

BLATCH

magazine



Summer 2026

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the Blatch Magazine! We hope you are having a good year and getting outside in the warmer weather. This is our second edition of the academic year and we have felt inspired by the spring/summer.

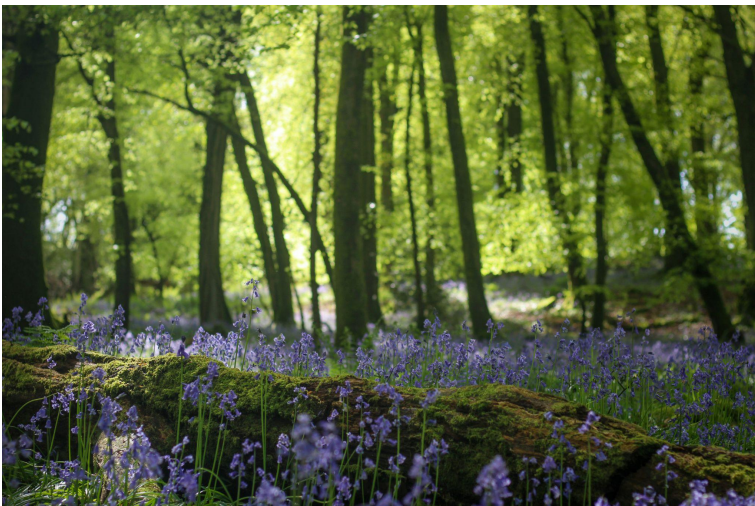
A quick reminder of who we are and what we do: We are the *Blatch Mag*, a student-led magazine club. Any student is welcome to join, or welcome to write any article they wish on any topic of their choice. If there's anything you feel is missing from this issue, come along to room 113 on Wednesday afternoons and write an article. We aim to release two to three magazines per year, that offer information and viewpoints about things going on around school and the world that matter to us.

And of course we couldn't do this without help from the teaching staff. Although we are entirely student-led, we are grateful to Ms Holland for facilitating our meetings, Ms Goodwin for helping us to get published and Ms Claydon for giving us the final green light.

We hope that you have as much fun reading this issue as we did creating it!

- **Blatch Mag Team**

Rob wingate- Unsplash



Leslie Bowman- Unsplash



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Features



The story behind the West Pier.

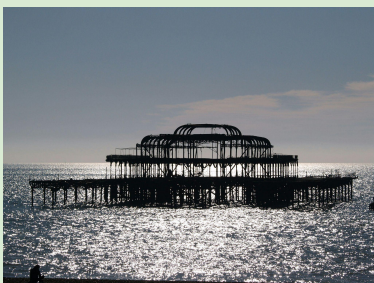
How it went from the hottest attraction in Brighton to the hottest attraction.

When people think of the West Pier, they think of the burnt shell that never was. But it was more than just that; it was a way to make money that the government desperately needed, especially after the world wars. It was a place where people could enjoy the many kiosks but, most importantly, it was a place where people could come together and just have fun with friends and family.

In this article I am going to tell you what happened to the west pier, starting from when it was built to when it became what it is today.

When it was opened in 1866, it became an instant success and quickly became a Victorian seaside favorite, reaching its peak around World War I. Designed by Eugenius Birch, it had kiosks, promenades, a concert hall, and various other entertainment places truly earning the popular space in Brighton seaside. Then during the 1973 storm, a 50-ton barge crashed into it causing significant damage. Sadly, this much loved pier suffered a partial closure in 1975 due to the pierhead (the seaward southern end) being deemed unsafe following some of the metal and wood falling off entirely. Unfortunately the unlucky pier's fate had only clouds ahead.

After the closure it fell into a derelict state, though remaining structurally recognisable. After that, on the 14th November 1978, the West Pier Trust was established; it was formed to save the collapsing pier. Then, subsequent storms in 1987 and 1991 worsened the gradual decay. Another storm in December 2001 caused the concert hall roof to collapse and a walkway to fully drop into the sea. Next, on the 29th December 2002, a partial collapse due to a severe storm where a walkway connecting the concert hall and the pavilion fell into the sea. Then on the 20th January 2003 further collapse occurred as the concert hall remains fell. Soon after this on the 28th of March, the first fire



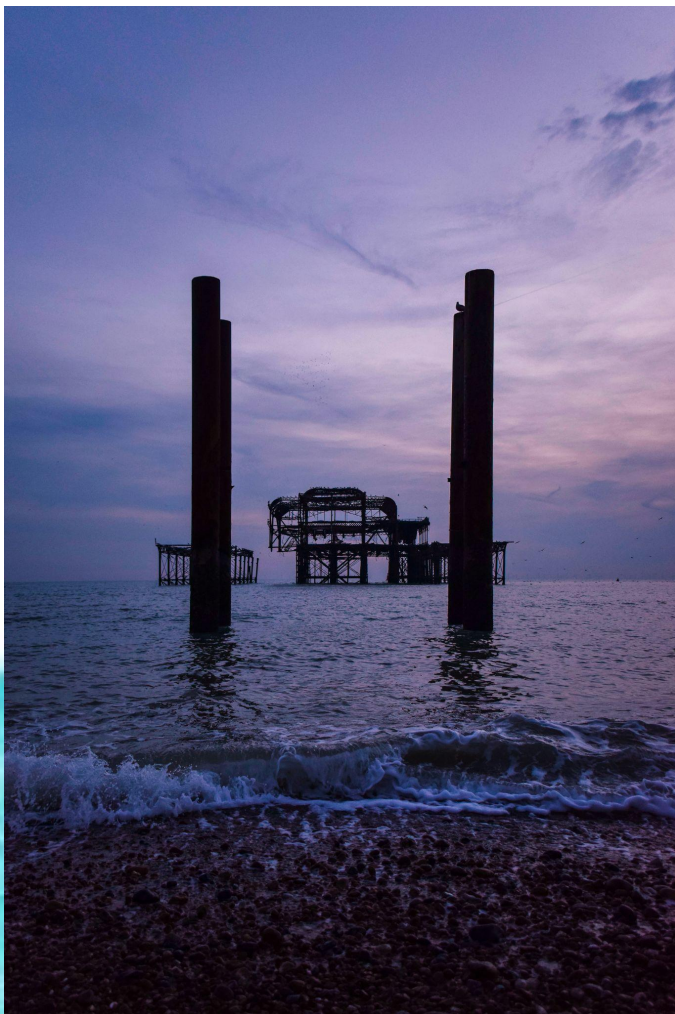
- Unsplash



struck destroying the pavilion. Whilst the firefighters arrived to put out the flames, the broken walkway made access impossible. On 11-12th of May in the same year, the second fire hit and consumed all that remained of the concert hall. Both of the 2003 fires are widely believed to be arson attacks but no one has ever been charged. Then, in June 2004, high winds caused the remaining middle section of the pier to collapse. In the same year the English heritage declared the structure beyond repair. In 2010, structural demolition occurred making room for the i360 to open, offering views of the ruins from above. In 2016 it was the 150th anniversary and further structural collapse occurred. Finally, on 19th February 2017 the West Pier centre opened in a renovated arch on West Pier Piazza. Now, it is considered a grade 1 listed building (that means it is of exceptional historical or architectural interest) and an extraordinary bird nesting area.

-by Emily R

Images from Unsplash



Climate Breakdown



Our Earth is overheating and we are responsible.

How did it even come to this and how can we stop it?

What is climate change and how does it happen?

Climate change (also known as global warming), is the long-term shifts in global weather patterns and temperatures, driven by human activity. Mainly littering, plastic in oceans, and more carbon dioxide (CO₂/greenhouse gasses). And if we don't stop now, water levels will rise, icebergs will melt and the weather will get warmer. If we don't stop now, it'll get so much worse... What can we do to prevent this?

Planet Disturbance:

The planet is being disturbed by deforestation and the burning of fossil fuels, combined with plastic waste and chemicals which poison the land.

Global warming:

Our Earth's atmosphere is heating up and now it's getting warmer than ever. And the icebergs are melting causing penguins and polar bears to have little land to live on.

How can we reduce our carbon footprint?

We need to help the Earth, so these are a few ways we can try.

- Protect natural habitats! Less deforestation means more birds and squirrels; less destruction of wetlands means more swamp roses, wood ducks and muskrats!

By Kailen Brathwaite, Malika Braithwaite
(main writer) (co-writer)



What is The Big Issue?

In just Brighton, there are 3,500 people who lack a permanent home. These are real people; not just a number. Homelessness is a huge problem all over the world, but in the UK it is reaching record levels and rapidly growing worse.

Luckily, there are organisations fighting to change this sad reality. The Big Issue is a social enterprise that sells magazines to homeless vendors for £2.50. The vendors then sell them to the public for £5 each. They get to keep the profit. It gives homeless people a way to earn legitimate money without begging. Since it began in 1991, vendors have earned over two hundred million pounds all together.

In addition to helping many lives, it is written by professional journalists and is a great way to get news and hear other perspectives.

The Big Issue was founded by John Bird and Gordon Roddick. They were inspired by Street News in New York, a similar concept. With the original name and branding, the Big Issue exists in five other countries. However, over the years it has tested many places, such as Namibia and Malawi. Additionally, they co-founded the International Network of Street Papers (INSP), which operates in 35 different countries!

When you next go into town, be sure to look out for vendors. They have a uniform provided by the company, and wear a distinctive red jacket.

While this is great, it solves only a portion of the Big Issue it is named after. We can help too, by donating to charities, giving toiletries and other necessities, and of course, buying the Big Issue.

- By Anina B

Zulian Firmansyah- Unsplash



Lingchor- Unsplash



Image by Anina B



RUN OF THE

MILL



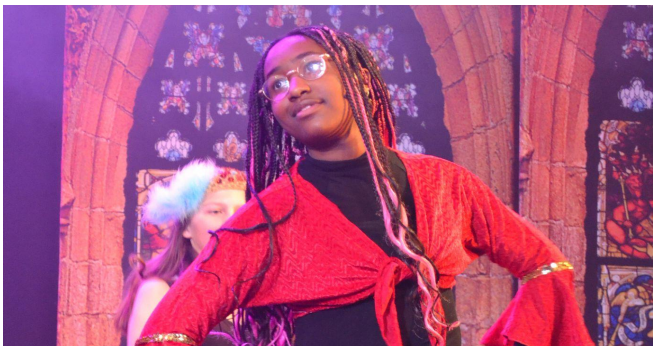
Sister Act

From November until March, the incredible Sister Act Crew had three to four rehearsals a week. The result of their dedication was a Broadway level musical. A perfect contrast of humour and tension had the audience on the edge of their seats.

The premiere was on March 3rd, and there were a total of four performances until the 5th. Now that it's over, here are the highlights of some of the actors' interviews:

Florence J (who played Deloris) says that "It's one of the coolest things I have ever done," While she doesn't want to pursue a career in theatre, she thinks that performing in a school play is amazing, and she has friends now (in Year 10) that she made through The Addams Family in Year 7! As an older student her advice for younger students who are interested in performing, is that "it's definitely the right decision because theatre is one of the things that has helped to shape me as a person and grow my confidence massively, it helps with so many different aspects of life. Also, don't give up if you don't get the role you want the first time, you are never 'not good enough' if you're passionate enough about it!" Her favourite part of the experience "is always the togetherness and how close you get with the cast."

Eleanor G (who also played Deloris) agreed, saying that "We all become part of a kind of family." Despite her terrible stage fright, she says "It felt amazing!" She thinks that playing Deloris was incredible, as she's always been into performing: "putting on shows in my living room for my parents."



Luckily she has developed ways of dealing with her stagefright, though it can be difficult as she sometimes feels like everyone is going to laugh at her. “Over time, I’ve learnt ways of coping with it and figured out that if people are going to laugh, let them laugh! They are the ones embarrassing themselves, you are the one that got the role, not them. And who cares if you mess up, mistakes are a part of being human. What helps me is right before I perform I do a show ritual where I shake my right hand eight times, then my left, then my right leg and finally my left. Then I repeat that but go down the numbers, so next it would be seven times until eventually I reach one and finish.”

Ms Wilkinson decided that her favourite part was when “we first did an assembly and the cast suddenly realised it was coming together.” She also loved watching how captivated the year six classes were by their performance. She wants everyone to know that Curtis and the gang learnt a whole extra song that they didn’t even get to perform. “The cast were dedicated and very talented, the success is all due to them! It is a perfect school show because “the ensemble is on stage for most of the show.”

Thank you so much to everyone who agreed to be interviewed, it really was an amazing show!



Written by Anina B
Image credits @blatchmill Instagram

Blatch Green Team

At Blatch Green Team we are planning a greener future for our school. This term, our focus is biodiversity. We have lots of ideas, and can't wait to see the final result!

Where, when, and who?

This eco club is on every Monday lunchtime, in room 113. Ms Holland runs it and anyone who is interested can join.

What do you do?

When we are not being eco-friendly, we are planning how to be eco-friendly in the future:

- make slides that remind people to be mindful of small things (like littering)
- plan meetings with members of the school to discuss how to become more eco-friendly
- arrange school trips that promote sustainability

Why is it important?

It may not always feel like a big problem, but our effect on the planet is a serious concern. If we do not take urgent action soon, climate change could be irreversible by 2030. This doesn't only affect animals and plants: it affects everything - the very air we breathe.

What are some examples of things the Green Team have done recently?

On the 24th of March, Blatch Green Team came together with three other schools to plan a biodiverse future. It was lead by local Waterhall Nature Reserve. During the day, we explored the grounds- identifying plants and birds. Then we made a plan of Blatch. We have lots of ideas for how to make our school greener, and hope to begin carrying them out at the start of the new term.

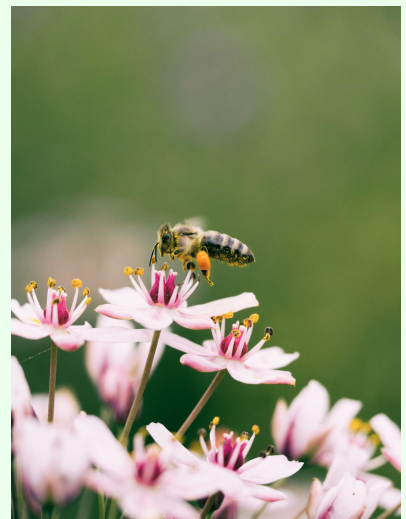
To begin these plans, we created a sunflower and pumpkin growing competition. Now every form has a few plants in them. They may be small, but a total of 176 seeds were planted!

Recently, we also were visited by an organization that built bee-boxes with us. The bee boxes were painted different colours. This is an experiment that will reveal which colours bees like the most. It is scientific research that will go to the University of Sussex!

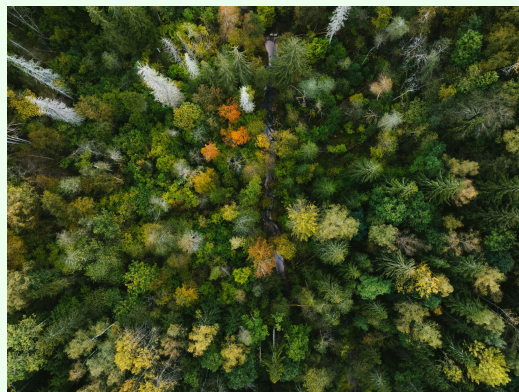
We hope to continue with more projects later this year!

Written by Anina B

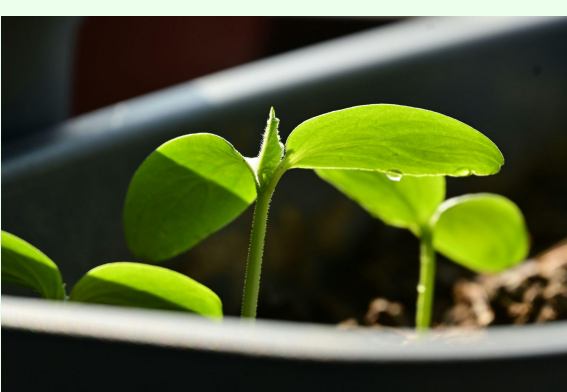
Aaron burden- Unsplash



Kristaps Ungurs- Unsplash



Dipo here- Unsplash



INTERVIEWS!



Interview with Jack Vine: Ex-Blatch student and Metropolitan Police Officer

- **How did you know you wanted to be a police officer?**

I always had this natural feeling to stand up for what's right and had no shame or fear to be vocal when it mattered.

- **What or who influenced you to become a police officer?**

I never wanted a boring job. After failing to become a footballer I then went to one of the best drama schools in London. After being an actor for 7 years I decided it was time for a change with a more secure and mentally healthy job; being a police officer is certainly not boring.

- **How long have you been in the force?**

Nearly 5 years

- **What is the most rewarding part of being a police officer?**

Helping people in their time of need and putting some really awful people in prison. I recently made the news for putting a shoplifter in prison for 12 months which was extremely rewarding.

- **What is the most difficult part of being a police officer?**

The workload!!! Some officers would say it's the abuse we sometimes get but for me I personally enjoy having a bit of back and forth.

- **Does your shift ever change? If it does, how do you make time at home?**

Yes a lot, I'm currently answering these questions on my 1st of 3 night shifts after 4 day shifts. I make time at home by balancing my social life around my shifts, I always make time for 5-a-side and gaming.

- **Is it difficult to balance your work and home life?**

Yes at times it is especially when working around events like Notting Hill Carnival and New Year Eve, however I'm very good at switching off as soon as I finish, other officers struggle with this.

- **How was your time at Blatch?**

I genuinely have really fond memories of Blatch, from takedown bulldog to going to One Stop. There were so many opportunities especially for sports and shows, winning the county cup in football was my biggest highlight.

- **What advice would you give to students about their future?**

Find something you enjoy and commit to it. If you're struggling to enjoy anything then put yourself out there and find something you enjoy.

- **Have you made any choices you regret?**

I don't really have many regrets but not learning a language is one of them.

- **What advice would you give to students about Blatch?**

Enjoy hanging out with your mates every day because in a few years you'll wish you could go back to it. Always try and find the fun in whatever you're doing.



*Jack Vine with Mr Carbis
and on duty in London*



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Magazine



Bonjour!



Hole!

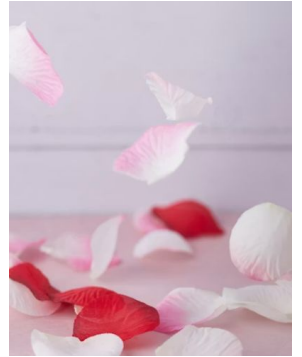


Creative

My Poem: Me **Myself**, And **I**

By Emily Keywood

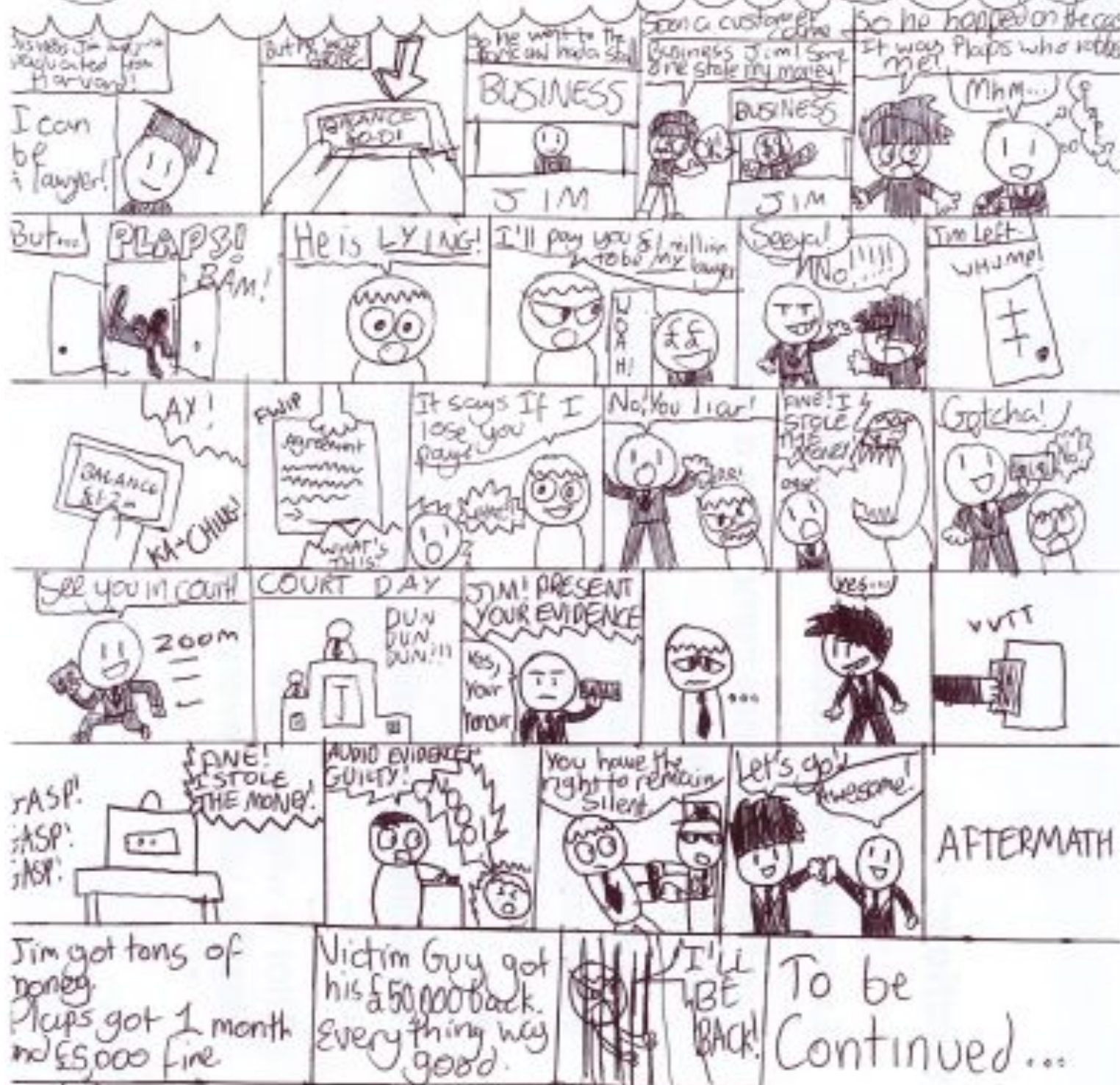
I think about **them**.
The way they laugh, and joke with their friends.
I think about **them**.
How can they be so happy, like
All of the time?
Oh why?
Oh why?
Why do I get so hurt by them?
Like, we aren't even friends.
I can't help but think,
If **this** had never happened, we maybe could of been. Maybe.
Just maybe.
But I can't help but think.
How we will never be.
And that thought is not a sad, depressing, or a ruining day type of thought.
But do you know what is?
Them.
Breaking me into tiny little pieces **again and again.**
And I can't help but think how
Those pieces
Can never be put back together,
Ever again.
But then, **I can't help but think.**
How I can glue those pieces back together
Again.
Not with superglue.
Not with super oily gluesticks that don't work.
With my own glue, that my brain produces
Again and again, every day.
Happiness.
And I never just stop.
I never stop, to just appreciate me.
Me, Myself, and I,
Flying like a bird.
Not just flying, soaring.
Soaring above them.
Soaring above all their silly little mouths,
That can only insult me,
Again and again.
Soaring above people who can only insult me with meaningless words.
Oh why?
Oh why?
Oh why is thou's soul so weak?
Me, Myself, and I.
Flying, **Soaring,** like a bird.
A bird that is free.



COMICS!



BUSINESS JIM



By 

Join us for:
Business Jim II - Crazy Case

Characters
 Jim
 Victim Guy
 Plaps
 Judge
 Police Man

Jim Balance
 £0.01 - £1,300,000

To be Continued...

The Pepper comic



Once there was a pepper. This pepper was a normal pepper, who lived a very normal life.

It just sat inside the fridge all day. The most excitement it had ever had was riding in a supermarket trolley.



But one day... Something exciting happened.



More exciting than riding in a trolley?

Yes pepper. More exciting than riding in a trolley. Anyway.. The pepper got taken out of the fridge!!!!



And sadly, it got chopped up and eaten.

Read more in part 2!



Welcome to
part 2!!!!!!

So, as I was
saying... pepper
got taken out of the
fridge!!!

The pepper even
got interviewed!!!

Flashback



Interviewers: how
did it feel to be
taken out of the
fridge?

Pepper: Omg! It
was
MORTIFYING.

Anyway... sadly,
the pepper got
eaten!



I'm in a real
pickle...I
mean
pepper!

Pepper. You just
died. Now is not
the time for jokes!
Read more in part
3!

Part 3!!!!!!!!!!

Once the pepper
got eaten, it
turned into a

GHOST!



I'm a
ghost
guys.

Now the pepper
was a ghost, it
could haunt
people!!!

Balloon



Yayyy i can float
around like a
balloon and haunt
people!!!!

But then
something
happened that
sent the pepper
tumbling back
down to earth.

The pepper...
WOKE UP.



Noooo it was ALL
just a dream!!! Even
the interviewing!
Even the getting
taken out of the
fridge! Even the -

Yes pepper. We
get it. It was all
just a dream.

The end.

Byeeee!





Three-Ingredient Mini Spring Nests

Ingredients:

- 160g milk chocolate
 - 70g cornflakes -you can also use rice krispies cereal or shredded wheat
 - 200 grams of mini eggs -2 bags
- (I also used Aero Peppermint, white frosting, and chocolate stars)

Method:

- 1- Begin by cutting or breaking your chocolate into small pieces before placing it in a bowl above a pan of boiling water.
- 2- When it is fully melted, remove the bowl and pour in your corn flakes and stir to fully coat the grains.
- 3- Lay out 10 cupcake cases and evenly separate the mixture into them.
- 4- Use your thumb to make a dent in the center of each until they look like nests.
- 5- Stick mini eggs and whatever else you are using into the center.
- 6- Chill in the fridge for 2 hours.
- 7- Enjoy!

To make vegan:

- Use dark chocolate or vegan milk chocolate
- Replace mini eggs with vegan alternatives
- Don't use rice krispies

Happy Easter!

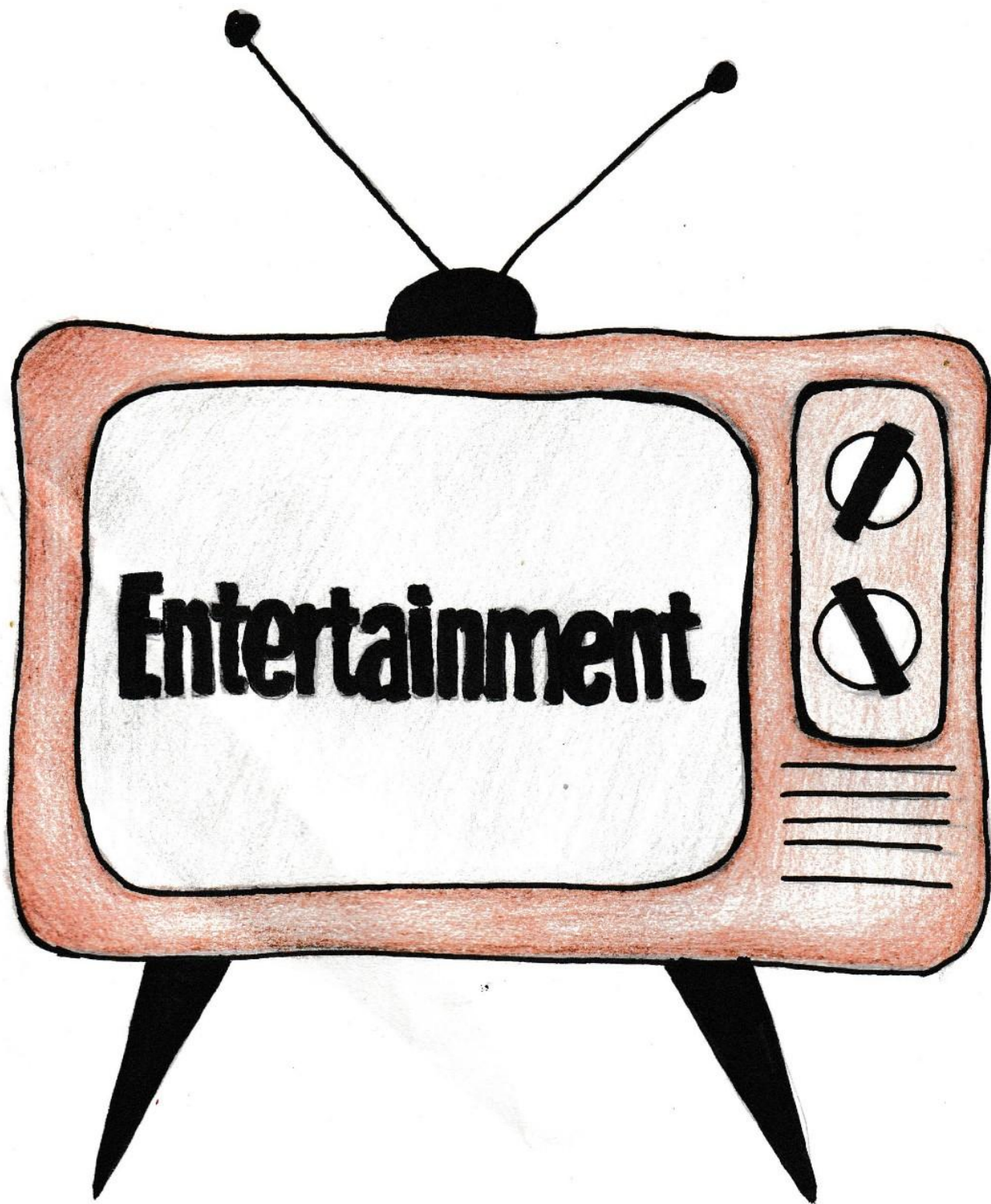
Written by Anina B



Annie Spratt- Unsplash

Images taken by Anina B





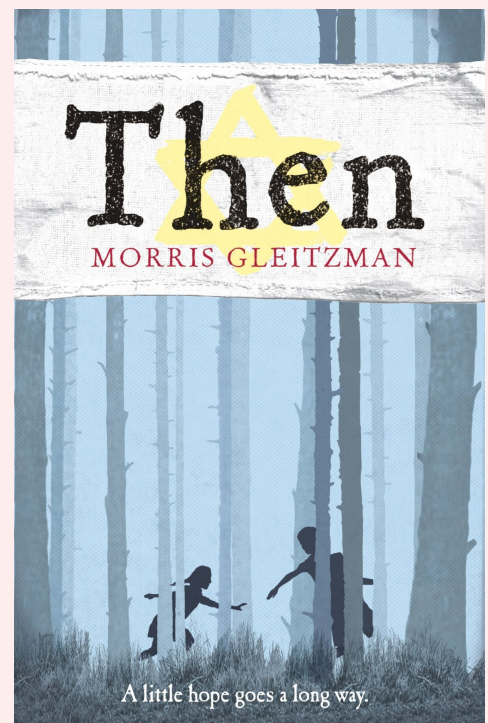
Book review: Then by Morris Gleitzman



Then is the second book in the Once series. It is set in Poland, during WW2 when it was occupied by Germany. The protagonist in the story is a boy called Felix who comes from a Jewish family. In Once Felix meets a girl called Zelda along the way on his travels and forms a strong friendship with her. This carries on throughout the second book without a doubt. As Felix and Zelda start to build their false identities will they be able to stick to them and keep their lives?

I would recommend it for age 11/12 and up as it contains some strong themes such as death, genocide and displacement. However if you are really interested in WW2 then maybe slightly younger readers would enjoy it.

Written by Isla S-J

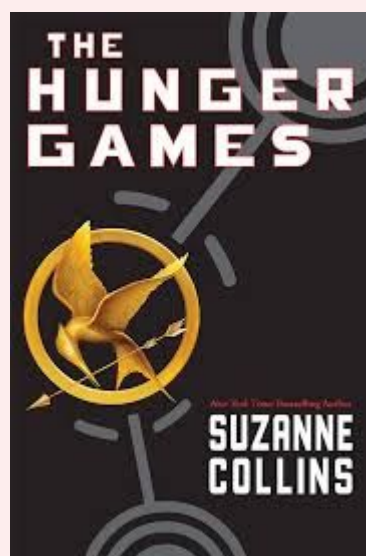


Book review : The Hunger Games By Suzanne Collins



Join sixteen year old Katniss Everdeen as she decides to risk her own life to save her beloved sister, as her name is selected to honour District Twelve in the 74th anniversary of The Games. Some of the themes that are woven throughout the story are adventure, romance and survival. I would recommend The Hunger Games for ages 11 to 14 although there are still loads of adults that enjoy the series just as much as teenagers. There is some death but it isn't described in too much detail. Overall I really enjoyed reading The Hunger Games. It was one of my favourite recent reads. I found it really engaging and would really recommend it for people who are wanting a good book that keeps the suspense all the way through. I found it really engaging and just wanted to keep reading it forever. Thankfully there are four other books in the series. I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I did.

Written Isla S-J



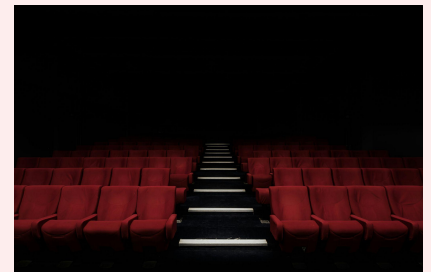
The Fall of Original Films and the Rise of Sequels

In 2026, there were roughly 50 sequels/remakes released, an increase from last year. This far outnumbered the amount of original films. This shows that there is a lack of new and exciting ideas in the industry. The future doesn't get much brighter either. Over the next few years, a significant fraction of the films being made are sequels. With all this information it begs the question, how did we get here, and can we go back? To find the answer we must go to a time where original films outnumbered sequels and for that, we must go to the year 2004 where only 36% of the top 50 films were sequels. Despite the number one and two spots being taken by sequels the majority of the top fifty films were originals. Many major original releases included Mean Girls, Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind, Troy and the Incredibles, which all had interesting plots and characters.

The (real) problem

Forgetting about the money, forgetting about expansion options, the real problem is that the people in power sponsoring the ideas don't care about the viewers. All they care about is 'Let's make another Godzilla Film' or 'How about another Jurassic Park?'. Not to say sequels are bad, there are some sequels that are better than the original, but because it's the easiest option, the sponsors will go for it because to make money in the film industry you need sponsors, and sponsors go for low-risk investment, so they won't lose money. I'm not necessarily saying that every sequel is bad (I personally love Mission Impossible) but we need a change. If the future continues like this then we might end up with seeing 30 year old films having sequels in the box office. What the studio needs to know is that we don't want another Scream film, (I mean seriously, there are seven already) we want new ideas. Fresh concepts that will make millions. Well that's all from me see you in the next magazine!

By Aksel E



Images- Unsplash

Film Reviews



G.O.A.T 7/10 (PG)

When a young goat gets the opportunity of a lifetime, playing Roarball for his favourite team, he enters a world of high stakes and higher egos.

What I thought...

All in all, a pretty solid film. Nothing special, just the classic beautiful animation you can expect from a Sony Animation film and good humour. Although I thought it was one of the weaker Sony Pictures Animation films, that is still not to say it is awful.

Anaconda 6.8/10 (12A)

When a group of old friends decide to recreate Anaconda, their favourite film, they travel to the Amazon, but soon realise that they are living it!

What I thought...

Filled with funny comedy, mixed with hilarious antics and horror, Anaconda is a truly fun and enjoyable film. Jack Black and Paul Rudd's chemistry makes them easy to watch and with a star-studded cast and amazing cameos from Ice-Cube and Jennifer Lopez, it truly will leave you breathless!



Project Hail Mary 7/10 (12A)

When science teacher Ryland Grace wakes up in space, with no memories, it's up to him to save humanity with an ally he never imagined.

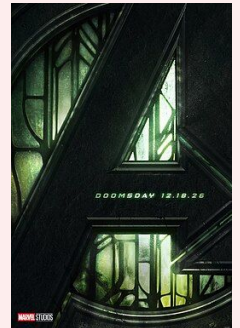
What I thought...

To sum the film up in one sentence, it was good but way too long. 2 hours and 36 minutes of my life was spent in that cinema. I thought it was a good film, but nowhere near the level of the book. I liked the scientific accuracy but disliked the ending, which was a scientific impossibility.



Upcoming films

Avengers Doomsday (18th December 2026)

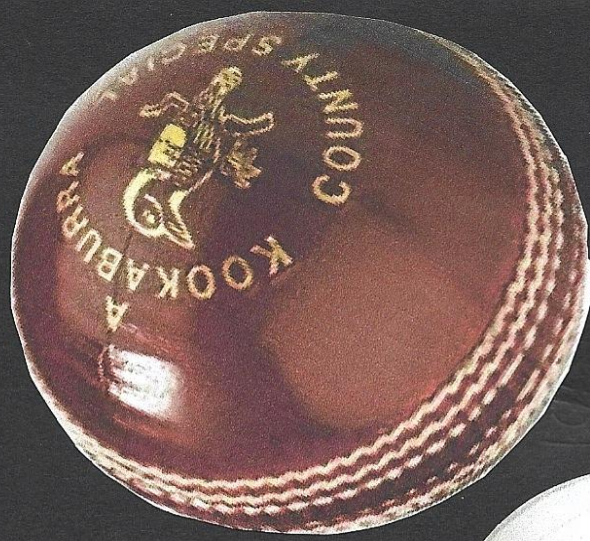


Spider-Man Brand New Day (31st July 2026)

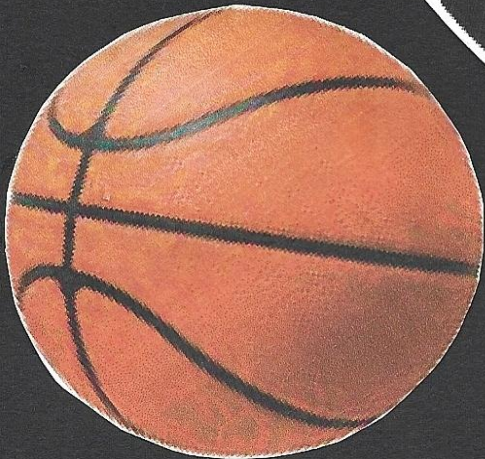
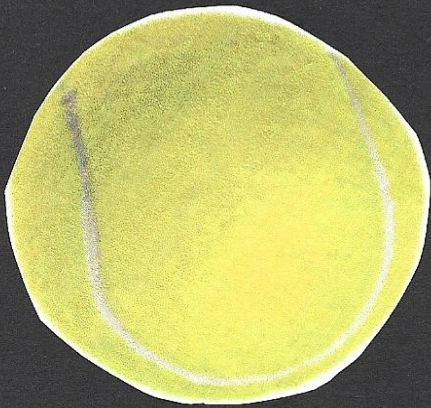


Disclosure Day (12th June 2026)





S P O R T



WHO'S EXCITED FOR THE WORLD CUP?

This year's tournament is the biggest World Cup that has ever happened! On June 11 the men's 2026 World Cup started in Mexico City. During the six weeks, football fans will get to witness 48 teams from around the world compete for a cash prize of \$50million (£37.28million). They will compete in 104 matches across 16 cities in the US, Mexico and Canada, which are the three way hosts. Some of the less known countries competing are Haiti, Ivory Coast, Uzbekistan, Dr Congo, Jordan and Senegal. Argentina is the current defending champion and they're hoping to become the third back-to-back champion. England has 11.2% chance of winning the world cup.

By Zoe M, Felix C, and Anina B



All Pictures from Unsplash





How your diet can affect mental health

Mental health is a challenge for many young people all over the world. But what you eat also can harm or improve your mental health. It supports your energy so you don't have any mood swings. It also affects your cognitive function and a cognitive function helps improve your mental health by providing essential nutrients that stabilize mood, boost cognitive function, and regulate energy levels

Improving mental health with your diet:

To support your emotional wellbeing, focus on maintaining a balanced diet.

- Make sure you include lots of protein like beans, meat, fish, or tofu.
- Include complex carbs. Instead of white bread, try something like oats or brown rice
- Help your gut: try foods like yogurt, leafy greens, oats, or anything fermented, e.g. kimchi or kombucha

Written by Rosie C-J

Yael Hofnung- Unsplash



Shelley Pauls- Unsplash



Heather Barnes- Unsplash

How Nature Affects Your Mental Health:

By the Emily's (Emily R & Emily K)

The birds are singing, the grass is growing and the baby animals are being born, a sure sign that the world is coming out to play. But what can we do to improve mental health at this time? We (the Emilys) have some top tips for what to do.

- **Get outdoors:** Take advantage of the warm weather and do some outdoors activities like hiking or yoga or walking which releases endorphins which are the body's natural pain-killers and 'feel-good' chemical
- **Boosting vitamin D:** Get out into the sunshine and soak up the serotonin and vitamin D! They combat winter fatigue and improve our mood.
- **Practice mindfulness:** Practice grounding techniques such as bird watching and spotting wildlife
- **Look away from screens:** Try a digital detox to lower stress and improve focus
- **Adjust sleep plans:** If you are like me and enjoy reading until way too late, why not try to adjust with the changing clocks and build healthier habits.
- **Set new goals:** Use the new season for achievements you'll be proud of.
- **Stay hydrated:** Remember to stay hydrated as the temperatures rise: make sure to drink lots to battle fatigue.

Why Nature is so Important:

- **It lowers your guard:** In a city or online, your brain is always looking out for danger or distractions. Nature doesn't demand anything from you, letting your nervous system finally get the rest it needs. Let it quiet your racing mind.
- **It restores your energy:** If you feel completely burnt out, (like after a day of school) spending time outside recharges your mental battery far better than scrolling on a phone ever could
- **It lowers stress:** in as little as 20 minutes in a natural environment you will lower cortisol levels (the primary stress hormone)
- **It sharpens focus:** Nature acts as a reset button for your brain, helping to recharge your attention span and spark creativity
- **And finally, it helps physical health:** Being outside naturally encourages movement, boosts Vitamin D and it can even have a direct, positive effect on your heart rate

There you have it, 12 points around the topic of nature and wellbeing. If you enjoyed reading this and would like to learn more about nature, why don't you join the Blatch Green team (monday lunchtimes in 113)? We would love to welcome some new members to our club, you can just turn up, no signing up involved. We hope you enjoyed our article.

By the Emilys (Emily R & Emily K)



Images by Unsplash



Puzzles

S	F	L	O	W	E	R	S
U	N	B	S	E	A	J	P
M	G	A	P	O	O	L	R
M	R	A	T	N	I	E	I
E	A	G	R	U	F	A	N
R	S	O	E	S	R	V	G
P	S	D	E	K	M	E	L
R	E	Q	S	U	N	S	E

Words

Nature trees Summer Sun Pool

Flowers Leaves Spring Grass Sea



Thank you!



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- No fabrication
- No offensive language/ statements of any kind.
- No explicit content
- All images to be appropriately sourced and credited (original or free stock websites such as Pixabay, Pexels, Unsplash)
- All opinions to be qualified/ referenced
- All permissions to be sought for contributions including people who features in photographs

Style Guide

To make our newspaper accessible and easy to read for all, we have these guidelines.

- Lexend font
- 12-14 point in size
- Articles to be mostly printed on pale colours linked to the relevant section of the magazine