



PEACOCK

by the pupils, for the pupils
November 2016



Interest • Interviews • Current Affairs • Debates • Reviews • Music

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“We zig and zag and sometimes, you know, we move in ways that some people think is forward and others think is moving back, and that’s okay.”
- Barack Obama

In the news...



After a year of heavy campaigning, surprising allegations, and harsh comments thrown both ways, the American election has come to a close with Donald J. Trump being elected President of the United States of America. The overall reaction of the world is one of shock and disbelief with a man not known for sticking to the books being in charge of the second largest nuclear arsenal (second to Russia) in the world and arguably the most powerful country in the world. The margins were close for the result, and enough people felt strongly about the elections that after Mr Trump was announced the Canadian immigration website crashed after presumably many Americans were looking for their options. However, some people hope that after his victory speech he will calm down and not spread the hatred that he is so well known for. Hillary Clinton, the leader on the losing Democrat party, will give her concession speech on the Thursday morning after the election night. It is also rumoured that she called Mr Trump to admit her defeat.

In American news that everyone can be happy about Chicago Cubs finally won the World Series after over one hundred years of coming very close but losing by a small margin. The alleged “curse of the Billy Goat” had finally broken. The city celebrated their win with a huge cake created in the team’s honour. A whopping forty five pounds of sugar was used to create this structure of the stadium, and a bat and ball.

Back in the United Kingdom, Theresa May has received permission by the Supreme Court to appeal against the legal ruling forcing her to give Parliament a vote on the plans for Brexit. The Government has been allowed to appeal against the High Court ruling delivered last week that the Prime Minister must

seek MPs’ approval to trigger Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty, launching official Brexit talks. The challenge will begin on December 5th and is expected to last four days. It will be the first time that all eleven justices will sit to hear on a case. Government lawyers had argued that prerogative powers were a legitimate way to give effect “to the will of the people” who voted by a clear majority to leave the European Union in the June referendum.

The European Union have agreed to back the landmark Paris climate deal (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) which promises to deal with greenhouse gases emissions mitigation, adaptation, and finance starting in the year 2020. The deal aims to limit greenhouse gas emissions and keep global temperature well under 2C. To become operational the treaty needs at least 55 countries representing at least 55% of global emissions to complete all the steps outlined in the treaty.

Leanne Potter



H O U S E M U S I C

On Wednesday 12th October participants from all four houses gathered in St. Nicholas for what was to be an exciting evening of competition for the biennial house music competition. This competition was to be judged by exceptional violinist, Susan Collier.

Vice Chancellors house started off the evening with spectacular performances all round. Russian singing accompanied by piano and violin was a great start, then the house continued with other pieces including two performers on electric guitars. Max showed that, as well as having a talent on the electric guitar, he was a great composer, writing a piano, 'cello, and flute piece. Also, Alex played a wonderful version of Lukas Graham's **7 Years** on his guitar whilst singing. All the participants joined together at the end to sing a 'mash-up' of Maroon 5's **This Love** and Rixton's **Me and My Broken Heart**.

Next up was Dukes with a jazz themed selection of pieces like Stevie Wonder's **Isn't She Lovely**, and an upbeat **Take Five**. Moritz's fast-paced **Kapustin Etude** was amazing and the Blues Brothers selection that started of the performance was excellent.

Then came Masters with a wide variety of pieces including **Colours of the Wind**, from the film Pocahontas, and a trombone rendition of Handel's **Lo See the Conquering Hero**. The amazing **Table Music** is a piece that can be read either way up, so is a one piece of music but still

a duet. This clever piece was played by two violinists from Masters who added their own touch of comedy to this piece, dancing around the table at the end as though fighting. A special mention has to go to Nahbi who stood in, at the last minute, to introduce the performers for Masters as they went on.

Finishing the evening was Judges House with their Around the World theme. Starting off was a folk group playing three pieces from three different countries. Then came Adam and James on the accordion and clarinet followed by a mix between **Scarborough Fair** and **Greensleeves**. The classic **Somewhere over the Rainbow** was also included as well an unaccompanied French and English song called **Vive la Rose**. A small big band played **Drummin' Man** featuring Adam as the Drummin' Man. Then, as the show came to a close, Judges joined together to sing the Coca Cola FIFA anthem **Wavin' Flag**, letting off confetti canons as they finished.

Although all houses were spectacular, there had to be a winner and it was up to Susan to decide this. The final results were Masters 4th, Dukes 3rd, Vice Chancellors 2nd, and Judges 1st. The best individual performance award was shared between Max from Vice Chancellors and Moritz from Dukes.

Thank you to Mr Willis, the other Heads of Houses, and the Sixth Form for organising, and Susan Collier for judging the event.

Sarah Inchley



Hillary Clinton

Obama recently said “there has never been a man or woman... more qualified than Hillary Clinton to serve as president”. Hyperbole aside, Hillary is definitely up there in terms of political experience. Graduated from Yale Law, she has been First Lady, New York Senator and Secretary of State, advocating for health reform and women’s rights, on top of being a mother and grandmother. Well known for a punishing travel schedule (112 countries visited in a four-year term as Secretary) and her email scandals, Clinton is a difficult candidate to like. Maybe it’s a lack of trust because of the emails, or because of her changing stances on issues like gay marriage, or because of her ties to Wall Street... However, her policies are still in tune with the liberals, agreeing with Bernie Sanders on 93% of the issues.

So, where does Hillary stand? Domestic policy: college affordability, income equality and the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) are at the heart of her campaign. She has evolved with the times and takes a much more progressive stance on economic and social issues, like Wall Street and gay rights. She calls the outrageous college fees a “betrayal of everything college is supposed to represent”, taking a similar stance to Bernie Sanders. Importantly, Clinton is strongly against the absolute right to a gun. She has spoken extensively on the subject, quoting the 33,000 that die yearly from gun-related incidents. She has claimed she won’t increase taxes on those earning \$250,000 or less per annum (Oct 2016), and vehemently opposes ‘trickle-down’ economics. As for the environment, Clinton has admitted Climate Change is a problem that desperately needs solving (Trump has claimed it’s a hoax) and wants to invest in American parks. Pertinent to 2016, immigration is often at the forefront of debates. Clinton wants to focus on deporting violent immigrants and making the pathway to citizenship easier. She “won’t be the Deporter-In-Chief” (Mar 2016). Clinton is, overall, very liberal, only adopting a conservative view

with regard to Defence – in fact, she’s even more liberal than Bernie on economic matters.

With over 30 years political experience, you would be hard-pressed to find a more experienced, willing candidate. It would be an awful shame for her expertise to be ignored in favour of her email scandals, the contents of which she immediately offered to the FBI (Trump still hasn’t offered his Tax Returns since 1995) and in which she has admitted fault. I may not like her, I may not trust her, and I definitely can’t believe that, of the 320 million people in the US, Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton are the two primary candidates, but God knows I would always choose Hillary over a giant, pervy wotsit. I’m with her.

Millie Palmer



Donald Trump

I didn't sleep well that night; I kept tossing and turning until about 6 o'clock GMT. It was about that time when I climbed out of bed and saw the results: Donald J Trump was projected to be the 45th president of the United States of America. A business tycoon, who had virtually no political experience (and probably just wanted to rule America for the sake of it), was about to become the most powerful man in the world. It was no longer a joke.

He crossed the winning line at about 8am, shortly after Clinton conceded. I started to worry about the future of mankind, and whether I should move to Mars. The man who is quoted saying things like: "In the end I always win, whether it's in tennis, whether it's in golf, whether it's in life, I just always win. And I tell people I always win because I do."¹ and "I've been challenged by so many people and I don't, frankly, have time for political correctness."² was going to be the next US president.

A man who seems, every time he opens his mouth, to counter act something he's already said was about to rule over one of the most influential nations on the planet.

I tried to look on the positive side, but with a man like Trump, that's very hard to do. Instead, I pictured America as a nuclear wasteland, a bloodbath, with just a wall standing high above all else. It was going to be hard to accept Trump as president.

On the bright side, at least he only has four years (unless he gets a second term).

William Wale

¹[The art of being the Donald, 2005]

²[Fox news republican debate, 2015]



A depiction of "Trump's America"
by Thomas Mann

The Truth - Uncovered

As we begin to once again enter the depths of the seemingly eternal British winter, I'm sure lots of us are reminiscing over our fond memories of summer holidays spent at the beach. Whether you prefer tanning or splashing around in the sea, I'd imagine the only sense of dread anyone reading this encountered related to going back to school. However, for some this wasn't the case.

Over the summer, there was a lot of controversy over the burkini, as it being called. This started when a photo of a woman being forced to take off her 'overly-modest' swimwear by armed police was spread around the Internet.

Firstly, let me clarify: despite the name, the burkini is more similar to the hijab than the burka – the difference being that the burka fully covers the face, whereas the hijab does not. Many people have a problem with the burka because of this. I personally believe that the loss of identity is oppressive and that the clothing choice is an extreme one given that Islam only teaches that women should dress modestly, and not that they need to cover their whole face. I think the most important thing, though, is that women make this decision for themselves.

This is my issue with the ban on burkinis. For far too long women have been told what they can and can't wear and it frustrates me to no end. Most typically, during the 1920s, when form-fitting clothing first became popular, women's swimsuits were measured to make sure they weren't showing too much leg and, in extreme cases, women were arrested for violating these rules. We saw this again during the Sixties, when women campaigned against the notion that miniskirts should be banned, as they were an invitation to rape. Oh, how times have changed!

The truth is the burkini is really not that different to a wetsuit, which makes me wonder if Islamophobia is the real cause of the issue here.

After all, I can't imagine that anyone would find modesty offensive, especially when most of us cringe at the sight of old, hairy men bearing all in speedos. Islamophobia has been a critical issue since the 9/11 attacks, and has only been intensified by the ISIS attacks over the past few years. I simply can't believe that these issues are unrelated.

To be honest, I think it's nice to finally see practical swimwear on the market, rather than string-tie bikinis and one-pieces that claim to be practical, despite exotic cut-outs that leave frustrating tan-lines. The long legs and sleeves of a burkini are no different to a wetsuit, and mean that you can avoid sunburn, as well as unwanted sexual attention. Whilst I personally don't feel the need to be that covered up, other women do, and I would never dream of telling them that they do not have that right. Women shouldn't be pressured into dressing modestly, but they shouldn't feel pressured to dress more revealingly than they are comfortable with either. I find the idea that someone can tell someone else what they can and can't wear, when it has no impact on them, absolutely ridiculous.

At the end of the day, the burkini doesn't really have a lot to do with me, so why should it be up to me to say that other women can't wear them? I can't possibly imagine walking down the street and stopping in shock, exclaiming: "That woman is dressed far too modestly! I am so offended by her clothing choice!" The idea that anyone other than the woman wearing it should make that choice for her is ridiculous, especially when most of the people who support that argument fear the jihadists who would so cruelly take away our freedom of speech.

Frankly, I find the idea that someone else would have the right to tell me what I can and can't wear offensive and patronising, and I don't understand why other people are getting away with it.

Jasmine Parker

Indo-Pakistan Conflict

Conflict in India and Pakistan dates back to 1947, the date of India's independence from the British colony. The newly formed Indian government unwillingly agreed to create two states having listened to all affected politicians in order to be democratic. The Indian government wanted to be seen as the largest democratic society in the world. Hence the creation of India (a Hindu dominated state) and the newly formed Pakistan (an Islamic-dominated state). Unfortunately, a mass migration of ten million civilians took place. As a result of this split, there were population movements as Muslims, Sikhs and Hindus found themselves on the wrong side of each border. A colossal five to ten percent died through rioting and violence, particularly in the western region of Punjab which was separated. Also, an additional one million people became homeless.

Civil unrest, as well as ethnic and religious clashes, threatened the stability of the new states. Sadly, this has continued over the past 50 years, and both India and Pakistan still believe the regions of Jammu and Kashmir belong to them. There have been three wars during this time. However, the status of this territory still remains in dispute. Fears of nuclear confrontation have been growing over the year, as both sides have been developing nuclear weapons and tensions have been mounting since this time.

The conflict has escalated recently when India claimed "Surgical strikes", i.e. claimed that its most recent strike across the border was a terrorist launching pad. Pakistan are up in arms with this justification and denies that the site was a terrorist base. Social media has played a part in the escalation of this action due to Rajnath Singh,

India's Home Minister's Tweet that: "Pakistan is a terrorist state. And should be isolated and treated like a terrorist state." Sartaj Aziz, Foreign Affairs advisor for Pakistan's Prime Minister put together a curt response: it "Categorically reject[s] the baseless and irresponsible accusations being levelled by Senior officials in Prime Minister Modi's government."

Previously, sanctions against both countries have been brought through the United Nations to deter war. If India and Pakistan did enter into a nuclear war with their combined nuclear power, more than 21 million people would be killed. Furthermore, it is believed that the ozone layer, and its protection over the world, would be halved and this would cripple agriculture worldwide. Therefore, the real cost of a nuclear war between India and Pakistan would paralyse humanity as we know it, with potentially two billion people worldwide facing the risk of starvation, due to the additional climatic effects.

Ronil Magdani



Rodrigo Duterte - The Trump of the East?

"I was angry because she was raped, that's one thing. But she was so beautiful; the mayor should have been first. What a waste." To clarify, the mayor he was referring to is himself - Rodrigo Duterte, the once-mayor of Davao City and current President of the Philippines. A quick Google search of this man produces countless articles citing 'Outrageous Things the Philippines' President has said,' and multiple references to his colourful and downright offensive language.

Since becoming President in June of this year, Duterte has vowed to execute 100,000 criminals within his first six months in office, with police records showing more than 2,400 recorded deaths so far (correct at September 5th 2016), an average of 37 extrajudicial killings per day. The former seven-term mayor of Davao rose to fame with his hardline anti-drug, anti-crime policies, resulting in his landslide victory in the Presidential elections earlier this year. During a campaign rally, he said: 'Forget the laws on human rights...you drug pushers, hold-up men and do-nothings, you better go out. Because I'd kill you, I'll dump all of you into Manila Bay and fatten all the fish there.' Although to most people, this flagrant dismissal of human rights is completely and utterly belligerent, there are many who dub his aggressive tongue as 'honest and natural,' with others claiming he is a 'genuine patriot.' There have been many claims that his violent removal of the drug trade will be a welcome cleanse for the drug-plagued slums of the Philippines, but even those who are Duterte fans were outraged at his comments on Obama.

It would make strategic sense to build upon the relationship with the country's most powerful ally, the United States, especially when engaged in a dispute with China over territory in the South China Sea. However, it appears Duterte did not receive the memo. Ahead of a meeting with Obama in September, when asked how he will handle the subject of the extrajudicial killings with the US President, he referred to him as the 'son of a (I'll leave it up to your imagination to insert

the next word in here)' in a press conference. Of course, Obama is just one on a long list of influential people Duterte has thrown insults at, one of the most notable being the Pope during his visit to the Philippines in 2015. Unfortunately (or fortunately, as some may argue), I cannot reveal in this article the words so eloquently used by Mr. Duterte, but I give you free reign to imagine (or Google).

It cannot be overlooked that a vicious side effect of the so-called 'drug war,' is a growth in a 'vigilante culture' that has swept many innocent people up as collateral damage. The BBC did a story on a woman, referred to as Maria, who was enlisted by the local police to be an assassin and take out drug dealers. Together with three or four others, she is part of a hit squad that earns her a share of £327 per hit, but now there is no way out. She, like many others, has been caught up by the 'war' out of desperation, and is now trapped in the violent routine of murdering for the state, for money.

In conclusion, I would contend that Mr. Duterte is a powerful leader with an affinity for offending others, a violent approach to national socio-economic problems, and an overall bigot. Sound familiar? Maybe Mr. Duterte gives us a glimpse into the Trump Administration 2016-2020.

Kaneeka Kapur



The Calais Jungle

The 'Jungle' camp in Calais is home to approximately 10,000 anxious migrants and refugees from war-scarred or destitute countries across the world.

As French officials and police commence the demolition of the camp, this site is once again in the limelight. The Calais Jungle is positioned just outside the Port of Calais in the north of France and is also the main ferry crossing point between France and England. Men, women and children have come from all over the world - namely from Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somalia, Egypt, Syria and many other troubled countries - looking to find asylum in a country in which they will be safe.

Since 2009, migrants in Calais have been trying to cross the border into the UK. Now, however, a recent review of the UK Immigration Laws makes it more difficult for non-nationals to enter the country. This is because, in most cases, to enter, you need a visa, for which you need money, and must also satisfy specific criteria. This forces migrants (most of whom have survived wars and other devastations, and many of whom are very young) to risk their lives making clandestine entries in or under vehicles that travel to the UK. Numerous people have died and countless others have been injured during this process.

In 2003, the British and French governments signed the Le Touquet treaty in which they agreed to implement immigration controls on cross-Channel ferry routes. This meant that all travellers between the two countries would have to clear immigration in the country of departure rather than on arrival. This was done to ensure that the majority of settlers caught attempting to cross the border would still be in France rather than on British soil. The main outcome of this was a catastrophe in the city of Calais. The British government has poured millions of Euros into preventing the migrants from leaving France.

The 'Jungle' began to be demolished with a plan to move its residents across France after the procedure to close the camp officially started on the 24th October 2016. Over 1,200 police and officials started the process of destruction at 6am GMT. And so migrants were transported to various places in France before machinery cleared the tents and shelters, meaning over one hundred and fifty centres were created in order to house thousands of immigrants, where they will be given the opportunity to claim asylum. This has led to massive unrest and disruption for many migrants, who have been displaced from the homes and communities which they have created and built up in the Calais Jungle over many years.

This has caused a clash to emerge between France and the UK, with France demanding that the UK take in more foreigners. But Theresa May has yet to bow down to these instructions. And it does not appear imminent that these demands are going to be accepted.

This results in lingering questions appearing in everyone's minds, the main ones being: should the UK take in more migrants from France? And what is Theresa May going to do next?

Rohan Magdani



The (Latest) Ched Evans Scandal

It is disturbing to think that 88 years have passed since women obtained equal voting rights in this country, yet there is still talk of women 'asking for' sexual assault. This attitude is like a scratch on the metaphorical DVD of 'equality for women'; a promising 'film' is ruined by glitches that leave me wondering whether enough has really changed since the days of phonographs, LPs or video tapes.

This concern has been thrown into sharp relief following the events of the retrial of Ched Evans. Before discussing the specifics of the case, it is probably time for a disclaimer; unsurprisingly, I neither know Evans nor was I in court. In light of both such statements of the "bleeding obvious", I am not in a position to comment on his character or culpability. 'Judge and Jury' have played their part, and I do not feel qualified for the role of LGS' resident 'reputation-executioner'. However, the case is important for the precedent it has set, and the message it has broadcast to victims of sexual assault about the relevance of their sexual history. To avoid being accused of playing the 'woman card', or worse yet being labelled a 'femi-nazi', I will set out the basic facts as briefly and as dispassionately as possible.

They are as follows: a young woman drank 2 glasses of wine and 4 double vodkas with lemonade, and a shot of Sambuca; Evans joined the woman and a friend later that night in a hotel room; both men had sex with the young woman. Both men claim it was consensual; the woman could not remember; she believes that her drinks had been spiked; Evans did not speak to the woman before, during or after the encounter; he left via a fire exit; the woman woke up naked and

alone in the hotel room.

On the basis of these facts, Evans was found guilty of rape in 2012, after it was decided that the woman was too intoxicated to have given consent.

However, following a family-run legal and PR campaign - which even included a £50,000 reward for any evidence that might result in Evans' acquittal - Evans was acquitted in October of this year after two new witnesses stated that they had engaged in similar sexual encounters with the young woman. The woman's sexual history was dissected in court and it was decided, on the basis of the new evidence, that the encounter was consensual. To be clear, none of the facts I outlined above as dispassionately as I could - semi-colons and all - changed. What did was the idea that since the woman had consented to two previous sexual encounters, she must have been consenting this time around. Evidence of this kind is usually inadmissible in rape trials in UK courts, but it is allowed if the sexual history is sufficiently similar that not revealing it might lead to an unfair trial, as it was decided in the case of Ched Evans' retrial.



The message this case has sent out about the use of sexual history in rape trials is alarming. Apparently, consenting to something with a partner in the years previous, means you automatically consent to the same activity with every person on the planet. This might sound absurd, but maybe if we apply the logic to another scenario it will make some sense. Imagine you consent for a medical procedure that involves being cut open. According to the same logic that warrants the use of sexual history as evidence, you have just consented to being cut open anywhere and at anytime.

In light of this blatant absurdity, there have been

calls from legal professionals and politicians to change the law to prevent sexual history being used in rape trials. I wholeheartedly agree with such sentiments. It is hard enough getting women to admit to having been raped, because of the emotional trauma and the fear of being called a liar, without the worry of their sexual history being laid bare in court. Yet, I don't think a change to the law will even scratch the surface of the culture of victim-blaming and rape that lives on in the 21st century.

There is this twisted belief that we deserve what happens to us, an insidious karma that means fault lies with the victim - usually, but not exclusively, a woman. I talked of 'glitching DVDs' earlier, but this is more a case of a broken record: 'she drank too much'; 'her skirt was so short'; 'she does this sort of thing all the time'; 'she was asking for it'. The onus to not get raped is usually on women; Governor of Ohio, John Kasich, gave the sterling advice that girls should 'not go to parties where there is a lot of alcohol' to avoid being raped. We don't talk about victims of any other crime in the same way. The advice to pedestrians is never to avoid the roads in case of drink drivers, the advice to house buyers is not to never leave the house in case of burglars.

Unfortunately, this problem is bigger than a point of law. There needs to be sex-education that focuses on more than the biological; there needs to be more discussion of what consent is, as supposed to just PSHE lessons that skirt around the issues. After all, the last thing anyone wants to do is excuse rapists, but one cannot help but wonder how many incidences might have been prevented by getting all teenagers to watch the 'Tea and Consent' YouTube video (that likens consent to making someone a cup of tea), instead of allowing some to learn about sex from extremely violent and misogynistic pornography.

Orla Horan

Shakespeare Conference

Every two years the English Department at LGS hosts a conference built around the study of two exam texts and two broader, more contextual lectures on Shakespeare's work. This year the two texts were Measure for Measure and Hamlet. An invitation is sent out to schools throughout the country and, over the years, we have hosted schools from as far away as the Wirral attending the talks. This year we even had enquiries from Llanelli.

The Day is run in conjunction with the English Association and The Shakespeare Trust and the latter organisation supplies the scholarly expertise in the form of Dr Nick Walton and Dr Anjna Chouhan. Upper and Lower Sixth students attend the talks and breakout sessions and they are offered



a variety of insights into the construction of the texts, the place of the plays in the Elizabethan and Jacobean world as well as how they have been performed over the last four centuries. Questions from the audience are invited and one of the best aspects of the Conference is the chance to hear what other students have to say about the texts; it conveys the "infinite variety" of interpretations of the texts studied in the confines of a single class.

The LGS model for the conference has now been adopted for other parts of the country and The English Association is now offering to London Schools what Leicester has been delivering for almost twenty years.



Ask Prab



Apple : Malicious Software Updates?

As many have painfully learnt after the release of another Apple product, it appears our 'old' iPhones are just not cutting it anymore. Whenever a new device is released (be it a phone, tablet or computer), new features are rolled out to most devices in the form of a software update. Consequently however, devices begin to 'slow down' and users start to believe their devices can not handle the technology of today. This seemingly spreads frustration among many users who aren't able to afford buying a new phone every three years or so; within a single software update a user's phone could go from useable to 'outdated' and 'unsupported' by developers.

This raises the question in the consumer's mind whether it is time to upgrade. The frustration of no longer getting snappy responses from your hard-earned device, can eventually result in those customers investing in a new Apple device. Is this necessary though? The hardware in modern smartphones is far beyond what we could have imagined 20 years ago. Yet iPhones released just 4 years prior are already showing significant signs of slowing down. The reality of the situation is that they are still incredibly competent devices; with such a streamlined operating system (requiring very little 'horsepower' to run) and industry-leading specifications at release, the devices should have no problem running as usual for several years to come. There are still PCs - with outdated hardware from over 8 years ago - which have Windows 10 running smoothly: not only is

Windows 10 harder to run, but also iPhones have superseded these older PCs with their computing power.

If it is not the hardware limiting the devices, neither the software, why are we seeing this downward trend in performance year on year with every Apple device? A simple answer to this question (although classed as speculation) is that, Apple stop optimising their software for their 'older' devices, in an attempt to drive sales of their newer devices - along with their higher prices. It is simple economics: make an older product (which brings in no new revenue) obsolete, while simultaneously presenting your consumers with an alternative. There would be an influx of sales simply due to making their userbase believe it is time to upgrade, thus causing them to re-invest more money into the company.

Theoretically, a solution would be to stay on the device's current software version and to not update; resulting in the device maintaining its performance but rejecting any additions in future iterations of the software. Sadly, app developers tend to skip some software versions for their updates, resulting in users possibly being left with a glitch-ridden edition of their most used app.

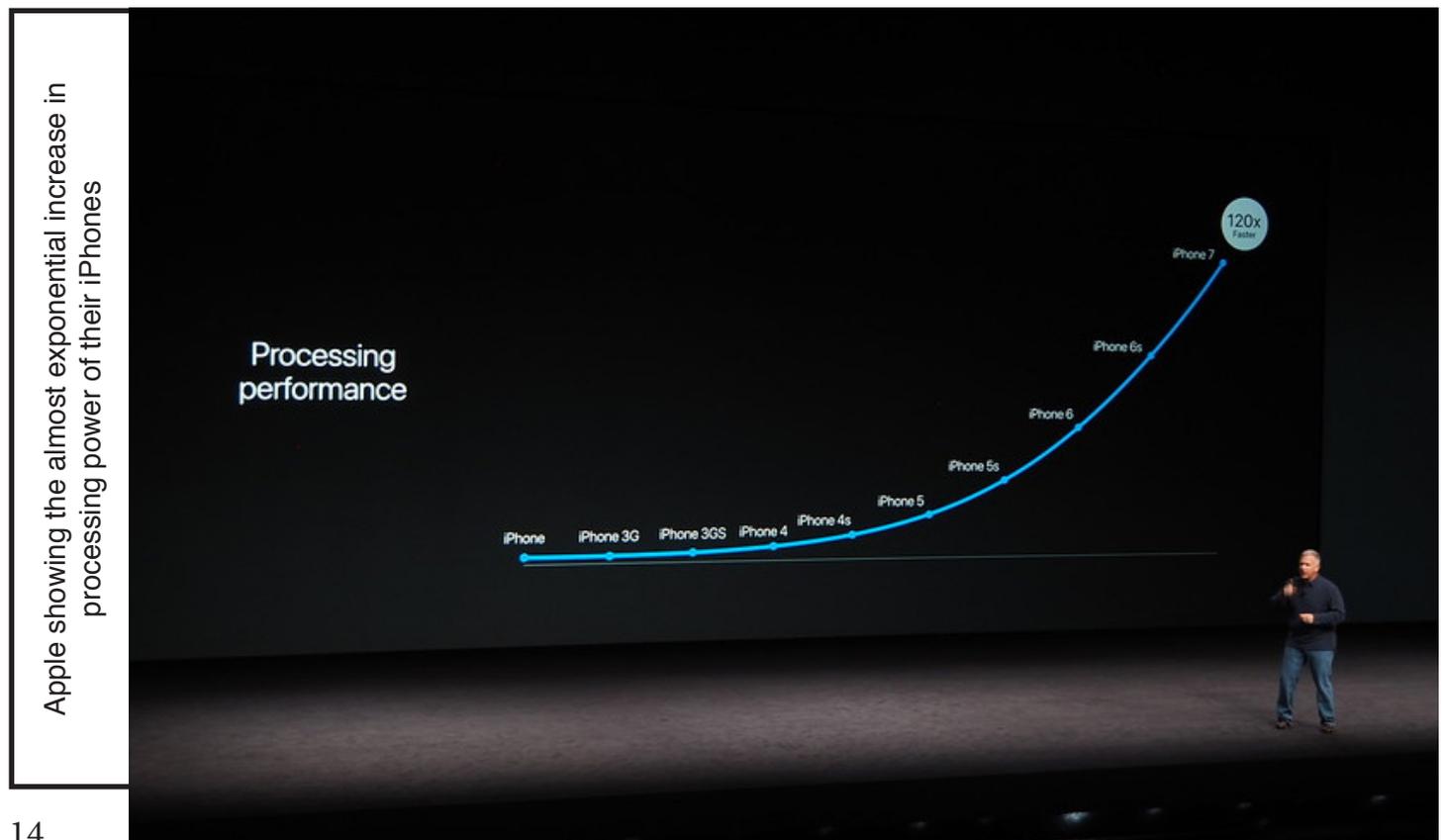
The 'nail in the coffin' for this solution is that Apple devices consistently prompts users, every few hours of use, to update their device, if they are not on the latest version. Not only is it very intrusive and annoying to have a pop-up every

time the phone is in use, but there is no way to disable it: there is simply the option to 'remind (the user) later', prompting it to reappear in a few hours' time. This malicious and intended annoyance by Apple's software ensures people are either frustrated enough with their device to eventually update, or they receive a non-optimal experience from their iPhone or tablet. Apple's response to this is that "security is our top priority", insisting that constant updates – as often as every few days – is 'crucial' to ensuring devices are secure.

Now there is an obvious question which needs to be answered: "What about other companies' devices? Why only accuse Apple of such devious malpractice?" The simple answer is that on Windows and Android devices these problems only start to arise after a decade of use. I still own a Samsung Galaxy S3 mini, a 'middle-of-the-market' phone released over 4 years ago. Although its mediocre hardware at the time, it still works flawlessly, even after recently updating it to newer software. In comparison, my recently disposed iPhone 5 (released at a very similar time), had a multitude of problems, even while not updating to the newest software: several software glitches resulting in loss of data; the battery having to be replaced due to battery life being a measly two hours; lastly overheating when doing regular tasks such as web-browsing or streaming video.

There is no reason why Apple can not continue to optimise for its older devices, for the sake of their customers. However, whether it is due to a lack of time and resources, laziness by programmers, or a sinister motive to increase sales, many more people are beginning to realise the inherent problems with these devices and some are deciding to upgrade, but to a different company's devices, most notably to the Android market. If Apple wish to retain its customer base over the coming years, without 'strong-arming' consumers into paying for the experience they initially paid for, they need to change their priorities to supporting older devices and give incentives to reinvest in an Apple device, other than "You have no other option but to upgrade your device, as it is no longer supported."

Prabhjot Grewal



Hallowe'en

Halloween is possibly my most hated holiday – it is just too much effort. From the make up to the costumes and the constant knocking on doors, interrupting a very intense episode of Grey's Anatomy. Homeowners feel obliged to buy sweets 'just in case' of the wrath of the trick-or-treaters and end up with a pile of untouched sweets they hate or a pile of empty wrappers.

Brought over from across the Atlantic, we can assume it is only for the extra money shops will receive, similar to Black Friday. With the rising popularity of Hallowe'en, families who may not be able to afford the costumes or sweets will feel like they are letting their children down as they cannot celebrate with their friends.

Following on from children celebrating, there are the various costumes issues where, at the age of seven, it's a nightmare if you and a friend are both dressed as Elsa or a knight. On the topic of costumes, they can be dangerous too. If you are a 'Strictly' fan and can recall the absence of Claudia Winkleman as her daughter had third degree burns when her costume caught fire and, this year, Winkleman spoke out about the safety of children when trick-or-treating.

It seems that the older you get, the less innocent Halloween becomes, encouraging anti-social behaviour. So much so, that in the United States, more specifically New Jersey, there is the tradition of Mischief Night. On the 30th of October, this essentially entitles children and teenagers (maybe adults) wishing to wreak havoc to 'egg' houses and cover their gardens and trees with toilet paper.

Halloween is fairly exclusive as well. A fair amount of people who are religious don't believe it's a suitable holiday to celebrate in the first place. They and their children may feel left out. I appreciate that people believe what they believe but not being able to celebrate with friends is quite alienating.

A new phenomenon has cropped up in this country this year and the very thought petrifies me: Killer Clowns. Some people may find this

hilarious but a lot of people are terrified of clowns and their 'funny' personas. These clowns exploits the horror of Stephen King's IT in the sense of the looming fear that you may be next. The incident I find most disturbing was when two young girls in Essex had reported being approached by people dressed as clowns asking if they wanted to go to a party when they were walking to school. I don't know about anyone else, but the day I found out about these killer clowns, it filled me with a sense of paranoia that one may walk up the street and pounce. All it takes is one person with very bad intentions to make this 'craze' spiral out of control.

So, I find Halloween disturbing in many ways, whether it's that I just don't like Halloween or that it has sinister connotations. It could be either, but all I can say is I hope there aren't any Killer Clowns next year.

It just isn't funny.

Sophie Puffett



Jack O'Lantern

The Burning of Guy Fawkes

November 5th is a date well-known to us all because of the extraordinary firework displays that take place each year on that night. Often referred to as 'Bonfire Night', or perhaps 'Guy Fawkes Night', November 5th is the anniversary of the failed Gunpowder Plot. In 1605, a group of Roman Catholic activists plotted to blow up the Houses of Parliament in an attempt to wipe out the King and trigger an uprising of Catholicism. Everything appeared to be going to plan right until the very end – Guido Fawkes (a member of, but not the ringleader of, the activist group) was installed in a cellar of the House of Lords alongside 36 barrels of gunpowder. Poised to set off the explosion, he was discovered and arrested. That very evening, Londoners lit bonfires to acknowledge that their King had been saved, and Parliament later declared November 5th a national day of thanksgiving.

A number of traditions take place on Bonfire Night, including the searching of the Houses of Parliaments by guards to ensure there are no 'modern Guy Fawkes' hiding in the cellars, which is more ceremonious than serious. Overall, the night has an atmosphere of enjoyment and it is one of the most famous British celebrations. However, there is a darker side to some of the festivities. Is it time to stop the egregious burning of Guy Fawkes effigies?

The origin of this is understandable and it is true that now we rarely burn the effigies with intended malice, but more for simple enjoyment. However, this seemingly innocent tradition does have a darker side that we often forget about and, in many ways, it can be seen to mirror the medieval custom of burning to death religious heretics and women accused of witchcraft. Surely this is not something to celebrate?

Effigies and dummies have been burnt on bonfires since as far back as the 13th century, in the belief that it would ward off evil and unwanted spirits. The focus of this 'tradition' was changed following the Gunpowder Plot and people began

to burn effigies of Guy Fawkes because of his treason. Noticeably, it was almost always just effigies of Fawkes which were subjected to the arguably malicious act of being burnt, not in fact the main plotters. Although he did have a hand in the illegal scheming, he ended up as more of a victim, with all the hatred of the British people being directed solely towards him. The word 'guy', which is today synonymous with the word 'man', was originally a derogatory term meaning a 'repulsive person', in reference to Guy Fawkes, and the way that all the hatred is channelled towards a single man, who was actually rather courageous to take on the role of setting the gunpowder alight, is not particularly just. You will even find that some people talk positively about Guy Fawkes and his failed scheme, describing him as "the last man to enter Parliament with honest intentions."

Despite this, Guido Fawkes is, ultimately, a criminal who wanted to blow up the monarchy. But, surely this does not mean that it is still acceptable for us, in the 21st century, to incinerate the effigy of a man each November 5th? We pride ourselves on the moral changes and improvements we've made since the 16th and 17th centuries, yet we continue to rejoice in what can be seen as a morbid throwback to a time when publicly executing someone was a form of entertainment. The headmaster of the school which Guy Fawkes attended as a youngster also disagrees with this macabre tradition and has said: "400 years on, to still think that it's OK to chuck an effigy of him on top of a fire seems a bit barbaric, actually. Also, I don't think many people understand it any more anyway."

Maybe it's time to put this tradition to bed? Don't get me wrong, I am by no means suggesting that we stop celebrating November 5th completely, as the firework displays, representing the explosives that were never set off, are a brilliant way to honour and remember our nation's history. However, we very rarely see effigies of other criminals or terrorists being burnt over a fire, so why do we continue to cling on to the disturbing ritual of building an effigy of Guido Fawkes, then burning it to the ground?

Sarah Turner