemployed and no one is employed in a job they do not desire. This was not a modern concept but was written in 1516. More utilised this island to explore what a new society could look like when contrasted to the problems of his own time including theft and the harsh laws that surrounded it. Utopia was then a mirror for his society, where there are no criminals as his society has eradicated poverty and injustice which means people no longer need to steal. Often, the book has been criticised for being too idealistic in its view of human nature, but the book does not change humanity, just the way it is organised. Natural resources are just as limited in Utopia as they are in our own, but organisation leads to the equal distribution of resources meaning there is no inequality or shortages, and peace is maintained through satisfaction in work and life. In essence, what the idea of "Utopia" does is offer a mirror to see through, and if confident enough, step through.

*Africa is still lying ready for us,
It is our duty to take it – Cecil Rhodes*

However, such idealism still holds its own dangers. As a century

A New England – What makes a Modern Utopia?

By David Quinn

America began, what may have started as an attempt to establish a new society, they pushed the native population of America further inland, where their culture was not respected in the face of colonisation. Similar stories would play out across the colonisation of Africa, where economic gains and a sense of morally "civilising" would justify genocide for idealism. This was never more extreme than in the 20th century, where three ideologies battled over several wars. For the Nazis, utopia was a racial purity and nationalism, justifying atrocities like the holocaust on those that did not fit their ideal. Equally, there was capitalism, represented by the USA which led to the Great Depression of the 1930s. Communism built on More's principles of equality and lack of property, but its application failed to the reality that faced it. That is the tragedy of the USSR, where human greed and lack of resources hampered idealism.

*Capitalist realism,
Is there no alternative? – Mark Fisher*

Yet, by 1989, these wars were over. In fact, history was over. As the economist Fukuyama stated, the collapse of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the subsequent ending of Communist Eastern Europe left only Capitalism, and with it, capitalism as the only future. As Margaret Thatcher stated, it was not her extreme economic policies themselves that led to this, but the acceptance more generally of her push for individualism and the market like under Tony Blair which still dominates society today. With most of the world now part of the Global free market, what was the alternative? This is central to Mark Fisher's conception of capitalist realism, in which capitalism has become so pervasive in society that all the solutions to overcome it work inside it, meaning it can never truly be overcome. We literally cannot think outside the box. What this means is that any solution to the environmental crisis or to prejudice is part of a system that is fundamentally based on such inequality. So, what is the alternative?

*There's no future,
And England's dreaming – Johnny Rotten*

What should a modern utopia look like? Should it be increased government control on carbon emissions, or should it be a grassroots movement to refuse the products of the polluting industry? For any true environmental movement, it must be a global initiative, where negotiation and self-interest often dominate such as Donald Trump's withdrawal from the Paris climate agreement. If the government is unwilling to make changes, it falls to us not as individuals or countries, but as a global community. Inequality is engrained through society, it separates us in our goals, therefore it must be in education that the barriers of race and gender are overcome as representation alone is not enough. To even begin to propose solutions provides numerous problems, but we must start somewhere. And we must start with the idea, the hope, the dream. Then, no matter what the direct challenge we face, what problems occur, what resistance there will always be, we begin to change the world. To imagine is the first step to create.

*I will not cease from Mental Fight,
Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand:
Till we have built Jerusalem,
In England's green & pleasant Land. – William Blake*



The 7 people you will meet on your first day at Glastonbury Festival

The Guide to your 2022 Experience

By Ellinor Linsdell

The Newbie, the Whatever Wanda, the Happy Hippy: as the Glastonbury festival plans to go ahead once again in June, let's take a look at the 7 types of people you are bound to bump into.

There will be lots of abandoned flip flops, those pre-drinkers won't be far and squished pot noodles at the bottom of your backpack. We won't forget the annual recurring certain types of happy campers, they are infamous. Each and every year they are re-formed and re-surfaced like something from the hunger games. The professionals are normally seen giggling and mocking those less experienced, they are like the kings and queens of the festival.

The Newbie

They are often spotted dressed in bling and usually styling some hot pants while rocking the flip flops. Their typical choice of luggage is the dreaded pull-along trolley (normally in a sage green filled with alcohol) they soon dump that on the side of the pathway along with the trusty flip flops. The chances are that they have found their kit list on Pinterest and spent the last few months reading festival blogs. They somehow survive the camp set up with a stroke of luck and begin to brave the fields of Worthy Farm. Yet they haven't been to the toilet yet...

The Back and Too

The back and too is normally seen with a bulging eye, a power walk, and a plan. He's a man on a mission, that you will probably see four or five times doing his 'last run'. He truly believes that he is an ace festival-goer, but in reality, his 'festival hacks' fail and chaos hits.

The Whatever Wanda

Symptoms include a fake laugh, a drinks cup in hand and tie-dye. Their camp is probably already set up and she can wait to tell you that you didn't need to bring that blow-up bed. Her camp consists of a very small tent and a few boxes of wine. Yet she's normally seen with her friend the happy hippy. She'll get you involved in her shenanigans and make you feel like you are her best friend. Now if it's you she captures, enjoy the honeymoon period, she'll soon snap at you and you'll be holding hair back late at night.

The Beer Baby

Keep your eyes peeled for the one pushing a pushchair with an oddly shaped bulge. You soon learn that the bulge is beer and lots of it, they will try to claim that gave life this 'beer baby' but you know that tomorrow they will use the pushchair trying to get to the front of queues and crowds. Stay clear of the beer baby they're normally arrogant and rude.

The Happy Hippy

An absolute totally chilled professional, carrying a lightly filled stripy bag and owning the rainbow. You can tell that person can do a festival, 'they are so been there done that'. Their personality is music to your ears. Yes their views and hobbies are not for everyone and they know it, but they own the who cares attitude. If you are ever in need of a deep convo she's the person to look for..., after all, Glastonbury is all about being open.

The Workers

Normally identified by the way look and feel. On the first day, they will be spotted giggling at the punters (the paying campers) and mocking those who don't fit into their gang. They think that they are the kings of the festival enjoying every minute until they realise that they have to do shifts and get sweaty in the blistering heat. Did someone say "free tickets"? Don't be fooled by their bragging, they will soon realise that it's not all fun and games!

Peter the Prepared. AKA...the Mum

Spotted with the sporty backpack, full of toilet roll, hand sanitiser and baby wipes. His comfort zone is the green peace tent, calm and tranquil. The perfect spot for an organised king. He is also quite frequently spotted with his friend the keen bean, they are the dynamic duo. Fighting fires with punctuality and organisation.



Toxic Friendships

By Annabel Moulton

There is no doubt that COVID 19 has shaken our lives. What began as a simple “2 weeks off school” in March of 2020, rapidly spiralled into a catastrophic shut-down of life as we knew it- and the ever-lengthening chain of restrictions is still evident almost 2 years later. This inescapable disequilibrium we are seemingly entwined in has undoubtedly disrupted the ways in which we live our lives; even the most simplistic and monotonous of tasks (such as a trip to the supermarket or a check-up at the dentist) soon became desires we yearned for. However, things are looking brighter, and the world we once lived in, a world free of closures and ‘keep your distance’, is in sight, therefore it is time to reflect on the events we have endured, and how the virus may have improved our daily lives- without us even knowing.

Let’s rewind. It is a regular week. School, college and university students alike begin another week of studying, the same routine as has always been, but rumours are spreading. The news, the radio, the TV- all flooded with word of the Coronavirus – an epidemic, a pandemic, a global Calamity. Soon enough, the word of a school closure spread like wildfires and our classrooms were horrifyingly transformed into computer screens. Once the novelty of ‘no school’ wore off, we realised things had changed, and it looked as if these unforeseen alterations to society would remain prevalent for some time.

During these troubling times, social media erupted. From Tik Tok trends to Instagram polls, I think we can all agree our days were spent behind a screen. But what else could we do? As teenagers who are continuously exploring and evolving, we needed to keep in contact with our peers, and thanks to Snapchat, even a worldwide pandemic couldn’t thwart those desires. As the weeks of lockdown wore on, it very quickly became evident, however, who our friends actually were.

It seemed that isolation may have helped drastically in a process many people take years to (or even never) experience- distinguishing between people with genuine adoration and care, and ‘friends’ who are in fact toxic. With hours upon hours of self-isolation, we had an abundance of time within our own heads, discovering our minds and establishing specific aspects of our personalities, a process heightened by the effects of the pandemic. Because of this, many people wondrously discovered their own sense of self-worth; with no one else to please or impress, we were left with no option but to put ourselves first – a situation which proved to be prodigious. With that, became an essential epiphany: parasitic individuals who infect and disintegrate our lives are equally as deadly as the virus that engulfed the world.

As a generation, a lot of our time is spent on social media and over the course of the pandemic, it allowed us to keep in contact and check up on our friends, which was extremely important in the midst of such trouble and uncertainty. It also acted as a crucial insight into the people worth our effort and time, as it quickly became evident many ‘friends’ weren’t supportive and lacked care, patience and empathy – essential qualities in a true friend.

So here we are in the present day, back to school, college, university, work, or whatever our ‘normality’ once was, with things thankfully looking more hopeful and positive.

We can collectively agree that coronavirus has affected our relationships, both positively and negatively, however, the removal of any toxicity and negativity from our daily life is incredibly purifying, and something we should be proud of as individuals. For any readers who find themselves enclosed in a toxic friend group or trapped in any energetically draining relationship, attempt to surround yourself with people who allow you to feel supported and elevated. Although, with uncertainty still ahead, we must be constantly checking up on our friends and loved ones, but equally reflecting on ourselves and our own mindsets, to ensure we live our lives as effectively and positively as we can.





10 Ideas the Perfect British Christmas

By Emily Taylor

Winter is a polarising season, some people adore the twinkling lights and snowy days and festive spirit, whilst others loathe the freezing nights, excessive layers and Mariah Carey being played on loop. It may be a little chilly outside, but the opportunities to get yourself feeling festive are endless. So, if you love winter and all of its festive magic, or maybe you're a grinch who needs some sparkle in your life, here's a list of some things to do this winter!

Watching 'The Holiday'

Some people claim that Love Actually is the best Christmas romcom, but I will fight till the end of time that 'The Holiday' is easily one of the best Christmas movies of all time. 'The Holiday' has something for everyone; a prime-time Jude Law, Jack Black for some light-hearted humour, and, of course, Kate Winslet and Cameron Diaz. You've not done the Christmas season correctly if you've not sat down, wrapped in a blanket and watched 'The Holiday'.

Throw a Dinner Party

If you're feeling fancy, why not invite a few friends over and have a sophisticated dinner with a spread of homemade goods and a bottle of fine wine. Or get some food from Asda and light a few candles to create some ambiance for the pizza you just took out of the oven. Either way, it's a nice way to spend time with friends and have a good catch-up.

Christmas Music. On Repeat

People working in retail may not be as fond of this one, but we all have that one Christmas song that is our kryptonite and can't sing along to. There are the classics, like Wham, but don't forget the iconic music masterpiece that is 'Mistletoe' by Justin Bieber. I formally apologise to anyone I know who will have to put up with me trying to hit Mariah's whistle notes.

Winter Wonderland

If you are going down to London this winter and you're not going to Winter Wonderland, you have sinned in the name of Christmas. Admittedly, I've never been, but, I would never pass up the opportunity to experience all that extreme festiveness. From big rides to ice skating to mulled wine, what's stopping you from taking that train to London and spending too much money on a mince pie?

Going to Watch a Panto

As a big theatre fan, going to the panto every year is a highlight of my December. Seeing a D-list celebrity make their stage debut in an off-brand version of Cinderella may not sound like much fun, but it always puts a smile on your face and lightens your mood. Most enjoyed by grandparents and young children, but everyone can find some fun in the panto.

Helping in a Foodbank

Christmas is a wonderful time of year, a time of community and family, which is why giving some time to help those who can't afford to have a Christmas dinner in their own homes or those who may feel lonely and isolated, is one of the best things you can do this winter. It doesn't take much to spend one day of the Christmas holiday volunteering, but it does have an important impact.



The Evolution of the John Lewis Christmas Advert

By Meg Morrison

The John Lewis advert is finally here and that can only mean one thing – the countdown to the most wonderful time of the year has begun. Over the past decade, Christmas offerings from the likes of Coca-Cola, Aldi, M&S and John Lewis have become something of a phenomenon, capturing the hearts and minds of the public and spreading good cheer throughout the festive season.

From Moz the Monster to Man on the Moon, since 2007 John Lewis adverts have become an institution in the UK over the years thanks to their ability to tug at the nation's heartstrings. Though it may only be an advert – for many of us Christmas fanatics – it marks the start of the festive season. We wait in anticipation to see what heart-warming story will unfold, what magical moment will clutch our heartstrings and, more importantly, for an unexpected yet poignant moment to make us cry.

Its first Christmas was back in 2007, and within a couple of years, it had established a new template. Christmas adverts were no longer about selling products, they were about establishing an emotional connection with customers. Sitting down to watch the newest John Lewis advert has become for many just as much of a festive tradition as picking out a Christmas tree, putting up the lights and opening the latest door on the advent calendar.

When I think back to the subtle wonder of the Bear and the Hare – which was released in 2013 – that was real Christmas magic. Watching the precarious friendship develop between a bear and a hare until the bear departs to hibernate when the snow starts to fall was just so heartbreakingly perfect.

As for 2014, we were introduced to Monty the Penguin who hoped for nothing other than love at Christmas time – that was also close to perfect. Not just because penguins are cute, but because the advert embodied everything the festive season should be about – love.

Fast forward to 2015's Man on the Moon which has to be one of the most sentimental Christmas adverts that had people crying across the nation, to 2016's Buster the Boxer who was desperate to bounce on his family trampoline.

The best John Lewis Christmas advert in my eyes was in 2017 with that delightful Beatles Golden Slumbers soundtrack and the adorable huge blue monster with a loud snore. The cute, funny and enduring relationship that blossomed between the monster and the child paired with the emotion-changer song left me with tears gliding down my face.



The latest advert was unveiled in early November, and this year it stars space-traveller Skye and her friend Nathan, who introduces her to the traditional mince pie and novelty jumper. As always, John Lewis is clearly hoping to capture the mood of the nation with its festive spot, which features the tagline 'For a Christmas as magical as your first'. However, the fevered anticipation that normally accompanies the Christmas advert season has been curiously absent this year. This year was lacking those big eyes and mischievous nature in a cute but silly creature that always, always steals the show.

A story wouldn't be a story without its characters, and in the John Lewis Christmas campaigns this is done excellently, each year has a new, but always a loveable character, whether that's an excitable animal, a cute child, or even a reimagined version of a classic scary character. The one thing these characters all have in common is the Christmas spirit – a desire to give the perfect gift, to bring people together and to experience the pure joy of the festive season.

It is clear that John Lewis captures the festive zeitgeist with its storytelling, and it will inevitably offer something likely to bring a tear to the eye.

All I want for Christmas... Is to be able to Feed my Family

By Fliss Stockton

This Christmas, we'll make sure to write our 'OTT', superfluous, intemperate A4-sized wish lists, drowning in designer items and the latest technology. But imagine if we were told we couldn't have any of that? In fact, imagine if we were told we wouldn't even have food on the table or a heated home...

For many people near you and across the UK, this is a reality. They are having to face impossible decisions this winter; whether to skip a meal in order to heat their homes; whether to sacrifice their meal just so their children can eat; whether it's even worth it. The Trussell Trust Foodbank network faces giving out more than 7,000 food parcels every day in December, an almost inconceivable amount, as this winter looks uncertain for many. The Trust has warned that the need for emergency food is expected to rise further still, this winter and beyond, with rising living costs, energy prices at record highs, and a cut to the Universal Credit payment

Let's talk facts. In the UK, more than 14 million people live below the poverty line - including 4.5 million children. With that said, in 2020/21, The Trussell Trust Foodbank network provided a total of 2,761,215 emergency food supplies to people in crisis and 2,537,198 three-day emergency food supplies to people in crisis in the UK. Of these, 980,082 went to children. These gut-wrenching figures highlight the reality of this situation with an estimate that the average family is only 3 paychecks from needing support, demonstrating that it could happen to any of us at any time. More specifically, between 1st April 2021 and 30th September 2021, 935,749 emergency food parcels (three-day parcels containing emergency food for one person) were given to people in crisis by The Trussell Trust Foodbank network, 356,570 of those to children. In this period, more than 5,100 emergency food parcels were provided for people every day with almost 2,000 just for children, which is an 11% increase compared to this time in 2019. This equates to a staggering 3 parcels every minute - at least! Compared to this time 5 years ago, the need for food banks in The Trussell Trust network has increased by 128%.

95% of people referred to food banks are destitute, meaning they don't have enough income to buy all the essentials that they need. There are many reasons why families have to resort to food banks including being homeless, loss of jobs, illnesses (including COVID), problems with the benefits system, and lack of support. In 2019-2020, primary referral causes to Trussell Trust foodbanks were 39% due to low incomes, 17% due to benefit delays, and 15% due to benefit changes. Recently, the supply chain crisis has had a major impact on food banks in different ways such as surplus food supplies being disrupted; food donations being down; difficulties buying food; reduced capacity to deliver. Yet, all whilst demand for food bank support is rising.

Trussell Trust's West Cheshire food bank issued 2,784 emergency food parcels from April 2021 to the 30th September 2021, which is up 19% from pre-pandemic data. These parcels supported the equivalent of 3,735 adults and 2,009 children. These statistics aren't okay, everyone should be able to afford the essentials. In the North West alone, 475,476 parcels were given out with 276,334 for children. The Trussell Trust has more than 1,200 food bank centers in the UK and more than 28,000 volunteers to sort donations into the emergency food parcels. Food and cash donations are a vital part of their operations but the Trust also has other methods to donate including charity shops; online eBay and Depop shops and a fortnightly market.

So, if you want to help give families the Christmases they deserve, food can be donated to schools, supermarkets, churches, businesses, or straight to the food bank. However, it is important to check what your local food bank needs before donating. For example, West Cheshire food bank is in urgent need of these items this winter: tinned meats, UHT milk, UHT juice, tinned desserts, custard, treats, instant coffee jars, jams and spreads, instant mash, pasta sauce, and biscuits. They request that you don't donate any pasta or beans as they currently have plenty of stock of these items. It's also important to remember that food banks also accept non-food items such as toiletries, household items, feminine products, baby supplies, face masks and hand sanitiser. These items are essential to help people in crisis to maintain dignity and feel human again.



Head Student Emily Anderton and Deputy Head Student Jemima Dodewell-Cooke prepared to help our community this Christmas.

Visit
<https://www.trusselltrust.org>
<https://westcheshire.foodbank.org.uk>
for more help



Last Words

Entering the winter months, and Christmas upon us, for this year's second edition we wanted to shed some light onto this being a time of change. The creative arts, to the whole team, are such an important aspect within society, TERM will not allow it to once again get pushed aside.

As this being our final edition, we are both so excited to see how the publication will continue flourish in the future. We trust our year 12 team hold the belief, just like we did, that TERM demonstrates the force and capacity for change the arts hold in twenty-first century Britain, with this the evolution of the magazine will only excel. Rebranding our aesthetic and witnessing our team grow has been such a rewarding experience that we will take with us in our future ventures.

We will be forever grateful for the opportunities TERM has provided us. We are the season of change.

Millie Appleby-Mason, Editor

Meg Morrison, Deputy Editor



