

THE COLUMNS

by pupils; for pupils

HSD's Newsletter: Issue 117



With a busy week of Christmas Celidhs and the holidays coming soon, it's nice to see some festivity and excitement. The Carol Service on Wednesday as well as Sparkle day on Thursday, there's a full week of festive activities still to come. Congratulations to everyone who was involved in the Winter Concert last Tuesday, and to the U16 rugby team who are now the U16 Plate Champions. And as always, thank you to our amazing team of writers who contribute, we couldn't do this without you., it has been such a joy to get to edit and lead The Columns this year.

Editors, Megan, Meagan and Roena



Helping Out This Christmas

Jack Mitchell

On Wednesday, I read a depressing and quite disturbing statistic: homelessness has, in just one year, increased by 14%, or by roughly 45,000 people. That brings the total estimated number of homeless people to a completely demoralising 354,000, or one in 160 people in the UK. Over 160,000 of the total number of homeless people are children, who are denied access to basic human needs on a daily basis at the most vital developmental stage in their lives.

Homelessness is not just having to sleep rough, but it also includes those who do not have a permanent residence. They may be staying in a hotel or hostel or living in the homes of friends and family. Whole families can have to live this way, not knowing whether or where they will be able to sleep under a roof that night.

The problem is far more widespread than it may seem to those of us who live fulfilling, secure lives, far removed from what we may ever have experienced. We don't realise looking in that only a tiny fraction of homeless people are those who sleep on the streets or park benches – roughly 4,000 – and that in reality hundreds of thousands of other people are very much in a similar situation: scared, vulnerable and unable to get out of the vicious cycle that is homelessness.

Those without secure accommodation have far more important things to worry about this Christmas than what they will wear to a Christmas dance or what they would like for Christmas. More important things than who they'll invite to their festive party or what to get for their difficult Secret Santa pick. More important than a lot of us can comprehend. While we look forward to the holidays for a multitude of reasons, they struggle, fighting for their survival. That may sound a little extreme, but with potentially no even temporary accommodation, in many cases no food, and no end to the cycle in sight, it's not nearly as far-fetched as it may sound.

But do not despair. There are many ways in which we can all help. We can donate to fantastic charities such as the Salvation Army and Shelter Scotland offer accommodation, food and warmth to thousands every year across the country.

Specifically in our area, housing charities such as Hillcrest, who provide affordable housing and support for homeless people, and Social Bite, which is working to end homelessness across the country, but is also building a 'recovery village' here in Dundee to help people with addiction issues, most of whom are in poverty or even homeless.

You can also donate to food banks, many of which have stalls at supermarkets, so are very easy to help. When you are next at a supermarket, think of families with children who are dreaming of food, not presents, this Christmas. Perhaps an extra packet of pasta or tin of beans; it doesn't have to be expensive. However, most food banks will only accept tinned or packed food that can be preserved (so not fresh) and also try to donate food that will not cost a lot of money to heat. An extra few pounds to your weekly shop could make a world of difference.

Give people the Merry Christmas they deserve.





Reading



Charlie Grewer

It's an area I've had a sort of love/hate relationship with over the years. I used to love reading, every night I'd stay up late, straining to see in whatever source of light I could find. Recently not so much. And while that's probably better for my eyes, as any English teacher will tell you reading has its advantages. However, partly due to less time in my hands, a greater value for sleep and the fact that reading is harder to choose over the masses of great films and TV shows on streaming services, I just can't seem to pick up a book. So I've been wondering how to get back into reading.

One method that is commonly recommended is ebooks or Kindles. These are meant to be great, you can take as many books with you anywhere you go without having to carry a massive bag. Reading them at night is probably worse for your eyes than a physical book, and besides one of the great advantages of books in the modern world is they get us off screens which makes ebooks rather counterintuitive. The first book I read on my Kindle opened with an introduction arguing passionately that digital reading could never truly replace the charm of a physical book. It was also the last book I read on that particular device.

I'm told another method is to try reading articles in newspapers. Remember newspapers? Unfortunately, the news is mostly dire beyond interest, though I'm sure they have other things in them. Also, this is technically an article so well done if you're reading this.

I've found comics to be a semi-effective method. If you can't be bothered reading pages and pages of descriptions (looking at you Lord of the Rings), comics just cut them out of the equation together. They can also be short, not taking up too much of your precious time. Short stories also work apparently. I haven't tried short stories much, though I know the slog of starting a book that turns out to take a painfully long amount of time going nowhere and by the time it gets exciting, you've lost interest.

And if you just can't resist being drawn back to that one more episode of 'The Penguin' or whatever it is people watch, then many big franchises, including Star Wars, Star Trek and others I can't think of, all have books related to their on-screen adventures. If you like Marvel or DC just pick up a comic book.

So if you're struggling to get back into reading due to prelims coming up and hectic social lives, try some of these. Hopefully, some of them might work.

Are Women Crazy?

(The stigma around female rage in the music industry)

Emma Turnton

Within our current patriarchy, it is viewed that femininity and anger cannot co-align. Holes in walls, fits of passion and clamped fists all belong to the characteristics of masculinity. If a woman dares to raise her voice or express her frustrations she is known as being a 'B***h', 'Crazy' and even mentally unstable or 'Insane' for even expressing basic emotions. Men are raised to share these emotions in any way deemed fit, a biological disposition, which is viewed as 'unfit' for a lady no matter what treatment she faces. It's no wonder we go 'mental'. Despite decades of this view, over the past thirty years, this gender stigma is slowly being dissipated as women are being encouraged to share and express their own passionate emotions through politics, music, cinema and other types of art.

Various times throughout music history, women have shared their inner anger whether that's on challenging relationships, feminist fury or pure animalistic rage and channelled it into powerful, passionate lyrics using anger as a musical muse. The first example I and many others imagine is Alanis Morissette, who aged nineteen released one of the greatest albums of all time (according to Rolling Stone) in 1995 when alternative music was still extremely male-dominated. She came with an angsty, anger-fueled record backboned with riffs of muddy electric guitar paired with genius lyrics and gutty vocals which encapsulated the female nerve. The record featured many songs about adolescence and growing up such as 'ironic' and 'you learn' but also the iconic track 'you oughta know' which is fueled by pure female rage about her using anger to cope with the heartbreak after a former lover moves on. The song shocked the world to its core. Using derogatory language towards the women and calling him out in the world's sweetest revenge.

This track has gone on to inspire many female artists today such as Olivia Rodrigo who was shocked women were allowed to say such things on a song, never mind the radio, as well as Demi Lovato, Katy Perry and even Taylor Swift on her track "all too well". Despite selling over 33 million copies across the globe critics have and continue to describe Alanis as overly angry and extreme, to which she says that as a woman she feels it's the only way she can express the anger which she has pent up to try to stay desirable to the media.

Another woman who defines female rage is Fiona Apple, whenever you search for 'female rage' on Pinterest or Tumblr your feed will be flooded with images of her. She uses impactful lyrics of poetry to emphasize all the trauma and pain she has endured through developing and maturing.

Her music captures the vulnerability of painful breakups and the delicacy of her childhood trauma which often left her feeling silenced, she used these powerful emotions to give a deep perspective many young women then and now can relate to paired with raw, emotive lyrics which take you to where she is and make you feel her sense of rage, powerlessness or even pity. She has released five, selectively crafted albums which detail womanhood, her first being 'Tidal' when she was just 18, it features songs like 'Criminal' which discuss the shame she feels using her female sexuality to gain what she wants and the guilt which creeps along with it. Her real fan-grower was the album's counterpart, "When the Pawn" (yes I have the record at home) which was nominated for two Grammys and only concealed her place as an icon in alternative music and feminism. It features songs such as 'Paper Bag' and 'Fast as You Can' which illustrate her trying to minimise her pain while dealing with disappointment at not only men but also herself. The media have labelled her as a "crazy lady" and "overtly angry" despite numerous successes and being an empowering female icon to women across the world.

Numerous females are emphasising their internalised female anger and who better than the current biggest pop artist in the world? Taylor Swift. Many are sick of hearing her name consistently saying that she writes emotional ballads about her exes calling her 'petty', 'crazy' a true female manipulator, I feel she writes what other women don't want to say, about niche relationship issues which women across the world can relate. Detailing topics such as messy breakups, relationship neglect, and fear of abandonment but also feeling free and embracing your sexuality and friendships as a young woman. Many of her songs illustrate the hidden feelings of frustration women have to hide such as in 'Mad Woman' a dark, anger-fueled song about confronting the sexist taboo and gaslighting towards female anger by decorating a tale of a witch being abandoned and shamed by men in her old town due to simply being a woman viewed as abnormal and she is outcast for this. Many fans believe this to be a continuation of the feminist anthem 'The man' which sees Swift using humour to illustrate her anger towards the music industry for the poor treatment she has received after being abandoned numerous times and mocked for her love life constantly by press addressing these by saying if she was a man all of these 'negative' qualities would be applauded and less important than her intelligence, strategies etc. She has made tens of dozens of songs imploding the rage she feels as a woman even going on to call the section of the eras tour she added for her new album 'The Tortured Poets Department' as female rage; the musical in which she is almost theatrical as she uses the power of her vocals and dramatic stage presence to show how angry she is at what not only the media has put her through in the last decade but those she loved as well such as the performance of "Who's afraid of little old me" which describes her struggles within the industry as being viewed as a force not a successful woman who is extremely intelligent instead of manipulative and calculated. She has become an icon for young women across the globe, using her deep, quirky lyrics for them to relate to, to unleash their inner rage as they scream the lyrics and to not be ashamed of expressing themselves on their path to finding people who prioritize them and love them. She makes them feel heard.

However, it isn't just these leading ladies determining 'female rage' in the music industry also various bands such as Hole, Bikini Kill, Destroy Boys and many more who share their inner fury through heavy, impactful vocals harsh guitar chords and empowering lyrics which are related to by woman everywhere. We need to use vital resources such as music to let other women know that they are allowed to express their feelings, teach them methods to deal with it so it doesn't end in extreme consequences and how to cope with men who may test their nerves, who may push them by using their masculinity and to ignore this, stay true to their selves, stay true to their life goals and stay true to who they are as determined powerful woman. The music industry is being used to compensate for the years women were forced to burrow their true passionate emotions, now it relieves young women's pent-up stress as they accept their anger and come to terms with their identity creating a cathartic feeling. This lets other women especially those going through the issues in today's society (living crisis, hidden sexism, relationship struggles, and a male dominated life) whilst growing up have someone to look up to, to relate to, to worship and find a sense of community within the bullets life shoots at them. Woman should always have something they can use as a punching bag. We are not 'crazy'. We are just women.



We Need You

Meagan Dailly

I think that I speak for all of us when I say we have school pride. Look at last Wednesday, our turnout to the rugby was huge. We have unrivalled camaraderie when it comes to our school, we compete in a vast range of sports and debate against each other. And needless to say we all flip off the gates of any enemy school when the opportunity presents itself. So why do we have such a low turnout to one of THE most competitive and pride winning assets we have?

You want a real reason to talk about Dollar behind their backs? Look no further. Here is the perfect opportunity. May I present to you, the World Champion, High School of Dundee Pipe Band!! (This is where you, the reader, applaud).

Not only do we spend less time in the cold for armistice, but we have been paid for gigs in coffee vouchers! The teachers? Amazing. The members? Hilarious. The music? Loud. The cheers when we win? Even louder.

We need you on any instrument, we need drummers and we need pipers. If you want to join or even try it out, come to Baxter on a Tuesday lunchtime and you'll see what you're missing.



**Congratulations
to the U16 Rugby
Boys who were
crowned 2024
Scottish Schools
U16 Plate
Champions last
week!**



Christmas Book Reviews and Recommendations



Alastair Forbes

Hello all, today I will be sharing a children's book with you that I recommend to those little bookies who love (or hopefully don't hate) reading. Hopefully, those little and older ones will find this useful, as I will share a weekly book suggestion, so sit down, get a mug of hot chocolate, and let's start with how I'm going to do this review!

As you hopefully know, I pick one book to do per week. Since this is the Christmas special, I'm going to do a few mini-reviews for some children's books. I will also give some more recommendations to the older and younger readers per story. Let's get started!

Book 1: *The Night Before Christmas*, by Clement Clarke Moore. The story of this poetic book is vivid (a way that can describe something powerfully) describing the arrival of Santa Claus on Christmas Eve. This book is one of my favourites, and this would be top 10 of any of my book lists. My favourite line from the book is: 'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house, not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse'. I think this sets the scene and puts a dark and misty layer on the story that gets you ready but, for me at least, gave me the willies. Sadly, there are a few other books by Moore for this age, except for 'A Visit from St. Nicholas.'

Book 2: *The Polar Express*, by Chris Van Allsburg. This story starts with a boy taking a magical train to the North Pole, with other children. I think this book avoids the cute or funny side of the Christmas stories and tales that we know and takes a rather deep turn. At every corner of the book, something is exciting! This is a great book, and I recommend it. Want to read more, *The Garden of Abdul Gasazi*, *Jumanji*.

I just wanna say that I have not read all those books down there, I found them on websites. I have read more or less quite a few of them, and they are fine. I do know that some of the books are not 100% Christmassy (which I just found out is a word) but they do share some chapters or themes to do with Christmas:

Some more for 4-7: *The Christmasaurus*, *Room on the Broom*, *The Little Drummer Boy*, *The Gingerbread Man*, *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*, *The Elf on the Shelf*, *The Year of the Perfect Christmas*.

Some more for 7-13: *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, *The Little Prince*, *A Christmas Carol*, *The Nutcracker*, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, *A Wrinkle in Time*, *The Chronicles of Narnia*, *This Winter (A Heartstopper Novela)*.

Well, dear reader, that is the end of my Christmas book review. I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did. Merry Christmas!

CHRISTMAS MOVIE QUIZ

Maisey Lafollette

- 1 In the Grinch what is the name of the Grinch's dog?
- 2 What is the name of the building in Die Hard? (yes it's a Christmas movie)
- 3 In Frosty the Snowman, what is the evil magician's name? 4 In A Christmas Carol how many ghosts were there?
- 5 In The Santa Claus who saves Santa from jail?
- 6 Which Home Alone does Donald Trump cameo in?
- 7 In A Christmas Story how many dogs do the Bumpuses have according to Ralphie? 8 Charlie Brown's tree has what colour ornament?
- 9 In the Polar Express where does the train stop to pick up the main character?
- 10 How many sizes is the Grinch's heart too small?
- 11 What is the name of the sequel to Mickey's Once Upon a Christmas called? 12 What is Jack Skellington's title in The Nightmare Before Christmas?
- 13 In Noelle who is Noelle's father?
- 14 In the movie Elf the elves have a code, what is the first rule?
- 15 In Miracle on 34th Street (1994) what does Susan want?
- 16 While Santa is in jail in The Christmas Chronicles he sings a song with the inmates, what is it?
- 17 In Arthur Christmas what present does Arthur deliver?
- 18 What is the name of Dwayne the Rock Johnson's new Christmas movie?
- 19 How many Home Alone movies are there?
- 20 What country is Nativity set in?
- 21 Why is Rudolph bullied in Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer?
- 22 In Nativity what is the teacher assistant's name?
- 23 How many versions of the Grinch are there?



AN F1'S GUIDE TO CURING HOLIDAY BOREDOM

Alastair Forbes

As the Christmas/New Year holiday starts to daunt over us, I thought I would give you a few tips and tricks to surviving the holidays as a Form 1 pupil.

'Phone a Friend'

Let's start with something basic: devices. If you are bored and alone, communicate with your friends over your phones or iPads. Give them a ring or a text.

'Ding Dong'

Why not go around to your friend's house and have a chat or dinner or a sleepover? You could do so much there such as:

'Can I Take Your Chest?'

What about board games? Board games can be so fun! Or what about some art, Lego, trains, card games, mini parties, listen to music and get active, jump about and dance? A (in my opinion) really fun game is hide the elf, hide the elf and get your mates to try and find it, or just play hide and seek. There are countless things you could do inside on a cold winter's day.

'That's Gorgeous Darling!'

What about baking? Who doesn't love Christmas food? The cinnamon, the sugar, the chocolate. What's not to love? Try gingerbread people, cake, chocolate logs, or if you feel really daring: a gingerbread house! Too boring? Make a competition out of it: who can make it faster? Who can make the best?

'Don't Hang It There!'

Try making a Christmas craft. Make a bauble with a painted scrunched-up piece of tin foil. A paper chain, the possibility is endless! You could take an arts and crafts book out of the library, try with that, and have a go with your parents or friends. After, you could hang it on the tree.

'Get the Popcorn, it's Starting!'

How could I not add the fantabulous thing called the movies?! There are so many Christmas movies from romance to horror, from comedy to fantasy! Here are a few of my top picks: The Grinch/How the Grinch Stole Christmas, Home Alone, Harry Potter, Elf and Wonka. Or how about some quick TV programs: The Snowman / and the Snowdog, Father Christmas, The Tiger That Came to Tea and We're Going on a Bear Hunt.

'Paper Cut Paper Cut!'

What better way to spend the holidays than catching up on all the reading you told yourself you'd do?

Looming Volkswagen Factory

Closures Cause Chaos

Pritvhi Sudarshan

Over its 87 years of automobile manufacturing, Volkswagen has never closed a plant in its home country of Germany. However, with increased competition from Chinese imports paired with German factories struggling with underproductivity and high costs, it is clear that significant measures are needed to address the situation.

The Volkswagen Group, which owns a wide range of brands including Lamborghini, Audi, and Porsche, is Germany's largest employer, providing jobs to nearly 300,000 workers. This deep connection makes the company's recent announcement that much more shocking.

At the end of October, Volkswagen announced plans to shut down three of its German factories, a move that could result in tens of thousands of job losses while reducing the wages of its remaining workers by 10%. This decision unsurprisingly sparked outrage in Germany, with many feeling betrayed by a company so deeply intertwined with the nation's automotive history. In response to the announcement, over 66,000 workers went on strike at nine different factories across Germany last week, halting production lines for hours to protest VW's proposed plans. The workers, who are part of the IG Metall union, are set to continue striking this week with plans to double the duration of the protests as negotiations with VW regarding wages continue.

These drastic changes come in response to a sharp 64% decline in Volkswagen's net profits for Q3 (July-September) compared to the previous year. This decline has been attributed to falling sales in China, where consumers increasingly favour cheaper, domestically produced vehicles. In light of these challenges, Volkswagen has implemented extensive cost-cutting measures, focusing primarily on reducing labour costs to remain competitive in the automotive sector.

As Volkswagen navigates these challenges, its decisions will have profound implications for both its workforce and the future of Germany's automotive industry.

HELP FOR KIDS CHRISTMAS TOY APPEAL 2024

18TH NOVEMBER - 20TH DECEMBER!



★ RECOMMENDED DONATIONS

Arts & Creative Play, Action Figures & Playsets, Baby & Pre-school Toys, Electronic & Educational Toys, Dolls & Soft Toys, LEGO & Bricks, Games, Puzzles & Books, Outdoor toys, Games, Pre-School & Electronics, Cosy PJ's, Slippers and Dressing Gowns, Toiletries Gift Sets for Teenage boys and Girls

✧ HOW TO DONATE

If you would like to get involved and help support local families by providing a Christmas gift for boys and girls from birth up to the age of 18 years then please bring these along unwrapped to the designated drop off point.

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PROBLEM OF THE WEEK

Haoqi Liu, F3

The problem of the week has now moved to its own Firefly page, which can be found at <https://hsd.fireflycloud.net/senior-years/potw> or by scanning the QR code. The firefly page could have more information depending on the problem!

As always, email solutions to me at liuH@highschoolofdundee.org.uk

How many pairs of numbers (m,n) are there such that the following statement is true?

A regular m -sided polygon has an exterior angle of n° and a regular n -sided polygon has an exterior angle of m° .



Have
a good
weekend
and a
very
merry
Christmas
when it
comes!

The Columns
Team