

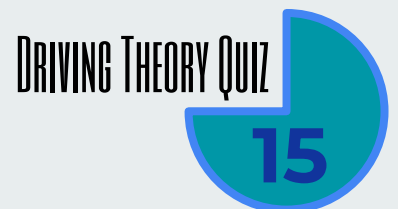
THE ILLUSTRATOR

THOMAS GAINSBOROUGH SIXTH FORM STUDENT PAPER

Issue 9



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THANK YOU!

Working for this magazine for the past year has been a unique experience. The year before, I had several regular articles and worked as part of a team with the previous leaders to publish each issue. When they approached me to take on leadership for the next year, I felt honoured, though I knew it would be involved and challenging at times. The hardest part for me has been trying to find a team in the early days to help with development. As of now, The Illustrator has a dedicated and talented force behind it, and am excited to see where the new leaders take it. - Brandon Howard

This is the eighth issue to which I have contributed and the fourth for which I have been a part of the leadership trio; particularly specialising in mediocre graphic design and impromptu articles about politics. It's always a mad scramble to finalise everything towards the end, but I very much enjoy the challenge and consider the magazines that we and countless others have helped to produce to be diverse, interesting and of high-quality. I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has contributed over the last year and a bit, and wish the fantastic new team all the best.. Charlie Wilson

Having a platform to share stories that I feel passionate about has made the last couple of years on the Illustrator team a really enjoyable experience. Having a half-termly slot to write about something fresh and interesting for two years has been a very rewarding challenge. Since myself, Charlie and Brandon took over the mantle in our second year, we have worked very hard to ensure each issue is of the highest quality and I would like to think that, after many long hours spent generating ideas, gathering other people's creations together and (probably a few too many hours) discussing what shade of blue to use; we have done what we set out to do. I hope you all enjoy our final issue and welcome our successors with great enthusiasm; I look forward to seeing what they can do. - Sam Wainwright



DECOLONISATION OF MUSEUMS

Museums are portals which connect the public to the past, displaying the objects created by those who have come before us, and have been left behind. Therefore, museums play an important role in preserving these objects, whilst also displaying them to be accessible to the public. However, museums have a history of their own that is often overlooked due to the more famous objects that they look after, and so need to change in order to suit the present day.



The British museum, looks after a constantly expanding collection of over 8 million artefacts and artworks. The British Museum began as the private collection of objects of Sir Han Sloane, a physician and President of the Royal Society who had collected over 71 000 artefacts by his death in 1753. In his will he left the collection to the people of Britain, and the 1753 Act purchased the entire collection for the public. Although the museum is now free for everyone to enter, the money which Sloane used to acquire his collection came from the estate of his wife, Elizabeth Langley Rose, who was heiress to a sugar plantation in Jamaica which exploited enslaved people. Therefore the very existence of the British Museum is due to Britain's involvement in the slave trade.



Repatriation, the returning of objects to their rightful owner, is a contentious subject when it comes to museum collections. Many of the objects that were donated or otherwise acquired by museums came from the empire, either from the money gained from colonial exploits or slavery, or were directly stolen by colonists who wanted to take objects back as trophies of their exploits abroad. Today, previous colonies are beginning to ask for their stolen items to be returned to their rightful owners, whether that be indigenous people or nations.

However, museums and the British government are resisting calls for objects to be returned, arguing that artefacts belong to the world, and so the British Museum, an institution accessible to everyone, is the best place for them. This view reflects the continued belief that our museums are somehow better than those in other countries, or that they somehow belong to Britain more than their rightful owners. Instead, we should help other countries develop the facilities to display the objects of national importance to them, rather than continue to resist their calls of repatriation.



Another reason that people claim that we should not return items is that if we return one item, then a “domino effect” will be observed, where museums will eventually become empty. This is untrue, and perhaps reflects a fear that our museums are filled with objects that do not in fact belong to us. The Parthenon Marbles, more famously known as the Elgin marbles, came from the Parthenon in Greece, and were removed by Lord Elgin, ambassador of Britain to the Ottoman Empire, who removed the marbles in the early 19th Century.



Greece has been asking for the marbles to be returned for centuries, and has even offered to loan the British Museum other objects in exchange for the marbles being returned. This means that museums do not have to fear giving their objects back, but in fact might benefit from getting new, different objects from museums worldwide, becoming better connected to other museums and we, the British public, will be able to enjoy a wider, more diverse range of artefacts and objects.





Other ways of decolonising museums are fully exploring the histories of looted objects. Although many objects have been donated to museums such as the British museum, this disguises the fact that many of these objects were stolen in the first place, or were bought with money from colonial activities. By properly exploring the history of where objects originally came from, who they originally belonged to, as well as who they were removed, we can gain a better understanding of these objects and the role they have played in different societies, and also their symbolic, religious or national importance to nations, and whether they should be returned.



The decolonisation of museums is necessary for museums to become a bigger and more important part of our societies. They should no longer display contentious objects that do not belong in Britain, instead. they should permanently return objects, exchanging them for other different objects, so that their exhibitions are constantly changing and exciting.



Following the tearing down of the Edward Colston statue in Bristol by Black Lives Matter protesters in 2020, conversations about slavery and colonialism have increased in volume, and one way in which these words can become actions is through decolonisation. Museums, which tell us about our past, need to change the way in which they tell it to us, and lead the way in decolonising society itself.

Megan Turner

WHY JESUS WAS NOT 'A GOOD MORAL TEACHER'

Jesus is one of the most frequently used names in our speech. Just think about it - Jesus is the only famous person to have their name be used as a profanity. We don't scream "Gandhi!" when we stub our toe or exclaim "Benedict Cumberbatch..." when someone says something outrageous. We say "Jesus!"

Have you ever stopped to think though, whose name it is we use?

Jesus is quite possibly the most famous man ever. There is no debate anymore amongst serious historians as to whether or not he was a real guy; he was. But of course, not everybody agrees *who* exactly this man was. Many people suggest that Jesus was simply a good moral teacher and political activist. But I don't think that's sufficient, and that becomes clear when we look at the historical documents that record what exactly Jesus did with his life...



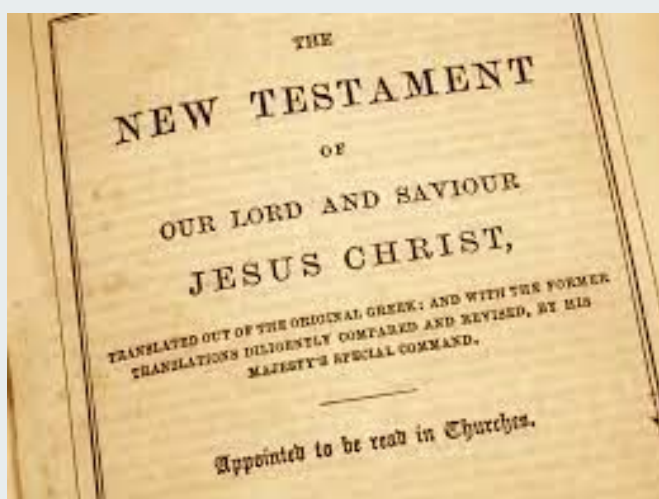
The documents I'm referring to are, of course, the written accounts of Jesus's life in the Bible, recorded by some of his closest friends and followers. Fret not though, we're not entering some unattested realm of speculation and fake evidence. It might surprise you to know that the New Testament, that is the accounts of Jesus and his followers, is the most authenticated ancient document ever. We have 5843 authentic copies of it. The second-most authenticated text is Homer's Iliad, and that only has 1565 manuscripts. If you were to stack all of the New Testament manuscripts on top of each other, you would have a stack 1 mile high; Aristotle would only make it 4 feet. The sheer abundance of genuine manuscripts, the earliest of which was written less than 30 years after Jesus died, means that it has been thoroughly cross-referenced, and is therefore the most reliable ancient document we have.

That said, let's move on to what is actually contained within these and assess the truth of the statement that Jesus was *just* a good moral teacher.

The section of the New Testament that tends to be used to support the claim is the 'sermon on the mountainside', when Jesus essentially sits down and gives the crowd of listeners loads of great tips for how to live a holy and good life; there are also the other assorted sayings and teachings of Jesus that many deem make him one of the greatest moral teachers ever. Things such as "Do for others as you would have them do for you" or "Love those around you just as much as you love yourself" have been so widely assimilated into various cultures and religions, our own included, that to say it's not a good moral lesson would be outright false. But these sayings are not the whole story.



The New Testament tells us how Jesus was constantly at odds with the religious authorities of his day - the Jewish Rabbis and priests. This might not seem like that big of a deal - after all, he was often breaking the religious rules of his day. But Jesus was more than just at odds with the Rabbis; he was actively critical of them. Matthew, who was one of Jesus' close followers, records Jesus calling the religious leaders "serpents" and "a brood of vipers" who are on the verge of being "sentenced to hell". As if this wasn't enough, Jesus also claims to be capable of wrecking the most holy Jewish site, the Temple of God, and then rebuilding it in three days. Now hold on, this does not sound like the wise sayings of some great moral teacher. It sounds like someone who is actively seeking attention and disruption by tolling the religious establishment - certainly not our friend Jesus from the mountainside!

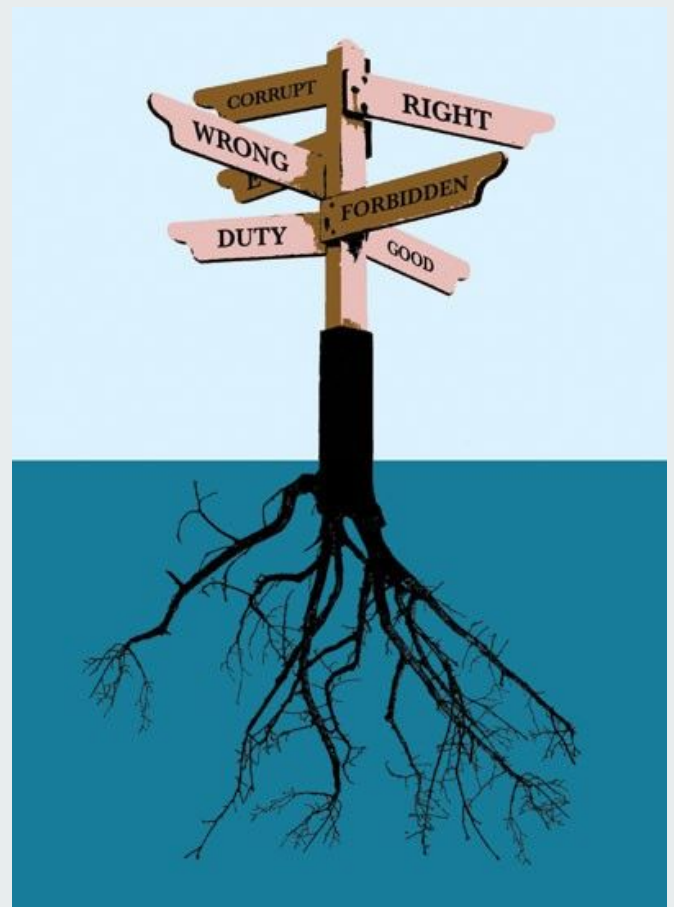


And then there are the various ways in which Jesus claimed divine authority for the things he was saying and doing, things like physical and mental healings and prophetic foresight. Perhaps he was a dangerously deluded cult leader rather than a good moral teacher? Or perhaps he really *was* God?



So why not pick up a Bible (or go to Bible Gateway online) and read Matthew, Mark, Luke or John - or all of them! What will *you* make of this man?

My point is that we need to take the New Testament accounts of his life in their entirety. When we do, it's quite illogical to claim Jesus was just a good and kind man. The great writer C.S. Lewis once wrote, 'A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic - on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg - or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse.'



THE TOXICITY OF REALITY TV

Reality TV has, over time, helped to inform our perceptions on a lot of aspects of life. It has become one of the most popular forms of entertainment which has an influence on wider culture. This quote from The New York times: “reality TV is part of the atmosphere. It is an entertainment genre and lifestyle, career path and political philosophy” exemplifies how reality TV has become an opportunity for some people, as well as a form of entertainment. The genre emerged more distinctly in the 1990s and became known for highlighting crucial perspectives on previously more taboo subjects like sexuality, racism, and politics.



This being said, even shows that involved more talent like the X factor and American Idol became based more around having an emotive backstory which causes people to vote for you, than actually being the most talented in the competition. Similarly, people who have little talent are also voted for because of their entertainment or comedic factor. This is incredibly unfair to people who have worked hard to reach the position they are in and are genuinely talented, compared to people who have made a career out of being bad at what they do, or for having controversial opinions. Ordinary people have become famous not because of talent but for being themselves or rather a performative version of themselves.



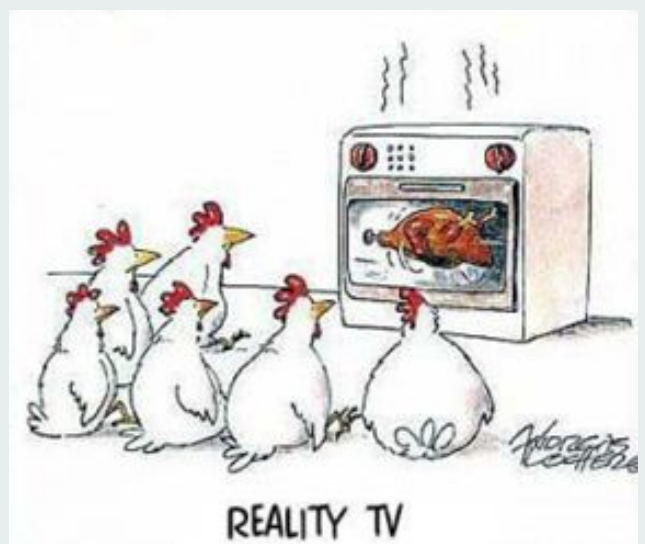


The factor of wanting to watch these shows to see an everyday person transformed into a star is also taken away when already rich people capitalise on the opportunity to put themselves back in the limelight for example, I'm a Celebrity and The Real Housewives. Some people may enjoy watching these shows to see that celebrities do also have problems, and that their lives are not perfect. This suits the celebrity as it creates an impression of relatability where fans can connect with them and feel as if they have more of a relationship with them, generating them more influence.

The conflict in viewers interests is introduced when people want to see content that hasn't been completely artificially instigated or overly engineered yet is not boring. For example, on shows like Love Island, viewers may get frustrated when they believe that interactions are scripted, however when nothing happens, and people are just having conversations as normal, it is not as entertaining.

Some people have been severely harassed and threatened because of their television presence when it may have been largely manufactured to create drama. This is where problems arise because shows can be edited and scripted to make it seem as if people have controversial opinions which then leads to this backlash.

This being said, reality tv can be a good opportunity to get regular peoples opinions on important global concerns. It is a chance for conversations to be had which highlight certain political issues or problems that we face as a society and get people to start thinking and talking about them. Unfortunately, these platforms are not generally used for these purposes, and instead people use these programmes mainly with the intention of profiting off of a media profile that they establish.



IS IT IMMORAL TO SUE THE NHS?

11

Standards of care have fallen during the pandemic, but can one sue with a clear conscience?

5.7 million UK citizens are now on NHS waiting lists; the highest figure since records were first taken in August 2007 - so said the Minister for Health and Social Care while announcing his 'NHS Elective Recovery Plan' in the Commons today. A sobering 300,000 patients are estimated to have waited over a year, among them those requiring urgent care, as well as those seeking non-urgent treatments which nonetheless enhance their quality of life. An estimated 10 million patients chose not to seek treatment during the pandemic. These figures thus fail to depict the true scale.



The chief cause of this backlog is clearly the impact of the pandemic, which has swept across the UK in many devastating waves since March 2020. The NHS experienced increased staff sickness, reduced operating theatre and ward capacity and strict infection control measures, which according to the British Journal of Anaesthesia led to the cancellation of an estimated 2.4 million planned surgeries by the end of 2021. In addition, a woeful October 2020 report by the charity Macmillan revealed that in the first half of 2020 there were 50,000 fewer cancer diagnoses than in a similar period in 2019, a group which it refers to as the "forgotten 'C'".

Despite the best efforts of our much-admired NHS during the pandemic, the quality and breadth of care available to patients in the UK did not reach its usual high standards.





Individuals who believe their care to have been inadequate are entitled to sue the NHS for clinical negligence: indeed the Mid and South Essex NHS Trust awarded £103 million in such payments over the last ten years. But is it immoral to sue the NHS? Let us examine both sides of the argument.

“Yes. It is Immoral.”

Medical negligence is a serious matter. Complaints should be treated seriously, investigated fully and action should be taken to rectify mistakes - but to sue the NHS is a step too far.

A common statement by those suing the NHS is that they want to ensure no one else has the same experience as them. Hospital trusts, however, are now obliged to set aside funds for increasing numbers of negligence payouts, which stretch budgets for patient care and thus makes instances of inadequate treatment more likely. The estimated total cost of existing claims is £83 billion, which is an extraordinarily large share of the overall budget - £192 billion in 2020/21. To put this figure into context, £1 billion is enough to pay the annual salary of 11,000 consultants or 30,000 nurses. Individuals lucky enough to be able to prove their case directly reduce the standard of care available to others.

In our imperfect world, perhaps this is an occasion when individual rights must step aside for the rights of the group. If claimants truly want to avoid future mistakes and improve the standard of care, then it is surely contradictory to accept a large payout - which regularly approach £50,000.

NHS staff are only human and that mistakes are made is inevitable, especially under the heightened pressures of the pandemic. Unless we all agree to pay more tax, a highly unpopular proposition, NHS budgets and resources will remain limited. With this comes a reluctant but realistic acceptance that some areas will receive more funding and priority than others, and that unavoidably, some patients will end up losing out.



“No. It is not immoral.”

The NHS is a proud public institution funded directly by taxpayer contributions, thus all UK citizens hold a stake. As a result, the NHS carries a great burden of responsibility and could be considered accountable to the population for its actions. Mistakes inevitably occur, and while the NHS may be more popular than, say, the Department of Work and Pensions, we should still expect the same levels of professionalism and transparency when it comes to these mistakes as we do from any other publically-funded government agency. In this way, we as stakeholders should have the right to claim for medical negligence where it has occurred and to hold the NHS to account - ensuring that clinical mistakes are internally investigated and lead to improvements.

Originating from Christianity and classical liberalism, we live in a system which recognises the value of individuals, and we hold various rights which allow us to stand up for our personal interests - the right to vote, equality in the eyes of the law etc. The high standard of care to which we are entitled, which if not provided could be of severe detriment to our quality of life, is no different. No matter the size and prestige of the offending institution, our right to sue protects our individual worth from being overlooked.

A successful claim and payout is not intended to be financially beneficial to the injured claimant. Instead, the aim is to try to compensate them for the damages caused and place them in a similar financial situation to that had the negligence not occurred. For example, if an individual is rendered unable to work and support themselves as a result of inadequate treatment, the NHS surely has a duty of care to the patient



to rectify and mitigate the effects of its mistakes. In cases of premature bereavement, relatives' lives are also adversely affected, including by the financial and emotional implications of their loss; it is only right that they should receive adequate compensation.

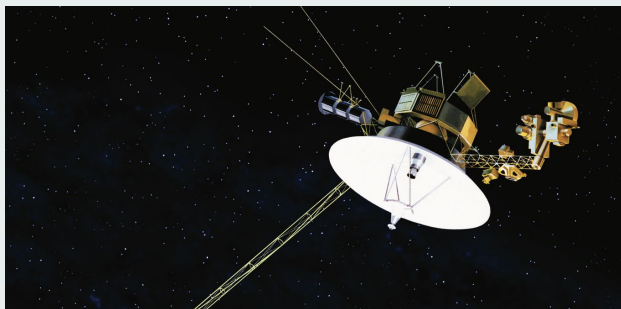
Claims are filed against the NHS itself, and in the vast majority of cases no action is taken against individual NHS staff, who may never find out that a claim has been made against them. Additionally, most claim lawyers now operate on a 'no win no fee' basis, thus it is in their interest to only engage in cases where there is strong evidence of negligence, which surely it would be unjust to overlook.

Which side are you on?

Charlie Wilson

VOYAGER SPACE PROBES

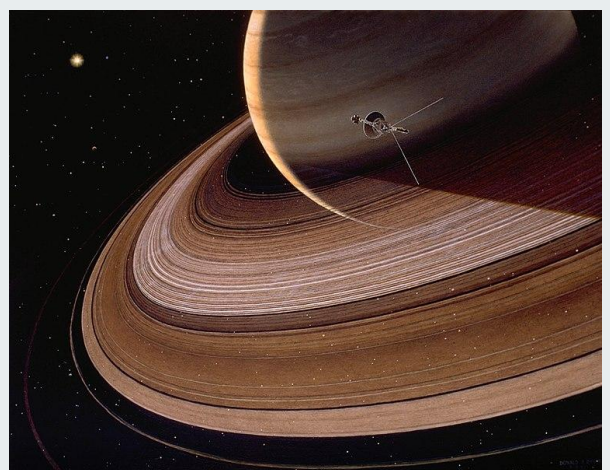
The Voyager Space Probes are a pair of space probes launched in 1977 initially to transmit data and observations of the solar system back to Earth, and represent the current pinnacle of Humanity's voyage into the universe. Voyager 1 flew past Jupiter, Saturn, and its moon Titan, while Voyager 2 conducted scenic flybys of all four gas giants, including Uranus and Neptune. The voyagers are 2 of the only 5 satellites to have ever achieved solar escape velocity, thus allowing them to leave our solar system instead of crashing into the sun. Voyager 1 left the sun's heliosphere and entered the interstellar medium in 2012, followed by Voyager 2 in 2018.



The probes have investigated many fascinating aspects of our solar system, including the sun's magnetic field, solar wind particles, cosmic rays, plasma waves,. They've also taken close-up images of the outer planets. Both probes are travelling at incredible speeds of more than 55,000 kilometres per hour, or the distance between Sudbury and Hadleigh every second.

In order to keep their antennas pointed towards the Earth, they use Plutonium-238 as a source of power. However, this plutonium is rapidly decaying, meaning that the probes are becoming unable to use some instruments and will likely shut down completely during the 2020s. Once the probes go offline, they will likely drift through space for a long time. During the 23rd century, they will enter the vast icy Oort Cloud which surrounds our solar system, and in 40,000 years may encounter some of the Sun's nearest star neighbours.

The sheer emptiness of space means they may fly for billions of years without colliding with any objects, potentially outliving not just humans but both the Earth and the Sun. The Voyager Program, which financed and oversaw the probes at a total cost of \$895 million. They were constructed in California with funding from NASA, and launched from Cape Canaveral in Florida.



NEWS OF THE CENTURY

Editor's Note: Phew! Those articles have all been a bit heavy haven't they? Here's Fergus to lower the tone...

The CHICKEN Big Mac: McDonald's introduced a classic burger with a *clucky* twist from February... after removing bagels and wraps from the breakfast menu!!!

- *Chicken Big Mac features two fried chicken patties instead of the normal beef. Yes - that's literally it!*
- *Burger launched 2nd February but oddly only for six weeks until 15th March*
- *Chicken Big Mac costs £4.09 for the sandwich and £5.59 for medium meal (yes - a bit steep)*
- *McDonald's thankfully confirms Chicken Legend will be returning from next month; had me scared for a minute there!*

McDonald's has launched a Chicken Big Mac burger for the first time in Britain, nearly 50 years after bringing out the classic beef version. The burger, which was released six years ago in Australia, features two fried chicken patties instead of the normal beef in three bun slices as well as the essential Big Mac sauce. The chain launched the burger across its 1,300 outlets in the UK on 2nd February, although it will initially only be on the menu for six weeks until 15th March - what's the point!?

The chicken burger will have more calories than the beef version - 544 compared to 508 - and the Double Big Mac will also return to menus on the same day next month.

McDonald's also confirmed, to the extreme relief of many, that the Chicken Legend, which was temporarily taken off the menu last year, will be returning next month, reported *The Sun*. It comes after the chain conceded to the veggies and launched its questionable 'McPlant' burger, made with a meat-free patty and vegan cheese, last month. The original beef Big Mac came out in the UK in 1974, and will doubtless be missed over the next month.



On 1st January McDonald's customers were left devastated after the chain announced its breakfast bagels and wraps will be permanently removed from the menu. Devoted followers of the McDonald's religion tweeted crying emojis and said they were the 'only breakfast items we ate in this house' and that it was 'the actual worst decision you've ever made'.



The options were both removed from a new reduced menu when the chain gradually reopened its stores in May 2020 after they had closed when the pandemic began. Many customers had been hoping that the bagels and wraps would be reintroduced but McDonald's confirmed today, to the weeping of many, that they were now 'officially gone from the menu'. They will be remembered. However the chain added that it was reducing the price of McMuffins to 99p yesterday via its app in an attempt to soften the blow, and told *MailOnline* the bagels and wraps were first added to its offering in 2011 and had therefore spent nine years on the menu before being removed in 2020. Shocker - now people will have to make their breakfast themselves.

Fergus Dark

DRIVING THEORY QUIZ

**Two official DVLA practice questions to test your knowledge.
Please find the answers in the top left of the next page.**

1. When would you use the right hand lane of a three-lane motorway?
2.
 - a) When you're turning right.
 - b) When you're overtaking.
 - c) When you're travelling above the speed limit.
 - d) When you're trying to save fuel.
2. How can you use your vehicle's engine to control your speed?
 - a) By changing to a lower gear.
 - b) By selecting reverse gear.
 - c) By changing to a higher gear.
 - d) By selecting neutral.

ANALOG PHOTOGRAPHY: THE BASICS

The basic principles of photography are shared between both analog and digital cameras. You have an ISO, shutter speed, aperture and a light meter; the only difference being that there is no automatic mode on a film camera. You have to set everything manually for each image.

The ISO, shutter speed and aperture all work together to achieve the best exposure. With film photography, you have to consider all of these before buying film. Different rolls of film have different film speeds. The film speed indicates the ISO that that film should be shot at. Depending on the environment you are shooting in, you may require fast or slow film. Fast film requires an ISO above 800 and is best used when capturing images in low light conditions. High film speeds produce more grain and are not typically printed any bigger than 10x8. Slow film speeds of an ISO of 200 and below are best used in bright lighting conditions. Slow film requires a slower shutter speed to allow more light in and should be shot using a tripod to avoid blur. A medium film speed has an ISO of 400. It is a good all-purpose film and is great in overcast lighting conditions.



[There are ways around this via pushing and pulling] For example, Ilford HP5+ is a 400 speed 35mm film so should be shot at an ISO of 400. This is the one thing you do not have to change once it is set.

Shutter speed is the length of time that the shutter stays open, and therefore the amount of light that is let into the camera. A fast shutter speed of 1/1000 of a second would allow little light to hit the sensor. Whereas a slow shutter speed of 1 second will expose the film for longer. Slow speeds are prone to camera shake and a tripod should be used for anything slower than 1/125. Shutter speed can be a key factor when panning to achieve a motion blur effect where the subject remains in focus. A slow shutter speed is often required for this. I often keep my shutter speed at 1/125 and only change the aperture. I find it much easier to only have one variable and keep the other two factors constant.



The aperture is controlled by a dial on the lens which opens and closes the diaphragm inside the camera. If you were shooting in low light conditions, you would use a wide aperture for example f2.8 which would allow more light into the camera. When shooting in brighter conditions, an aperture of f22 will only omit a small volume of light.

The aperture is also used to generate a depth of field. A wide aperture for example f1.8 would produce a shallow depth of field where the background is blurred and the subject is in focus. A narrow aperture of f22 would produce a deep depth of field resulting in both the foreground and background being in focus.



The light meter, often inside the camera, will combine these three elements to recommend the best exposure. If you have a set ISO of 400, a shutter speed kept at 1/125 then by simply changing the aperture dial, the light meter will calculate the best aperture to use for that image. In many analog cameras there is a needle that moves up and down depending on exposure. If the needle is pointing up toward the + symbol then it is likely that your image will be over exposed. If the needle is pointing down toward the - symbol then you will have an underexposed image. If the needle is in the centre, this indicates the best exposure.



If you have reached the point where you have shot your roll of film; rewind it back into the canister ready to process in the darkroom. You can use this link to help you work out developing times for the film and developer that you are using:

<https://www.digitaltruth.com/devchart.php?Film=Ilford+HP5%25&Developer=ID-11%25&mdc=Search&TempUnits=C&TimeUnits=D>

AN F1 2022 SEASON PREVIEW

Major rule changes, new driver transfers and what could be a fresh start for any of the teams in the sport. 2022 has the potential to be a fantastic season, building on the intense rivalries from 2021, but now with a whole new design philosophy, that (in theory) should make following in dirty air less of an issue and overtaking more of a possibility. So, with that in mind, I thought I'd make some predictions about the upcoming, record breaking, 23 race season!

Mercedes

We start with the reigning constructors champions of the last 8 years and the team that have seen the names of Schumacher, Hamilton, Fangio and Rosberg drive under the 'Silver Arrows' name. One of the biggest questions on most people's lips is whether the young George Russell will be able to add his name to the list of champions to drive a Mercedes. After 3 years with Williams, he now has some solid experience under his belt and some time last season pushing into the midfield has assured us of his racecraft. Mr Saturday, as he has been coined, is known to be clinical on a single fast qualifying lap and, as a past champion in F2 and F3, he is no stranger to stress. Assuming Mercedes can keep up their record of supplying competitive cars, I believe George will be a safe bet for a regular podium finisher with the potential for a few race wins, if luck falls his way.



A new era for F1, but will it bring the same success for the mighty mercs?



Among other things, Lewis also received his long-awaited knighthood in his break.

Just as the teams begin to announce their new cars for the 2022 season, 7 time world champion Lewis Hamilton has returned from his period of media silence. After taking some time for himself over the winter break, Lewis returned with the simple message: "I've been gone, but now I'm back!" Lewis has had a great focus on his mental health over the last few years and has frequently branched out into clothes design and music production. Whatever you think of Lewis, no one can deny his performances over a season are still the standard to beat. Can he maintain the exclusive record of winning in every season he's competed in and can he try and challenge for that illustrious title number 8 to statistically confirm his place as the GOAT? Only time will tell....

Red Bull

The team from Milton Keynes had their best showing of the V6 era in 2021, with new signing Sergio 'Checo' Perez maintaining his consistent trait and the mighty Max Verstappen driving his heart out to get his first title. There's no doubt the driver pairing for the new season will be able to provide results for the team, but will another championship charge be on the cards? The intense battle of last season meant that both Red Bull and Mercedes had to postpone development on this year's car, in order to seal the drivers and constructors titles respectively. As a result, they have not had as much time as others to dedicate to the major rule change of the new year. Having said that, both teams have an army of designers and engineers to make up for the loss and so both will definitely not be ones to write off. If Sergio can improve on his inconsistent performances in qualifying, I believe he will be a solid top 6 runner and challenging right behind his teammate; possibly beating him on the odd occasion. Max is in supreme form and is running the number 1 on an F1 car for the rest time since the dominance of Sebastian Vettel in his Red Bull. If Red Bull can work their magic with the car, you can be certain Verstappen will perform.



Can 'Super Max' defend his crown and make it 2 World Championships?

Ferrari

Ferrari have had quite the roller coaster ride in the last few years. Since 2018, they have parted ways with veteran drivers (Sebastian Vettel and Kimi Raikkonen), gone through a change of leadership at the top; with Mattia Binotto now taking the reins and have begun a reformation of the prancing horse. The aim? Their first championship since 2008. I believe their line-up of young stars Charles Leclerc and Carlos Sainz to be one of, if not the most exciting lineup on the grid. In their second year with this new pair of teammates, Ferrari are a team on the rise and are my pick for the dark horse of the season. Leclerc has proved in 2019 that he can cope at the very apex of the sport and teammate Sainz is very hungry for his first win of his career, having got a handful of podiums for the Scuderia in 2021. However, Ferrari have struggled with consistency and have often been known to crumble when so close to glory: Just ask Vettel and Alonso! But this seems like a new Ferrari team and I think anyone, regardless of any other team affiliation, wouldn't love to see Ferrari back where they belong at the top of the sport.





McLaren

If we are going to talk about journeys, McLaren has to be mentioned and applauded. Since the start of the hybrid era, the team from Woking strewn away from the mighty Mercedes power unit and made the brave leap to the Honda power unit. What was supposed to be a hark back to the glory days of Senna and Prost in the 1980's, they had the star driver line-up of champions, Jenson Button and Fernando Alonso and a new works engine. As it turned out, the next 4 years were some of the worst in the team's history in which the engine, both drivers and most of the leadership left. A new McLaren has been rising back through the ranks since then and the deal to head back to Mercedes power units has helped McLaren junior driver, Lando Norris, excel. Lando has shown some serious pace in the last couple of seasons, outperforming his car and sticking it on the podium 4 times in 2021. However, Lando suffered in high pressure situations as a result of his lack of experience at the top. This reached its peak last season in Russia, when he led for the majority of the race, only to make the wrong call on tyres and fall to 7th in the last few laps. Having said this, the potential is definitely there and, if McLaren continue their upward pattern then Lando is sure to thrive. As for his teammate, Daniel Ricciardo has also been on quite the rollercoaster ride since he announced his departure from the Red Bull team in 2018. After 2 difficult seasons with Renault (now Alpine) he made the move to McLaren to try and chase his ultimate goal of a world championship. The season started slowly for 'The Honey Badger' who had difficulty getting to grips with the 3rd new team in 4 years. Towards the end of the season, the Aussie's true colours shone through and he was able to get his 1st win in over 3 years. Strong performances in USA and Saudi Arabia were promising signs that 2022 could be a resurgence from the man who, not too long ago, was beating 4 time world champion Sebastian Vettel and he'll need it to beat his top form teammate.



Seb Vettel enters his 15th full season in the sport, still with the aim of winning for every team he has driven for

Aston Martin

Speaking of Mr. Vettel, his 15th full season, will be his team's second season in their new guise as the British sports car brand. Team owner Lawrence Stroll has promised big things for his team. A groundbreaking new factory is being made and a combination of this and a good budget would lead many to assume inevitable success. But if 2021 taught us anything, it is that money isn't everything in this sport and Aston Martin is proof of just this. As Force India, the team had a minimal budget and the smallest number of staff on the grid, yet they still managed to outperform week in week out and made a name for themselves in being the plucky underdogs. Since the Stroll takeover, the team's financial issues are no longer a concern, yet the performances aren't coming. I believe that most of this comes down to the expectation to succeed. As minnows, Force India had to fight for 12th place as if it were their first win, yet now morale is down as wins are to be expected. If this mentality can change then Vettel will thrive and performances will come, but as it is (just like his last year at Ferrari) he will struggle to perform without the team behind him. Lance Stroll is similar in that he allows the media to get to him and affect his performances. Someone only has to look at his elation at getting his first pole position in Turkey, a couple of seasons ago. F1 is a game of momentum and Aston have, in theory, lots behind them. If they can realise this, results will come and then they will challenge, but in my opinion, not yet.



Team Enstone head into 2022 with the goal of winning more races and bringing a World Championship back for the first time since 2006



Alpine

Works Renault engines, a two two time world champion and heavy sponsorship backing; it all should be working for the Enstone Team and yet they are still chasing the glory days of the mid 2000's. A win in unusual circumstances in Hungary last year was something, but the teams still failed to finish in the elusive top 4 in the constructors championship. They go into 2022 as a complete unknown, but with a team as strong as they have, surely things can't get worse. Fernando Alonso seems to have found yet another stride in what is his 3rd stint at the team and will be ever the Matador on the track. As for Ocon, his win last season will have boosted his morale and his performance in Saudi Arabia was also stellar, as he mixed with the top two at the start. If the car is there for them, I believe Alpine could challenge for podiums every now and then, but I struggle to see them breaking out of their midfield role.

Alpha Tauri

"No longer the junior team, but the sister team", said boss Helmut Marko. Pierre Gasly certainly had this belief since he rejoined the team, midway through 2019 and his performances reflected this. However, many who have watched Gasly mature believe that he deserves a better chance in a better team. I am one of these people, but I believe that he needs to choose wisely. Red Bull proved to be too toxic of an environment for him and he wasn't able to thrive under the watchful eye of Helmut Marko. An independent team would be the most logical step for a fresh start, but no seats are available yet. So what should Gasly do? I think he needs to keep this momentum up and hang in there. This season should be a year long advertisement for Gasly to springboard back to the top in 2023. Watch this space.... As for his teammate, Yuki Tsunoda has a lot to prove. A rookie season full of inconsistencies led many to question whether he deserved the chance this year. Well, whether down to the Japanese connection with Honda, or the sponsorship appeal he brings, he has got a chance to go again and this year will be crucial as he has to perform and perform well.





Williams

Williams are another team who are back on the up. Like McLaren, their most recent years have been some of the worst in the teams' history. Now though, new leaders have been found and new backing has been brought. Money will keep coming in from new sponsors and this will increase the pressure of Nicholas Latifi to perform. His status as a 'pay driver' managed to keep him in the team for the last two seasons, but as the need for a pay driver decreases, the more Latifi has to prove himself as an individual driving talent. He has had the high benchmark of George Russell to challenge in the first two years of his F1 career and the tough teammates keep coming, with Alex Albon making his return. Unlike Gasly, Albon has managed to escape the hostility of the Red Bull camp and so look forward to him being able to express himself more and challenge like he has never done before. With the constant burden of the threat of the sack off his shoulders, I expect Albon to surprise us all.

Alfa Romeo

A straight Finnish swap at Alfa has seen Valtteri Bottas head to the Swiss outfit. After 5 years with the Silver Arrows, he has earned his racing stripes and now can use them in an area with far less pressure. I expect him to be a perfect fit for this team and hopefully he can find some of the brave magic he had in his early years at Williams. He should be the perfect guide for the only rookie on the grid this year: Guanyu Zhou. The Chinese driver brings financial backing, but is yet to prove himself fully in the junior formulas, with 3 seasons in F2 without a championship. He certainly is leagues above the pay drivers of years gone by, who would struggle to finish races, but needs a strong, consistent opening season to keep his name on the map.



Haas

Haas struggled like no other team in 2021 and both drivers never got a chance to prove themselves as they tried to deal with a very tough car to handle. Mick Schumacher has much to live up to. The F2 2020 champion carries the mantle of his surname and the pressure to perform will be higher than ever as a result. However, you don't win the F2 championship by fluke and so he has proved the skills to win are there. We just have to hope testing goes well and he can have a car to challenge. His teammate had arguably even more pressure last year. With his dramas before the start of the season, he had the fans against him and so found it difficult to perform. Despite this, he found some consistency as the year went on, but still has much to prove. What Mazepin needs is a calm, consistent year to restart with some experience under his belt.



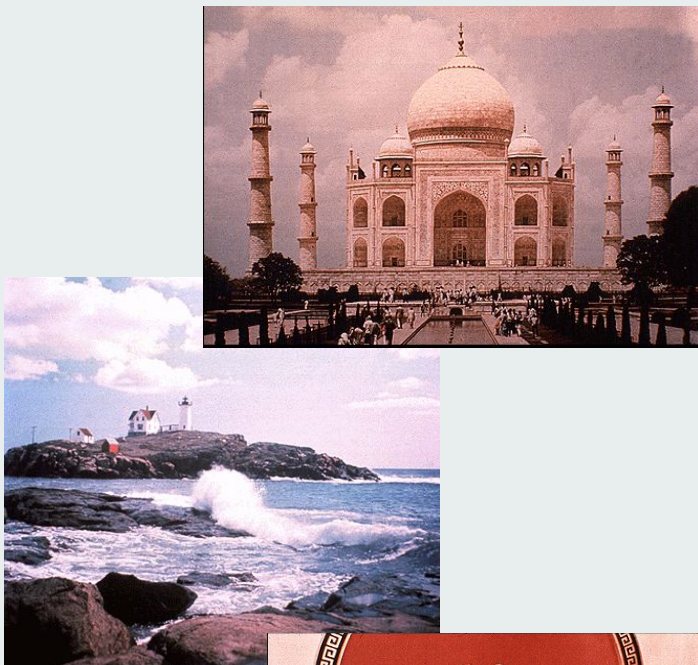
Can Haas scrape themselves off the bottom of the pile and get some points in 2022?

THE GOLDEN RECORD

Uniquely, NASA included a time capsule of humanity on both probes: the Golden Records, which carry 116 images, sounds (such as greetings in different languages and the crashing of waves), and several pieces of music (ranging from classical to folk). The records were designed to serve as an artefact of human life for any extraterrestrial life that could come across it. Whether any alien life would understand it is a troubling question, but there is a very real possibility that the Golden Records may end up as the last surviving evidence of humans, able to withstand any limited erosion, and serve as a reminder to the universe of what we once were.



The collection of photographs is varied: scientific diagrams of humans, the Earth, and the solar system, depictions of cultures from across the world, stunning landscapes and architecture, simply a glimpse into what makes us special. One wonders what an alien species would even be able to make of it? If an extraterrestrial species was technologically clever enough to intercept and extract the record, some scientists have reasoned that they might be able to understand the context of the message, partially thanks to the inclusion of universal measurements like hydrogen atoms that should be comparable across the galaxy.



A small sample of the images found on the record

Overall, the Voyagers and the Golden Record encapsulate the human fascination with our role and purpose within the universe, and the dream that something, somewhere is listening to our calls.

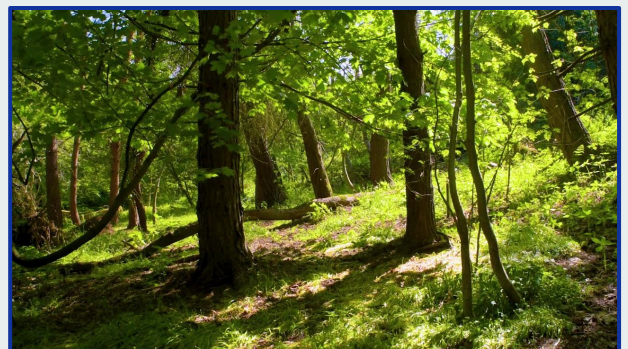
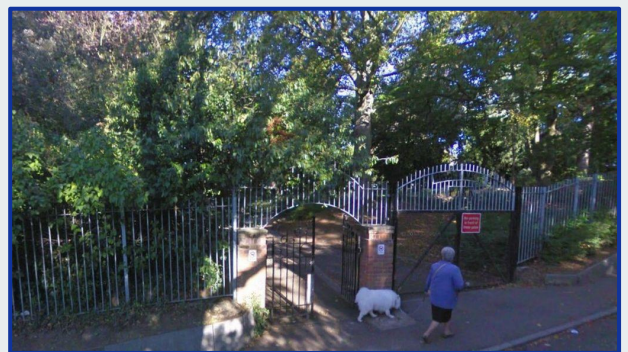
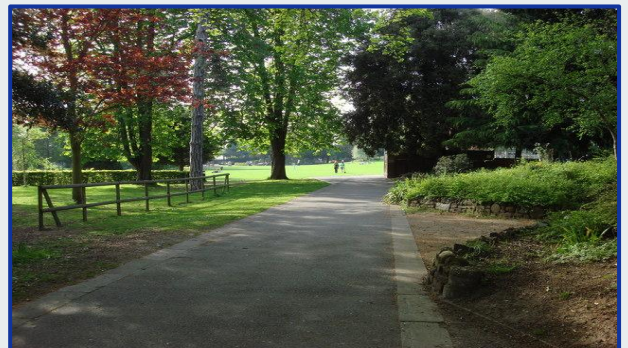
BRINGING BACK BISON AND BEAVER: REWILDING BRITAIN

It's no secret that Great Britain has one of the least diverse ecosystems in the world. We have very few remaining indigenous species compared to what we used to have, and the main reasons for this are the same as what they are around the world: deforestation, and hunting.

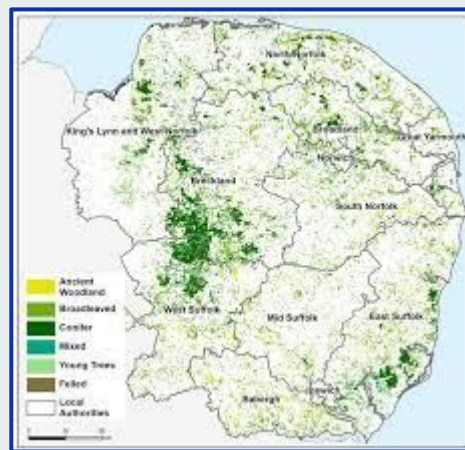
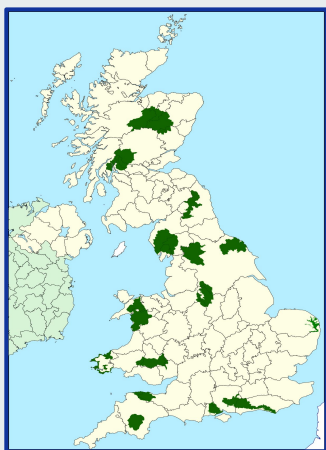
You need only look at our own doorstep to see the consequences of our obsession with erasing green space, the fight for Belle Vue Park in Sudbury has been an ongoing struggle for quite some time.

With thousands of cases just like this happening across the country, nature is just becoming more and more scarce, as concrete takes over the surface of the British Isles. Is it any wonder, then, why 1 in 5 of those of us in the UK are deprived of a dedicated green space, according to the Office of National Statistics?

The recent pandemic and subsequent lockdown saw a rejuvenated appreciation of the outdoors, as we were cut off from what little we had, save for back gardens with recently built planters, because a member of our family decided to try their hand at gardening. As such, the issue of just how widespread the damage to our biosphere is was brought to the forefront of the media; nature began to heal during the pandemic. From the reports of dolphins in the canals of Venice to a visible decrease in city smog, people were starting to take notice of their environment, and humanity's impact on it. This inspired the push for more green space, charity work involving reforestation, and, in my case, a fascination with just how green Britain used to be.



Looking at the maps below, we can see that the majority of green space in the UK is concentrated in our national parks, and very little is found in and around neighbourhoods, towns, cities or any residential space across the country.



The organisation Rewilding Britain has noticed this and has been campaigning for not only larger national parks, but reforestation. Not only that, but they have also been sculpting Britain's landscape - tidying it up, in essence - with the aim of reintroducing the key native species that had been made extinct due to human interference. New forests and parks are being made with their plan, and many more devised with the help of local councils, in order to accommodate the introduction of species on the brink of extinction worldwide, such as the Eurasian lynx which was hunted out of the UK as early as 700 CE.



Many other 'Rewilding Superstars' are fast approaching. With enough support behind them, this organisation can roll out the red carpet for bison, Eurasian wolves, elk, wild horses and the wild boar.

It is not just land that these people know needs to be saved, though, as Rewilding Britain has already made progress to revive the biodiversity of our waterways and seas, having recently reintroduced the Eurasian beaver to Exmoor National Park, and not only bringing back our native species, but restoring their natural habitats, such as plains of seagrass and wetlands.

With the reintroduction of these key species and green spaces, Rewilding Britain hopes to encourage a healthy biosphere, where each animal works to naturally shape and regrow the UK's depleted nature scene. The beaver will work to create dams and natural floods, the bison and other roaming species that may be introduced as early as this year encourage seed dispersal and new grassland to emerge as they migrate by trampling the ground underfoot and stripping bark from trees.



Not only does Rewilding Britain have a nationwide plan to restore our green spaces, but they also have a helpful guide for you to help your local environment, and encourage you to begin rewilding yourself. I have recently been looking into growing different wildflowers native to this area in the spring, and planting them in my local country park.



It's not a scratch on what organisations are doing like this every day, but it will make a difference. I strongly recommend that, this spring, we all take some time to think about what we as individuals can do to save Britain's biosphere.

By Brandon Howard



Thank you to all who contributed to Issue 9!

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Wishing you an enjoyable Half-Term!

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