



by the pupils, for the pupils
October 2018



Your go to newsletter for news, interviews and reviews

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LEICESTER GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Wishing Tom Ellis a speedy and healthy recovery as he deals with his current health issues

With thanks to Mr Kidd and Mrs Kendall and all of our guest writers. Also, we would like to thank Mrs Hunt for allowing us to use her computer!

LGS Remembrance Day Poppy Wall



“I was incredibly impressed with all students who got involved with making the poppy display for Remembrance

this year. All students from LGS and LGJS were asked to make a poppy each and place their name and a message or poem on the back. These were then assembled on display in front of the colours of the four School Houses. The House Captains that got involved with decorating the display at lunchtime were very organised and worked so well as a team to achieve an outstanding outcome. As a member of staff, it is rewarding to see students from all years working together, and not relying on staff to direct them what to do. Who knows what we will do next year! Thank you to everyone that got involved.”

Miss Campbell, as told to Maiya Kapur



Leicester Helicopter Crash

It was around 8:30 on Saturday 27th October, just after City had drawn 1-1 with West Ham, when the owner of Leicester City, Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha, two of his staff members, a pilot and a passenger took off in a helicopter from King Power Stadium. Some fans had already left, some were still in the stadium and some were walking on roads, heading towards their respective homes. BT Sport host Jake Humphrey and pundits Owen Hargreaves, Chris Sutton and John Hartson were commenting on the departure of the helicopter from the stadium. Suddenly, there was a large explosion. It took several moments for people to register the brutality of what had just happened: the aircraft had hurtled to the ground and burst into an inferno.

Emergency services immediately rushed to the scene and within the hour the stadium and its vicinity were full of ambulances, police cars and fire appliances. There was fear and a sense of the unknown present amongst not only the people at the site but also fans who had just left the stadium and those watching at home. The next few hours were extremely difficult as people waited for news about the incident. At 10.42pm, LCFC released the first official statement regarding the event: “We are assisting Leicestershire Police and the Emergency

Services in dealing with a major incident at the King Power Stadium. The Club will issue a more detailed statement once further information has been established.”

Soon after, the Air Accidents Investigation Branch (AAIB) started their enquiries in an attempt to preserve all the evidence. They worked through the early hours of Sunday morning to identify important evidence and to understand the cause of the accident. So far, the investigation has led to the recovery of the black box recorder. Investigators are continuing to carry out forensic work on the remains of the aircraft and are trying to find the root cause of this horrendous incident.

Many speculations have already been made as to what may have happened. Some people have suggested that the aircraft might have started malfunctioning after its collision with a police drone. However, Leicestershire Police repudiated that claim and said that such a small drone could not have possibly caused such a harrowing accident. Writing on Twitter, the Leicestershire Police Events account posted: ‘We do deploy a drone for public safety purposes on some match days. However, we have confirmed that the drone was not in flight at the time the helicopter left the stadium on Saturday evening.’

Alternatively, some experts have suggested that the aircraft’s tail rotor might have failed. Consequently, the chopper spiralled out of control and there was almost nothing the pilot could have done to prevent it from crashing. Nevertheless, pilot Eric Swaffer has been greatly acclaimed on social media for steering the helicopter away from crowds who were in the process of exiting the stadium. He has been hailed a hero.

Regarding this incident, current Leicester manager, Claude Puel, said, ‘We are all numb with sadness and shock.’ He also mentioned that his players have made the decision to go ahead with the Premier League match at Cardiff City on Saturday 3rd November but that the result of

the game will ‘not be important’.

Puel also added: ‘Playing football has not been at front of our minds this week. But for this weekend, and all the matches thereafter, we play to honour a man who did so much for our club.’

This shocking incident has left not only people in Leicester but others around the world wracked with woe and sorrow. Thousands of tributes have been left outside the King Power Stadium to honour the five lives that were claimed in the crash. Many players and fans are using #TheBoss to pay respects and condolences on social media. On the Twitter account, Puel Never Walk Alone, it was tweeted: ‘A few years ago, we found a King in a Car Park. Now, we’ve just lost a King in a car park. In between, we’ve had the biggest sporting story of all time. Although there are numerous people to thank and bless, there are none more so deserving than Vichai.’

Mr Srivaddhanaprabha’s body was transported to Thailand from Leicester on Friday 2nd November and the funeral began in Thailand on Saturday 3 November 2018. In accordance with Buddhist tradition, the funeral spanned over several days. Due to Khun Vichai’s esteemed status within Thailand, the funeral ceremony was granted ‘Royal Sponsorship’ which included a Royal Bathing Rite for the body as well as a special eight-sided urn to store his remains.

By
Rameen Massood



Year 9 visit to the National Holocaust Centre

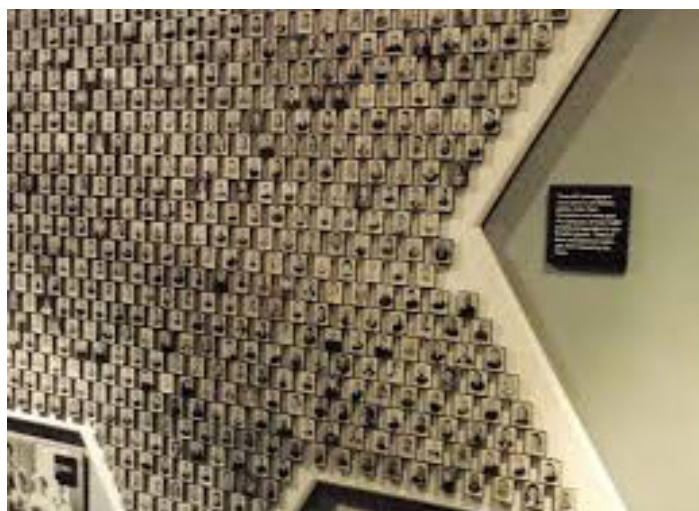
On the Wednesday 24th of October Year 9 students went to the National Holocaust Memorial Centre in Laxton. It was a very moving experience and gave us a greater insight into what was a terrible, yet key event in history. The Holocaust Centre had a lecture hall where we were greeted by an enthusiastic volunteer. After a powerful introductory video, we split into groups. There were many different sections which included the gardens, an underground journey and a café.

The Holocaust began around 30th of January 1933 when the Nazi regime came to power. The Nazi party 'normalized' racism against Jews and other vulnerable groups within Germany at the time. Some of the minorities that were persecuted included: Blacks, Gypsies, Romani people, Slavs, homosexuals and disabled people.

What we found wonderful was that the Holocaust Centre had memorials for all the people who had died, including Germans who had helped others escape. The Holocaust Centre currently has an area for people to put down a stone for every child who died in the Holocaust. The aim is to have 6 million stones there and currently they have around 1.5 million.

Unfortunately, the Holocaust survivor, called Arek Hersh, was not there on that day, but we watched a documentary about him and his experiences. It showed powerful images of this survivor standing in front of the very sites where he and others had been enslaved, and many exterminated, years ago. His story had many twists and turns, many narrow escapes and heartbreaking separations. After this intense experience one really gets a feel of how terrible the Holocaust really was and how it affected millions. On that day the whole of Year 9 learnt a valuable lesson with the amazing help of so many volunteers who work hard throughout the years to educate young people like us about the horrors of the Holocaust and how to prevent a tragedy like this from ever happening again.

By Lucas Hoffmann and Harry Khalid



At the cinema

Johnny English 3

The first children's film that references Brexit more than it is Funny". I personally didn't think much of this, but the screening I was in was actually full and everyone, child and adult alike, laughed a lot throughout.

This is the third Johnny English film in the franchise and again it has Rowan Atkinson playing Johnny English. In this one, Johnny is brought out of teaching little kids spy skills (when he is supposed to be teaching Geography) when the entire MI7 database is hacked and all undercover operatives are revealed. As the film progresses, more cyber-attacks take place as English and his sidekick Bough (Ben Miller) try frantically to find the culprit and stop them.

The film is actually quite funny, but some elements are pretty dim. The plot has the exact same blueprints as the last two: he tries, he's funny, gets close, gets fired but saves the day anyway. Though usually little kids aren't going to notice this, it is still very obvious. Like every fictitious British film or TV show these days, it took a lot of shots at the Americans, and at some points it was even mildly sexist. Overall, this is a watchable film if you want something light or have nothing to do on a rainy day because it is quite funny, but in my opinion, compared to the other films, Johnny English didn't strike again.



First Man

For a movie about a real life event of which everyone knows the stages, "First Man" does a good job of making you question whether Neil Armstrong will make it to the moon. I am a fan of Science Fiction/ Action films with beautiful sky-boxes and killer action sequences, with creativity and imagination written all over them, so I wasn't so sure about this mellow and quiet retelling of the story of first man on the moon - but I was very wrong.

The plot follows Neil Armstrong (Ryan Gosling) as he is picked for the Gemini team and his eventual inclusion in the Apollo 11 mission. It spends a lot of time focussing on Neil's personal life instead of his work, and reveals the heartache that he went through as he progressed through the programme. He actually lost his little daughter, Karen, at a very early age which was referenced throughout and was quite upsetting. Armstrong actually loses a lot of his friends through crashes and malfunctions, yet he manages to hold it together for almost all of the film. He eventually is put onto the Gemini programme and tests a bunch of ships, before being given Commandership of the Apollo 11 mission and eventually going to the moon.

It doesn't actually have a title screen; the movie just ends with Neil talking to his wife in quarantine; the way it is played out emphasises that Neil is actually just a normal man, not a super hero like everyone thinks he is. The film goes to great lengths to make us respect and feel sorry for Neil, which works perfectly. The sequences with him in space are really tense, especially when it goes inevitably wrong. Ryan Gosling is perfectly cast as Armstrong, as his soft voice highlights the fact that he is a normal person. Not much time was actually spent on the moon, but in contrast to the loud and bustling Earth, it was all completely silent.

Overall, "First Man" is a very good film, both a historical retelling and a heartfelt watch. It gives a very well done perspective on how even Neil Armstrong felt small on looking back at his home planet.

By Thomas Mann

Foundation Day

Foundation Day arrives every year on the last day before the Advent half term. It is a significant event in the school calendar and every year the pupils write an essay. The topic of the essay changes every year. The titles are thoughtful and allow the pupils to use their imagination. Previous titles have included: "My idea of a monster" and "My favorite structure in the world". This year's was: "What do you wish you had invented?" This topic could be flipped on its head and pupils could also write about something they wished had never been invented. The day also includes the Foundation Service. This year's guest speaker was an ex-LGS pupil, Greg Cooke, who is now a Classics teacher and Chaplain. He started his speech by singing the first part of Amazing Grace which was extraordinary. He delivered a spiritual message and useful advice for the coming year.

But does Leicester Grammar School need traditions? We certainly have them; we also have a House System. The School is only 40 years old, but we still have numerous re-occurring, 'traditional' events in our calendar. But do we need them?

Some may say that traditions are just part of the school and Leicester grammar would not be the same without it. The traditions that we take part in give us identity and allow us to learn more about our School. Some people think that Services and special events like Foundation Day are just

a complete waste of time. Harry Khalid, 9C, says that Foundation Day is important to him as "it allows all pupils to show their gratitude towards the people who gave us the privilege of being here today." This does not represent the opinion of all the pupils, however. An anonymous pupil told me that "Foundation Day is a waste of time as there are more efficient ways to give thanks for the people who founded our school. There are plenty of other ways to learn about the foundation of Leicester Grammar school." Personally, (this is the writer's opinion and does NOT in any way represent the views of the Peacock magazine and its affiliates) I believe that the essay competition, although it is a very good idea, has nothing to do with Foundation Day. I am also not a huge fan of the large Service as it doesn't really involve the people we are thanking for the foundation of our school.

So, does Leicester Grammar School really need traditions? Or are they just there to make us look fancy? I'll let you decide.

By Lucas Hoffmann

Urinals, Blue Bread and Glass Tears: How WWI affected art

On February 5th, 1916, the Russian empire was launching a campaign to seize the Turkish port of Trabzon where the Ottoman Empire had deported Armenians who had survived the genocide. Meanwhile, in a small backstreet in neutral Zurich, the German poet Hugo Ball and his wife Emily were setting up Cabaret Voltaire. Hugo had lost his faith in the war after the invasion of Belgium saying, “The war is founded on a glaring mistake, men have been confused by machines”.

The Cabaret Voltaire was meant to be a haven to those artists following in the thoughts of its namesake; rejecting the bourgeoisie strictness of contemporary Expressionist Art and Europe as a whole. The group was strongly against Nationalism and Colonialism, which can be argued as some of the main reasons of the war. They fought these concrete ideals with irony, cynicism, nihilism and absolute buffoonery. It seems the absurdity and randomness was a way of healing the pain of the deaths of loved ones and the cold reality of war. The members were Germans, French, Hungarians, Romanians, Swedes and Swiss, who were descended from butchers, bakers and barristers.

The name ‘Dada’ was coined when a member stuck a penknife in a German to French dictionary. It means ‘hobby horse’ in French, ‘naïveté’ in German, and ‘Yes, Yes’ in Hungarian. So, it meant both nothing and something to each artist. That was the point. Dada art could be anything from collages to graffiti, so long as it was exaggerated, meant nothing and rebelled against common standards of beauty. In this way the movement was ‘anti-art’. A urinal titled ‘Fountain’, a Mona Lisa with a moustache, and a bicycle wheel are all artworks by Dadaist artists. They wrote poems full of words that didn’t exist and dressed up as lobsters. My personal favourite Dada artworks are the recipes. These would usually be a prompt you could improvise on. For example:

Man Ray’s Déjeuner: take the olives and juice from one large jar of prepared green or black olives and throw them away. In the empty jar place several steel ball bearings. Fill the jar with machine oil to prevent rusting. With this delicacy serve a loaf of French bread,

30 inches in length, painted a pale blue.

Although the Dada movement started in Switzerland, after the war was over it spread to the U.S. and Paris. It began to draw in more artists like Man Ray and Max Ernst. It began to merge with surrealism in the mid twenties but its remnants echoed in the modern art of the century. It inspired famous artists like Salvador Dali and Rene Magritte.

Dada gave birth to surrealism, conceptual art and most other modern art forms. It had a slight resurgence in the late sixties and early seventies after the Vietnam War, which had caused outrage amongst the artistic community. The movement began in New York in the form of Fluxus. This was mainly performance art movement which had its roots in Dada’s random ‘anti-art’ meaninglessness. Most of the performances were based on a prompt similar to those of Dadaism. Like this one by Yoko Ono: light match and watch until it goes out. Or this one, if you fancy some morning eggs: empty egg shells and fill with plaster, urethane, shaving cream, dead bug, etc. Sounds delicious. In its own way the Dada movement of the nineteen tens was a way of coping with the atrocities of war and raising the spirits of a depressed world. It was the birth of that wonderful part of culture that rejects culture. The internet is full of modern Dadaism. Vines and memes are all derived from the poppycock of Dada’s performances. Trying to explain to an alien why a seven second video of a boy saying “Hi, welcome to chili’s!” is funny would be impossible. But that’s the beauty of Dadaism: it’s pure nonsense.

The artists who participated in the movement all contributed to modern society and taught us a valuable lesson about grief. We can be stoic and cold or make fish jelly. In a world full of Expressionists, be Dada. Raoul Hausman’s ‘Art Critic’ 1919-1920

By Maya Joshi

To the Unknown Soldiers

All soldiers who fought during World War One deserved to be commemorated, but by 1918 there were innumerable men, unknown men, laying where they died in battle who would leave a gap in their loved ones' lives having died too young. They would not be taken home, and would never see the armistice which brought joy to most. Everyone should remember the soldiers who have no name, or who are lost in the fields of France and Belgium, as they are just as significant as those who came back.

In 1920, our nation made sure we knew of the destructive quality of war, in destroying lives, by creating a memorial to an unknown warrior (for all the unknown) at Westminster Abbey, filling his grave with earth from the main French battlefields. And what is more affective is that they picked an unknown soldier at random; it could've been anyone and therefore denotes that they all deserve remembrance. Terry Charman, historian at the Imperial War Museum, fittingly stated: "Those parents and wives who had lost men to war didn't have anything tangible to grieve at, so the unknown warrior represented their loss."

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (founded by Sir Fabian Ware in 1917) also consecrated cemeteries and memorials to the missing by individually commemorating each soldier who had no known grave, amounting to 315,000 in France and Belgium alone, and approximately 560,000 overall in 153 separate countries. The Menin Gate (Menenpoort) was the first memorial to the missing located in Europe, but it didn't have sufficient space so the 34,991 names of those with no known graves (those from August 16th 1917 onwards) are inscribed on the end wall of Tyne Cot Cemetery memorial, located in Zonnebeke. This cemetery truly stifles your breath as the realisation of the

vast amount of loved ones who never returned home, and were never found, is frightening, but it's also poignant for the site to be placed on the fields of the Battle of Passchendaele, following prominent victories at Vimy Ridge by the Canadians.

One hundred years on we still commemorate all the fallen soldiers who were not only British, but our allies - this includes 250,000 men from Australia, Canada, South Africa, New Zealand, India, and others. But behind the statistics lie individual, private memories of millions of ordinary people who sacrificed love and life for the country which needed them. People today still recognise that closure was not brought to all families, and make the effort as part of the Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre to find remains of the lost warriors of World War One, identify them, and give a burial with full military honours. For example, an Aberdonian sailor named James Robertson received a full military burial 100 years after his death at the capture of Gavrelle of April 1917. He also fought at Gallipoli and Northern France as part of the Hood Battalion. They are based at the Imjin Barracks just outside Gloucester and they travel to battlefield sites across Europe as part of their mission.

Unfortunately one hundred years on, remains are still lost amongst the earth, blood, and shells, but their memory still lives on, even if there is no individual burial, yet.

The unknown soldier has come home
And in this tomb will lie
God will find him a special place
Under the silence of the sky.

By Emily MacTaggart

Geography Teacher Interview Bonanza

Interview with Mr Campbell

Where did you study Geography?

I studied in the University Of Auckland, New Zealand.

Where did your passion for Geography initially arise?

I think at school, going to Waitomo caves to see glow worms. I also saw a volcanic eruption in New Zealand.

What is your favorite part of Geography?

I think I quite like natural hazards, and I quite like the carbon cycle.

Why did you look at coming to Leicester Grammar School, and generally why teaching?

It's closer to home, and it was good coming back to a co-ed school.

Do you have any hobbies outside of school?

I do triathlons and I coach rugby. I also enjoy scuba diving.

Where are the most exciting places you have visited around the world?

I have visited Vietnam, it was exciting to see the changes and things related to the Vietnam War, Botswana – exploring wildlife, Namibia – travelling and staying in the desert, Samoa – enjoying scuba diving.

Are there any trips that you are looking forward to this year?

Watch the space. We're in the process of planning potential trips.

By Aditya Mathur, Shashank Bhandari and Svaraji Odedra



Interview with Mrs McNally

Where have you taught in the past, and how long have you been a teacher for?

I've been a teacher for about fourteen years. The first school I taught at was a girls' school. Then I taught at Pitsford, a small independent school, for eleven years.

Where did you study Geography?

The University of Westminster, down in London. I had a full-time job in Northampton and went down there to study every day.

Why did you look at coming to Leicester Grammar School, and what attracted you to join?

I think it was the fact that the school is bigger - so lots more opportunities, for you guys as well as for me. There are also more children to teach. Because I was at a small school, some years I would teach GCSEs, some I wouldn't, so it's nice to have lots of you here. It seemed nice when I came, and everyone seemed quite happy to be working. I'm pleased to be here.

Are there any trips that you are looking forward to in the coming months?

We've got a few day trips. We've just been away with Year 13 on the Rivers Trip, which I liked. It was quite good because I didn't fall in the river this time, which in past years I have! And we're trying to plan a trip to Iceland next year as a Department, so we're looking forward to that. I've only ever been once before.

Why did you choose Geography as a key part of your career, and where did your passion for it come from?

My passion came from school and some of my teachers who were just so passionate about it. I've met one of them recently, and she still does work with the university she was at. I prefer Human Geography - I love it. I just loved the subject at school.

Have you always wanted to be a teacher, or did you want to be something else?

When I was about eleven, I wanted to be Prime Minister but that didn't really work out! I didn't know I wanted to be a teacher until I'd gone into business for a couple of years. I worked for a big paper company and went around the country looking at lots of different departments; at the end of the three years, they said "What do you want to do?", and I said, "Something more meaningful," so I became a teacher.

What are your hobbies outside of school?

I play netball at the weekends and I play golf as often as I can. I also like going to nice restaurants, because I like eating!

What are the most exciting places you have visited around the world?

I haven't visited as many as I'd like to, really. Cairo was very interesting. I went there for my honeymoon - that's a bit weird isn't it! But it was before the Revolution; you know, the Arab Spring. That was probably the most interesting place; it had a weird atmosphere; quite scary actually. Other than that, I went to Dubai about twenty years ago, before it was developed, and that was quite interesting as well.

By Aditya Mathur, Shashank Bhandari and Svaraji Odedra

“Only the
dead have
seen the
end of
war.”

George Santayana