



Millthorpe Library News Weekly News to your Library!

HS2 northern routes scrapped



HS2 (High Speed 2) has been cut short in a controversial trimming to the transportational haven which was to connect the north and south on efficient railway lines. Phase 2 has been cancelled due to the cost of the project - but many fear that the north-south divide that this creates is substantial.

(Read page 2 to find out more).

Keir Starmer promises “decades of renewal” under the Labour party

Sir Keir Starmer, the leader of the Labour party has pledged that “decades of renewal” will be made if the party is elected next December in 2024, in a shattering conference delayed by protests.
(Read page 3 to find out more).



Hamas invasion of Israel

Since Saturday, Israel has been at war with neighbour Gaza after the militant group Hamas, in control of Gaza, launched an attack on them. Over 1,000 people have died since and hundreds of people have been taken hostage with their fates in the hands of Qatar who has desperately been trying to negotiate a deal.

(Read page 8 to find out more).

DISCLAIMER: This page contains content some viewers may find disturbing/upsetting.

Issue No.43 12/10/23

Main News Pages • Autumn Term Quiz • Around The World • Science & Environment • Military News • Could Humans Live on Mars? • Book Of The Week • Media Review • Music Review • The History & Future of AI • Latest Tech News • Sports News • EFL Review • Puzzles • Credits



HS2 northern routes scrapped in conservative chaos

The Conservative Party, which has been in charge of the UK for the last 13 years, is scrambling to make changes that satisfy their edging main supporters. With many criticisms and accusations of conservative MP's over the last few years from a lot of people, including some who have loved the conservatives their whole life, like the parties at Downing Street during lockdown, £37 billion used to make the Test & Trace app that didn't work, mishandling of the coronavirus pandemic and more, the latest polls for the upcoming elections in November next year are proving to be against their favour. In response to this, Sunak and others have made urgent changes recently with the likes of many environmental pledges being pushed back weeks ago, A-level proposals for mandatory maths and English and the huge, unfinished transport project, HS2 (High Speed 2), being ended halfway to the finish line sparking anger from the diminishing north of England.

What is HS2?

Almost a decade ago, on Halloween, it was decided by the Conservative party that a new fast "high speed" railway line would be constructed, connecting London & Birmingham and Manchester & Leeds all in one line. The project was set out to be £37.5 billion in 2013 (at 2009 prices) and in 2015 said that it would have a budget of over £55 billion. It was to be finished in 2033 and by many supporters, it was a greener, cheaper way to travel long distances for many people. However, some disagreed with the plans as it involved many people to be evicted due to buildings being demolished in construction (the civilians were compensated) alongside deforestation among woodlands and forests along the route. In the end, 354 MP's were in favour of the plans with 34 voting against. There are 2 main phases to HS2; Phase 1 (the stretch of rails between London and Birmingham) estimated to have had a total cost of £35-45 billion in 2019 finances and Phase 2A, and Phase 2B; the ending linking Manchester and Crewe (the plan was altered connecting a town in the East Midlands (Crewe) instead of Leeds in 2021) together from Birmingham at an approximated cost of £15-22 billion (in 2019 prices).

What has happened?

Which brings us to now, in which the only line that could be realistically achieved by 2033 seems to link London and Birmingham in a 140-mile stretch. Phase 2A linking Leeds and Birmingham failed due to the area the route would have passed was highlighted as "safeguarded" territory in 2021 with HS2 revisions coming every 6 months. Phase 2B which was to link Birmingham and Manchester via Crewe in Cheshire was scrapped on Thursday 5th October in a controversial speech delivered by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak who defended his announcement due to the huge costs of up to £107 billion to build HS2. Many conservatives have slammed Rishi for doing this, with Northerners outraged by the north-south divide in the UK worsening. The Manchester Council Leader said it would "leave the north of England with Victorian infrastructure, probably for the rest of this century". However, the statements have been backed by Defense Secretary of the Conservative Party, Grant Shapps, who said Sunak is not 'crazy' to revise HS2 due to the mounting pressure and costs. In the speech, Sunak added that he would "reinvest every penny" (approximately £36 billion) into northern transport instead of HS2. Many homes and villages were knocked down and one woman in Warwickshire who was affected said HS2 should never have been started if it wouldn't be finished. Some believe that the cuts to this ambitious project will show the world that Britain can't achieve anything big.

What else did Sunak say in his speech?

Rishi continued to make changes such as banning single use plastic like polystyrene packaging at British take-away parlours. During his speech, he also laid out a proposal to faze out cigarettes making the legal age for smoking one year higher every year. He also said in the speech: "we should stop being bullied into believing that there are more than 2 genders. Man is a man and woman is a woman - that's just common sense." This received a lot of backlash from society and those targeted in the LGBT+ community who do not identify as female or male.

Phase 2 of the plan has been cancelled.



Some say that HS2 will only divide the north and south in terms of development.



Keir Starmer promises “decades of renewal” under the Labour party

Sir Keir Starmer, the leader of the Labour party has pledged that “decades of renewal” will be made if the party is elected next December in 2024, in a shattering conference delayed by protests.

What was the protest?

A man jumped on the stage in which Starmer was speaking and threw glitter over him, shouting “we demand democracy” and “true democracy is citizen lead. We demand an update!”. He was swiftly dragged off and booed at by the crowd with Starmer taking his jacket off. Keir responded: “if that bloke thinks that bothers me... he doesn’t know me:” a round of applause followed. The police arrested the protester.

What did Starmer promise?

He pledged that new houses would be built in unused urban locations in a “next generation of new towns” by English cities. Aiming for two terms in power (8 years), Starmer said “what is broken can be repaired, what is ruined can be rebuilt.” The Labour party leader made a courageous attempt to pull in edging conservatives who “despair” at their party to join Labour. He attacked the Conservative party by saying, the government “don’t solve problems - they exploit them”. He continued in reference to climate change: “they are prepared to scorch the Earth just to get us.” He joked: “I never thought I’d say this but I’m beginning to see why Liz Truss won. Although I still think we’d be better off with that lettuce.” After making a multitude of digs at the former PM Boris Johnson, he attacked the Scottish National Party saying: (they can) “barely provide a ferry to the Hebrides,” just a few days after the Scottish Labour party won with a landslide of 58.6% of votes. He vowed support for the NHS promising to get the service “back on its feet” and showed his support for Israel. He aims to solve the housing crisis by building 1.5 million homes which he believes is a big player at the heart of delivering economic growth. Throughout the speech, the motto was ‘let’s get Britain back’.

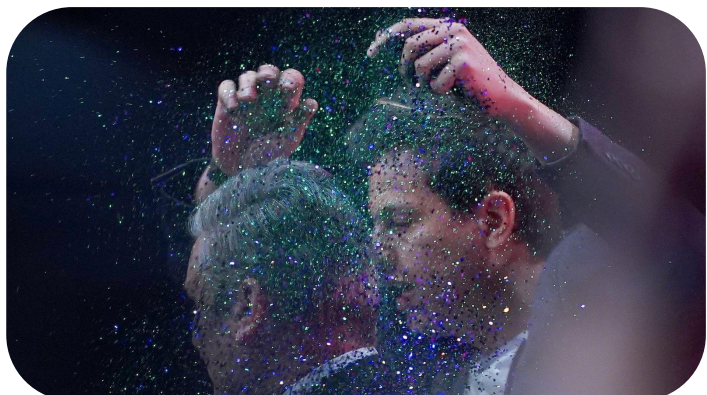
What did other Labour officials say?

In a vote during the conference, the majority of people wished for the motion of nationalising the UK’s energy crisis, despite Labour’s business secretary adding that they wouldn’t nationalise the energy system and that it was merely an opinion vote. Ms Graham, who started the motion states: “In France, they own their own energy, which has meant lower bills for the French people, while in Britain we have let energy monopolies fill their boots by picking the pockets of UK workers. How they must have laughed.” She followed: “Labour’s job is to be the voice of workers and our communities; we must take our energy back into public hands.” Currently, contrary to popular belief, the National Grid is owned by private business investors. Whilst this wouldn’t change, they have vowed to make a new energy sector called GB energy, a publicly owned company that would pump clean energy across the country.

Yvette Cooper, Labour’s shadow secretary said Labour is the party of “true law and order.” She pledged that the party would tackle knife crime in ‘tough love’ youth clubs. “We need urgent interventions to stop young people getting drawn into crime or exploitation,” she said. She wants young people to stop being exploited in gangs, adding that knife crime has increased by 70% in the last 8 years, stating “far too little is done.... a generation is being failed.” She followed saying Labour would set up 90 youth clubs at a cost of £100 million a year to rehabilitate and ethically resolve issues among young people with mental health issues. Cooper said that teenagers had been ‘let down’ by the Conservative party over the past 13 years, promising that Labour would “give young people their future back.”



He promised to accelerate the construction of new homes.



A protester threw glitter at Keir Starmer, shouting “we demand democracy!”



Pressure on nature threatens flowering plants with extinction

45% of the world's known flowering plants could be threatened by extinction, scientists have warned. Those under threat include orchids, varieties of pineapple, and many important crop species. Of the 19,000 new plants and fungi species discovered since 2020, 77% of them are thought to be endangered. The study by the Royal Botanic Gardens, examined research by 200 scientists in 30 countries. "Plants underpin every aspect of humanity", said Dr Matilda Brown, conservation specialist at RBG Kew. But they are increasingly threatened by climate change and biodiversity loss. "When we consider that nine out of ten of our medicines come from our plants, what we are potentially staring down the barrel at is losing half of all of our future medicines," Dr Brown said. "Every species we lose is a species that we don't know what opportunities we're losing. It could be a cancer fighting drug, it could be the solution to hunger. And so to lose that, before we get a chance to study it would be a tragedy." From analysing data, it suggests that there may be 2.5 million species of fungi in the world, with 90% of that amount still yet to be discovered. The report also identified more than 30 global "dark spots" in countries with lots of wildlife that botanists haven't yet explored and mapped. Many of these data sinkholes are in tropical Asia, including Papua New Guinea and Vietnam. The report calls the fungal kingdom the "next frontier in biodiversity science." Scientists analysed environmental DNA from soil samples around the world and studied collections using genomics and machine learning. Only 155,000 species of fungi have so far been named. Fungi can do anything, said Kew mycologist Ester Gaya. "They have amazing compounds, chemicals that can be used for industry, for drug discovery. But we know very little because we only know less than 10% of them. So what happens with the other 90%? There may be amazing resources there that we haven't discovered yet," she said.



Millthorpe Library News Autumn Term Quiz!



Millthorpe Library News Weekly News to your Library!

Hello,

Many of you may have participated in Millthorpe Library News' first news-based quiz last academic year. **We are delighted to announce that it's back - and open now!**

Starting on Thursday 12th October, **the day this issue released**, the quiz includes 12+ questions featuring true or false, fill in yourself and multiple choice. All that is required is to **read this issue** and answer the questions on the quiz sheet in front of the newspapers also found at the entrance. Once the **name/form box is filled in with your answers and handed in to the librarians at the desk**, you will be in for a chance to win a prize. There will be **3 prizes** given out to **those who get 100%** on the quiz, all of which are varying large sweets and chocolates! **The quiz closes on Thursday 26th October, 2 weeks after the day this issue released.**

P.S. - We need you!

We need dedicated writers, graphic designers and more to make this newspaper excel; join us and become a member of The News Team. **You can do this by ticking a checkbox at the bottom of the quiz sheets (include your name and form which you will have done to enter the quiz anyway).** You will be emailed and contacted by a member of the team shortly after the quiz ends.

We hope that you read our newspaper (which this week contains 4 exclusive pages) packed with interesting articles every week and participate in Millthorpe Library News' Autumn Term Quiz!

Thanks,

The News Team.



Around The World



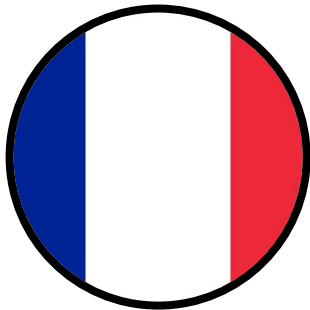
Biden approves construction of border wall as crossings soar

In a move which years ago, the democrats attacked Trump for attempting, Biden has announced that a socially and environmentally controversial section of the border between Texas and Mexico (20 miles/32 km) in the Rio Grande valley area will be turned into a border wall. This follows after 245,000 migrants from Mexico crossed the border last year in the area alone, stressing local systems.



Peruvians outraged as Paddington movie to be filmed in Colombia

Peruvian filmmakers are criticising a bill for the third Paddington movie to be filmed in Peru's neighboring country - Colombia. The controversial proposal to film the ending to this classic, in which a Peruvian bear finally meets his mother in the forest, was made due to many lawmakers saying there were barriers to filming in Peru, and the film industry in the country has not been successful. Campaigners said that this was an "attack on culture" in Peru.



Parisian emergency as bed bugs spread through the city

Bed bugs are nasty insects, infamous for biting people generally at night and on fabrics like bedsheets. In early October, a national crisis of the creature was declared in France, spreading fast in the country's capital, Paris. The blood-sucking insects have been reported and videoed on social media especially on public transport, with authorities aiming to fumigate them swiftly.



Malaria vaccine to save millions of lives across Uganda and Africa

Uganda is a Central African country at the heart of the exhausting malaria epidemic that has been sweeping Africa for decades. 600,000 people die yearly from this disease, and hopes of the death toll plummeting are finally a reality after researchers from Oxford University successfully developed a life-saving vaccine which will be injected into babies in 18 African nations.



Iranian rebel for women's rights wins Nobel Peace prize

Narges Mohammadi is an Iranian campaigner who was jailed at a sentence of 10 years after protesting against the strict rules that Iranian women have to follow just to live in the country. She has been consecutively in prison for standing up to the Iranian government for 31 years, at a dire personal cost for the lives of many Iranian people who are treated horribly. Last year for example, a woman was killed by the police for not full covering her head with a headscarf. Narges is suffering in a harsh prison in Tehran, the capital, but nonetheless has won a Nobel Peace prize for her inspiring work as a "freedom fighter".



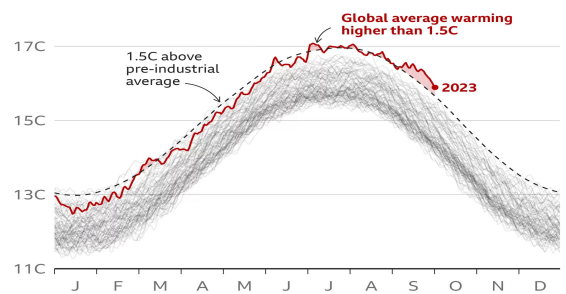
Scientists see hope in gene editing to make chickens immune to bird flu



Scientists have recently genetically engineered chickens that are partially resistant to bird flu. The results of the recent experiment has shone hope on the potential to make the birds immune to the highly pathogenic disease, with some scientists claiming that it will be possible within 3 years, however so far the results of the experiment currently have shown that the birds are only partially immune. Critics have stated that gene-edited farming tackles the issues of high-density farming. Professor Helen Sang from the University of Edinburgh claimed the the team is making significant progress. “We have got to the point where the results are very encouraging and and we want to take this approach further. The researchers have made progress through identifying 3 genes that they have suspected may be important in avian flu, and through gene editing the scientists have made two minor changes to one of the genes involved. The birds are reported to have had no side effect after two years, while boosting resistance to bird flu.

World breaches 1.5°C for record number of days.

Record number of days breaking 1.5C in 2023
Daily global average air temperature, 1940-2023



Scientists have been concerned recently as the world breaches a key threshold limit at an alarming rate. Over roughly a third of days in 2023, the average global temperature was at least 1.5 degrees hotter compared to pre-industrial levels, and staying below this threshold has been widely viewed as being the main limit to avoid the most damaging effects of climate change. So far, 2023 is on track to be the hottest year on record, and 2024 is expected to be even warmer. Dr Melissa Lazenby from the University of Sussex said “It is a sign that we’re reaching levels we haven’t been before. When world leaders signed an agreement in Paris back in 2015, they all pledged to try and keep warming well below 2 degrees and possibly below the 1.5 degree threshold - this limit referred to the comparison in global average temperature back during the pre - industrial period (!850-1900), prior to the widespread global use of fossil fuels. This limit is a long term average, for roughly 20-30 years, and that average currently sits around 1.1 - 1.2 degrees of warming. The more the 1.5 degree limit is breached though, the higher the average will become. The first time this happened was back in December 2015, when politicians were signing the Paris agreement.

Military News

Hamas invasion of Israel

In June 2007, when a military conflict took place between Fatah and Hamas (two politically rivalled groups), the Palestinian territories were divided into the West Bank and Gaza. After Israel disengaged from Gaza, a land, sea and air blockade of Gaza Strip was imposed by Israel and Egypt.

Moving forward to early Saturday morning, Hamas (a Sunni-Islamic fundamentalist, militant and nationalist organisation based in Palestine) launched a barrage of rockets from Gaza Strip into Southern Israel with sirens heard as far away as Tel Aviv, over 60 km away. The group said it initially fired 5,000 rockets, with Israel's military claiming that 2,500 were fired in the initial barrage.

Just an hour later, fighters crossed into Israel through mainly breaches in security barriers separating the two.

Three and a half hours later, the Israeli Air Force were unleashing a deadly bombardment and a military spokesperson declared a state of war.

Since then, the United Nations have had an emergency, behind closed doors, but failed to achieve the unanimity needed to release a statement on an attack that has seen over 1,000 people killed and hundreds of people taken hostage. One country that was hoping for a 'broader focus' than condemning Hamas was Russia. Their UN ambassador said that his message was to 'stop fighting immediately and go to a ceasefire and to meaningful negotiations'.

Israel has also mobilised a record 300,000 reservist soldiers as expectations that Israel will launch its first ground offensive rise.

However, on Monday evening, Hamas said that for 'every targeting of our people who are safe in their houses, without prior warning, we will regrettably meet with the execution of one of the enemy's civilian hostages'. Due to this statement, Qatar has held talks with Israel and Hamas to secure a deal where Hamas would release the women and children it is holding hostage and Israel would release Palestinian women and Children held in its prisons, these talks were supported by the US. It is unclear whether these talks will be successful.

However, many people in the UK may think that, whilst it is a negative thing, it will not make a difference to their lives. One example of how it will is fuel prices, our population is in a cost of living crisis and fuel prices increasing by more than 3% won't help. Furthermore, police have ramped up security efforts and put more officers on the ground after fears that anti-semitism may rise. At a pro-Palestine rally in Brighton, a woman called the attack 'beautiful and inspiring to see' and antisemitic graffiti has been daubed on bridges in Golders Green, home to London's largest Jewish community. Millthorpe Library News Team would like to say that we do not condone antisemitism in any way. Other consequences include a rise in weapons makers shares and uncertainty for airlines who operate out of Israel.



DISCLAIMER: This page contains content some viewers may find disturbing.

Could humans live on Mars?



The red planet's factfile:

- **Diameter :**
6791 km/4219 miles (half of Earth's).
- **Temperature:** -140C-20C
(average:-60C)
- **Day length:** 24 hours and 37 minutes
- **Year Length:** 687 days
- **Olympus Mons:**
Mars is home to the biggest mountain in the solar system at 24 km high (15 miles) and 600 km across!
- **Mars' moons:**
Phobos (22 km across) & Deimos (13 km across)
- **Distance from the sun:**
142 million miles (228 km) - the 4th planet from the sun after Earth.
- **Discovery of Mars;** Galileo Galilei - 1609 with a basic telescope.
- **Atmosphere:** Its atmosphere consists of Carbon Dioxide (95%) and other gases like water vapour (5%). Its atmosphere is 100x thinner than Earth's!
- **Solar travels:** It takes 13 minutes for light from the sun to reach Mars (it takes 8 minutes to reach Earth).
- **Fun Fact:** In 20,000-40,000 years, Mars will have rings like Saturn.

With threats like asteroids, nuclear fallouts and war, its sad but yet fair to say if a disaster were to occur, it is likely that most species would die out: this begs the question, should we have a backup solution. What if we had a small, ever-growing civilization on Mars that could sustain and assure life for millions of years to come...

Could humans live on Mars?

For starters a mission to Mars would require unfathomable proportions of energy to journey 401,000,000 km (250,000,000 miles) from Earth to Mars. To start a mini-civilization, about 1-10 astronauts would go on this daring journey in a huge, advanced spaceship built to the supply requirements of surviving around 7 months in space. Assuming that the ship reaches Mars, the atmosphere is much thinner than Earth's, making a landing much more difficult. This is where a strong, inflatable heat shield when plummeting through the martian atmosphere is vital.

So, we have landed and things are looking pretty bleak. The atmosphere is 95% carbon dioxide, with hardly any oxygen: thus, our new martian legends will have to self-sustain themselves in portable, short-term habitats. At the poles of Mars, Ice is very prominent.

Water could also potentially be sitting right under the inhabitants feet. Oxygen will be produced by taking it out of this water, or brought initially, in huge quantities from Earth. If an energy source, like a self-sufficient solar farm is established, then processes like desalinating water and creating oxygen from water will be more easily utilizable. Every few years, vital supplies would arrive alongside more soon-to-be martians. Every so often, the population would increase, with solar panels and new bases being built. Plants would grow, thus creating a self-sufficient martian society. In addition, even with maintained connection services and systems, it would take at least 20 minutes for messages between Mars and Earth to travel. So, can humans inhabit Mars realistically? Well, scientists think so with much optimism. Despite the inevitable challenges, at the time in the 1960s, going to the moon was seemingly impossible. So, yes, it would be certainly difficult but nonetheless possible.

What have we already explored?

The first time Mars was encountered was in 1965 with a US spacecraft making a successful flyby after many failed attempts in previous years. In the 1970s, the US sent out the Viking missions, which were a group of rovers which captured pictures, which were sent back successfully to Earth. It also collected soil samples to see what elements the martian surface had to offer. It also tested to see if it contained organic compounds, which some samples did and some didn't, however it is speculated that these could've been fakes. The most recent, significant missions to Mars include Perseverance and Ingenuity, American rovers that lasted a long time on the martian surface, collecting information on its extensive travels.

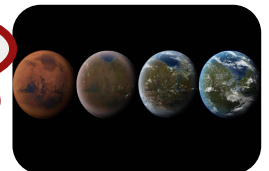
Future missions to Mars

With sending humans to Mars being recently lifted from the realm of impossibility and joke-like sci-fi movies, missions to Mars have been planned as early as 2026, with SpaceX' optimistic model suggesting that a launch could happen between 2026-2030. NASA's potentially more realistic approach suggests a mission where humans first step on our red neighbour could happen between 2030 and 2040, with potential Mars bases being implemented in the 2050s. It is a pleasure to be able to live in a society where becoming an interplanetary species in our lifetime is even a possibility.

Featured Opinion: George Moir, Media/Music review writer Do you think that humanity should terraform Mars?

"I think that humanity should try to terraform Mars however, we mustn't just use Mars purely as a way to escape humanity's effects on Earth."

An impression of what terraforming Mars would look like.



What about Venus? A step by step guide to terraforming Earth's twin-sister



Venus is the 2nd planet from the sun with an average temperature of 464C and a thick atmosphere of carbon dioxide (96%) and sulphur dioxide, nitrogen, water vapour & other gases (4%). It is a highly volcanic planet with huge plumes of clouds and no orbiting moons. Sounds awful, why would we want to attempt to terraform such a hellish planet when Mars is next door. Well, researchers have suggested that a future vision of terraforming the hot planet could be easy and involves creating a gigantic mirror that reflected sunlight away from Venus, making it colder. Over the course of 60 years, the temperature would drop to around 30 degrees celsius. At this temperature and pressure, carbon dioxide would fall and created huge masses of water would accumulate over the decades, making lakes and oceans. The atmospheric pressure would drop from 90 times Earth's to a mere 3 times Earth's after 200 years, with the temperature now at about -80C.

The atmosphere is now primarily nitrogen like Earth's - all that remains is the vital ingredient for life: oxygen. Massive chunks of ice could be launched at Venus via huge drone transportation and mass drivers, falling down as snow onto Venus' surface. To create oxygen, trillions of cyanobacteria would be released, the same organism that likely made oxygen a prominent gas on young Earth. The bacteria would create other nutrients that would make Venus habitable. Then, after many years, humans would colonise the planet, grinding rocks to make soil and beginning to grow forests, farms and more. Carbon dioxide would be released into the atmosphere to harbour plant life. A day on Venus is over 2000 hours, and for the benefit of sleeping, secondary orbital mirrors would have to be implemented reflecting weak sunlight onto Venus that would also melt the icy planet into a mild climate with oceans. It is a long process and far from happening, but it's certainly a possibility.

*Terraform: transforming a planet to an Earth-like state, where life can flourish.



Book of the Week

Disaster By Choice

An earthquake shatters Haiti and a hurricane slices through Texas. We hear that nature runs rampant, seeking to destroy us through these so **called 'natural disasters'**. Science recounts a different story, however: disasters are not the consequence of natural causes; they are the consequence of human choices and decisions. **we put ourselves in harm's way; we fail to take measures which we know would prevent disasters, no matter what the environment does.**

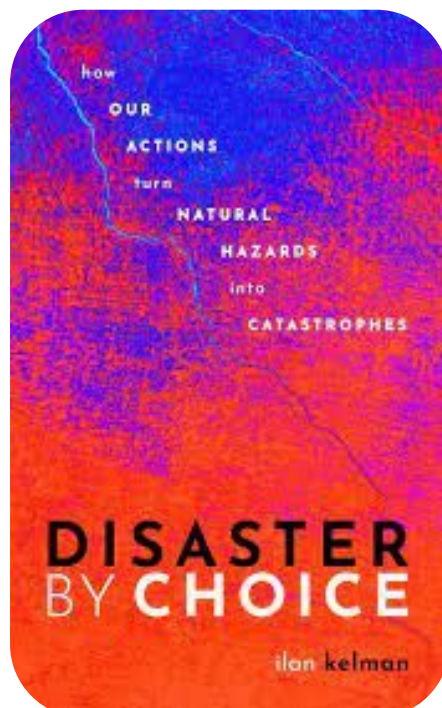
They arise from the **political processes dictating where and what we build**, and from social circumstances which create and perpetuate poverty and discrimination. They develop from the social preference to blame nature for the damage wrought, when in fact events such as earthquakes and storms are entirely commonplace environmental processes. We feel the need to fight natural forces, to reclaim what we assume is ours, and to protect ourselves from what we perceive to be wrath from outside our communities. This attitude distracts us from the real causes of disasters: humanity's decisions, as societies and as individuals. It stops us accepting the real solutions to disasters: making better decisions.

This book explores stories of some of our worst disasters to show how we can and should act to stop people dying when nature unleashes its energies. The disaster is not the tornado, the volcanic eruption, or climate change, but the deaths and injuries, the loss of irreplaceable property, and the lack and even denial of support to affected people, so that a short-term interruption becomes a long-term recovery nightmare. But we can combat this, as Kelman shows, describing inspiring examples of effective human action that limits damage, such as managing flooding in Toronto and villages in Bangladesh, or wildfire in Colorado.

Throughout, his message is clear: there is no such thing as a natural disaster. The disaster lies in our inability to deal with the environment and with ourselves.

Age Rating:

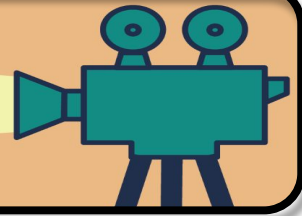
This book can contain some sensitive information about disasters, but nothing to bad so all readers should be ok reading it. **Recommended Age: 12+.**



Here from the quiz? The answer to **question 8** is in the overview above...



Media Review



Amy Dowden returns to Strictly despite cancer diagnosis

**may contain spoilers*

Amy Dowden returns to Strictly despite cancer diagnosis

Amy Dowden, a prominent Strictly Come Dancing star was diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer earlier this year in April. Despite undergoing serious treatment and chemotherapy for the disease, she had the confidence to come back on the show without a wig. Shirley Ballas, a strictly judge, showed her support for the professional dancer: "she's just an amazing young lady, I applaud her for not wearing a wig because she wanted to shine light on cancer (for) young people." She continued, "it took courage because she didn't have a wig there." She also battled sepsis in hospital after a cycle of failed chemotherapy. Dowden thanked the NHS saying she was "massively grateful."

As Millthorpe Library News went to press (Monday 9th October), Strictly come dancing is on week 3 with Angela Scanlon and Carlos Gu impressing the judges and receiving a winning score of 35/40. Nikita Kanda and Gorka Márquez were eliminated with a losing score of 21. You can watch the series on BBC 1 with new episodes releasing weekly. You can also watch the Great British Bake Off on BBC 1 every Tuesday evening with week 4's episode coming out on the 17th October.



Brianna Ghey, 16, was murdered for being a Transgender girl

The crime

On the 11th of February Brianna They was stabbed to death in Birchwood, Cheshire. Two teenagers were found nearby after the crime was committed and were immediately arrested on suspicion of murder the two suspects were both 15 and were charged with murder, 4 days later.

Brianna

Ghey was a year 11 student at Birchwood community high school. She was only 16. She was described by her parents as a 'larger than life' character. She was beloved by the whole community. According to her friends, she helped many young people legally access life saving medical treatment like hormones and hormone blockers. Those same friends also say that she was bullied for a long time before she was ever murdered. She also had a large online presence: 11,000 31,000 and 63,000 follows across different platforms such as TikTok.

Killing

On the 11th February, she was found dead in a park with multiple stab wounds. At 3:13 p.m. emergency services were called.

Court

The pair of suspects found at the scene were then scheduled for a court case on the 17th August then the 4th of October and are now set to stand trial on november 27th. The trial is expected to last for approximately 3 weeks although may take longer. This attack is a hate crime against the transgender community.

"Transphobia, racism, sexism, homophobia and any discrimination is disgraceful - why can't people just get on with their lives and love people for who they are and embrace what brilliance they bring to the table? People need to stop normalising this horrific conduct and abuse and be kind to one another. I think Strictly's Amy Dowden should inspire people to stop caring excessively how they look and care about what is on the inside in a person."

- Freddie Newton



Music Review

Top of the charts

1. **Paint The Town Red**
Doja Cat
2. **Strangers**
Kenya Grace
3. **Greedy**
TATE MCRAE
4. **Prada**
CASSO/RAYE/D-BLOCK EUROPE
5. **3D**
JUNG KOOK Ft. Jack Harlow
6. **Vampire**
Oliver Rodrigo
7. **Adore you**
FRED AGAIN
8. **Discount**
Becky Hill/Chase & status
9. **Baddadan**
Chase & Status/Bou/Flowdan
10. **Water**
Tyla

U2 changes song lyrics in tribute to those killed in Israel

In attacks by Hamas militants (read page 8 - military news for more information), many music festival goers in Israel were killed at a special event called the Nova music festival.

Irish rock band, U2, changed the lyrics of their famous song 'Pride - in the name of love' to those who lost their lives as 'stars of David' to honour those who had fell victim to the conflict in the Jewish country. "In the light of what's happened in Israel and Gaza, a song about non-violence seems somewhat ridiculous, even laughable, but our prayers have always been for peace and for non-violence... But our hearts and our anger, you know where that's pointed. So sing with us... and those beautiful kids at that music festival," said an Irish crowds man. Instead of a reference to Martin Luther King Jr's death in the original lyrics, lead singer, Bono sang in a rewritten opening verse: "Early morning, October 7, the sun is rising in the desert sky/ Stars of David, they took your life but they could not take your pride."

Famous singer, Madonna, also condemned the violence saying: "This tragic attack will only cause more suffering for everyone."

Guess the song:

7

U2 singer, "Bono".



The history and future of AI



Pre-1956: Before AI

Prior to the year 1949, computers lacked a major factor playing in intelligence: The ability to store commands. Also, computers were extremely expensive to own – even just leasing a computer cost up to \$200,000 per month – This meant that only prestigious universities and flourishing businesses could own them. However, by the 1950s many people including philosophers, scientists and mathematicians were theorising the possibility. Alan Turing, who had helped to develop computers during the 1940s, was also exploring the mathematical possibility of such concepts coming into play. Over the next few years, proof of concept was supplied and advocates from high-profile individuals were given to supply funding for investigation into the concept.

1956: The first conference

In the mid 50s, a proof of concept was initialized, through *Logic Theorist*, a program designed to mimic the problem solving skills of a human being. The project was funded by the Research and Development Corporation (RAND). The historic conference was hosted by John McCarthy and Marvin Minsky in 1956, and presented by the *Dartmouth Summer Research Project on Artificial Intelligence* (DSRPAI). Though McCarthy imaged a brilliant collaborative effort, bringing top researchers to hold an open-ended discussion on AI, the conference unfortunately fell short of expectations, but, despite disagreements and setbacks, everyone believed that AI was achievable.

The Present and Future of AI

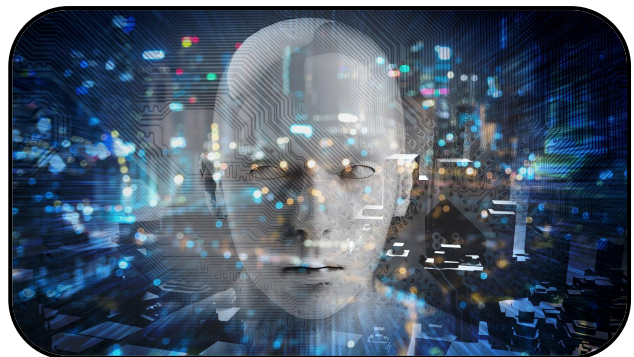
We are currently living in an age of “big data”, where we have the ability to collect huge amounts of information too large for a human to process. However, the future? AI is looking to be the next big event in human history, and this process is already underway.

We can imagine conversations in different languages being translated simultaneously and driverless cars becoming the new reality, and could become real within just twenty years time at this pace. The general long term goal is general intelligence, where a robot is able to overtake a human ability in all tasks.

1956 - Present Day: The rise and Development of AI

AI was flourishing during the period of 1957-1974, with computers gaining the ability to store more and more information, as well as becoming cheaper, faster, and much more accessible. Machine algorithms and people’s understanding of them greatly improved, and early demonstrations such as Newell and Simon’s General Problem Solver showed an optimistic future for artificial intelligence. This, among many other successes persuaded government agencies such as the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) to fund and develop artificial intelligence within many different institutions. Of the number of machines proposed, the government was especially interested in one which had the ability to translate and transcribe vocal language. Optimism for AI was high and expectations exceeded that, but there was still a very long road ahead before the aspired goals of language processing, self-recognition, and abstract thinking could be reached.

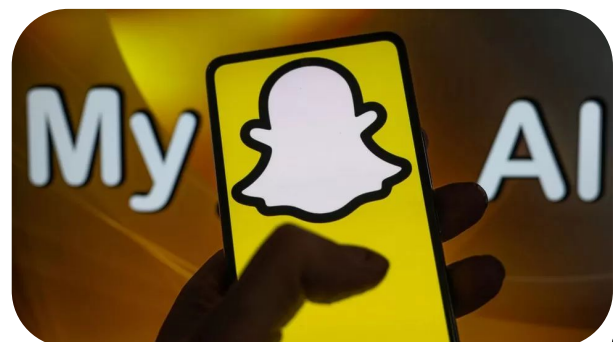
There were many obstacles on the road to achieving successful AIs, including the fact that computers just didn’t have the computational power to process information and data fast enough or have enough memory to store it in for that matter, and Hans Moravec, a student of McCarthy stated that “computers were still millions of times too weak to exhibit intelligence”. In the 1980s though, AI was rehabilitated by expansion of the AI toolkit and raised funds. John Hopfield and David Rumelhart popularized “Deep Learning” techniques, which allowed computers to learn from experience. The Japanese government also invested into development of AI, investing \$400 million between 1982-1990 with the ultimate goal of revolutionising computer processing, but unfortunately most of the goals weren’t met, and government funding and public hype eventually died down. Even in the absence of these two crucial factors though, AI still thrived, with many landmark achievements being made during the 1990s and 2000s. The reigning chess champion, Garry Kasparov was ultimately defeated by IBM’s *Deep Blue* AI in 1997, and speech recognition software, developed by Dragon Systems was implemented on Windows devices during the same year. Even human emotion was developed into a computer system, with Kismet, a robot developed by Cynthia Breazeal, which was created to display and recognise different emotions.



Latest Tech News

Snapchat: Snap AI chatbot 'may risk children's privacy'

Snapchat has been accused of a "worrying failure" to assess the potential privacy risks its AI chatbot poses to users - especially children - by the UK's data watchdog. The information Commissioner's Office (ICO) have said they may stop the UK users from being able to use it due to these risks. The US company said they were closely monitoring the findings by the ICO. Snapchat describes their AI as an 'evolving feature' that is powered by the popular chat bot ChatGPT. The reason they are considering removing it from the UK is also the fact that the user base is mostly made up of children, out of the total 21 million UK users. Snap said it would "work constructively" with the ICO after it issued a preliminary notice against the company, adding that it had carried out a "robust legal and privacy review" before the function went public. The AI is used over 2 million times a day by people all around the world for anything from creating menus to getting information about something you enjoy. The feature was released to all users in April, after being launched as a paid feature in February. Since its release, the company said 'a lot of progress' has been made, but still note that 'mistakes may occur. Snap, the parent company, has also been criticized for being unclear about whether the chatbot can access private information like location data. "Snapchat can only ever access your location if you consent to share it," the company said. The one main concern they have is that the younger users may not be aware about the data they are choosing to let the company store, as they might not always know what sharing it truly does. The company are trying to follow the ICO's regulation before they make their final decision, which affects any UK users wanting to use the AI.



SPORTS NEWS

Officiating Football

Officiating football

Officiating a football match at a high level, like the Premier League, La Liga, WSL and other high tiers is always a massive responsibility, whether it is being an on field referee or an additional assistant referee. Altogether, there are a pool of 22 Premier League on field referees and 28 assistant referees, most of them referee each weekend and earn a £1,500 bonus per game on top of the annual £90,000 (average annual salary, it varies depending on experience).

Referees like Anthony Taylor who have refereed 13 years earn around £100,000 per year and ex premier league referee Mike Dean earned around £200,000 after refereeing over 20 years in the Premier League. It can be even trickier to referee leagues below the Premier League due to no VAR, so they can only judge based on the on field referee's view, and the 2 linesman's view. Most decisions in games are judged by the on field referee, even if they have VAR, so the final call by the referee will be judged based on the view he/she had and his/her opinion. Football games are officiated primarily based on opinion, a different referee may have interpreted a decision differently or have been in a different place than where the other referee would have stood, the outcome will be based on the decisions the referee makes, even if the decisions are incorrect, so the league standings at the end of the season may be different if a different referee refereed a different game, so they play a massive part in the final league standings.





Club facts:

Founded: 1876, **Stadium:** Riverside Stadium, **Stadium Capacity:** 34,742, **Major Trophies:** 1, **League:** Championship (2nd Tier).

How are they doing?:

After a shaky start to the 23/24 season, and 0 wins in their first 7, Middlesbrough have lately found their form. Last season, ex Manchester United midfielder Michael Carrick took over, early in the 22/23 campaign. Boro finished 4th and missed out on playoff promotion to Luton. Last year's team was dominated by young loan players, leaving the team at the end of the season forced fringe players to step up and fill in for them. So far this season, the team have struggled to replace the players they lost, causing a shaky start. Lately they have found their feet and won their last 4 league games.



Club facts:

Founded: 1893, **Stadium:** Kassam Stadium, **Stadium Capacity:** 12,500, **Major Trophies:** 1, **League:** League 1 (3rd Tier).

How are they doing?:

Oxford United have started their League One campaign exceptionally. The promotion odds might be right, heading into the international break 2nd in the league table. Young manager Liam Manning took charge back in March this year, after a successful spell at MK Dons last year. Oxford are currently building their new stadium, as their lease for the Kassam Stadium will run out in 2026. The new stadium should hold up to 16,000 fans when full. Hopefully we can see Oxford in the top tiers of English football soon, with their solid plans for the future.



Club facts:

Founded: 1864, **Stadium:** The Racecourse Ground, **Stadium Capacity:** (Current) 10,771 (16,000 after expansion), **Major Trophies:** 0, **League:** League 2 (4th Tier).

How are they doing?:

After the take over of Wrexham FC back in 2021, The Town have achieved promotion into the fourth tier. Wrexham sit 7th in the league currently, last season's promotion rivals Notts County who got promoted through playoffs are 1st in the table. Star Wrexham midfielder James McClean is one to watch this season, dropping down 2 leagues to play for Wrexham last season, so far he has proven to be a top quality player for them.

Puzzles

Riddles

Easy - What has a face and two hands but no arms or legs?

Medium - What can fill up a room but doesn't take up any space?

Hard - What did the triangle say to the circle?

		1	2		3	6		
	5	9	8		1	4	2	
	3	7				8	6	
	9	6				1	3	
	4	2	7		6	5	8	
		8	9		2	7		

*(This sudoku will be cut out next to the issue stand for you to complete)!

$$\text{Carrousel} + \text{Ferris Wheel} + \text{Carrousel} = 27$$

$$\text{Carrousel} + \text{Top Hat} + \text{Carrousel} = 23$$

$$\text{Ferris Wheel} + \text{Ferris Wheel} + \text{Top Hat} = 34$$

$$\text{Carrousel} + \text{Ferris Wheel} \times \text{Top Hat} = ?$$

Last Issue's Answers

Riddles: Easy - Your Word, Medium - A Plate & Hard - Born On A Leap Year.

Music - Guess the Song: Old MacDonald Had a Farm  17 

Visit Our Website!

Hello! As you may have known, Millthorpe News actually has its own website!

Here, you can read the newspaper digitally, view older newspapers and even take quizzes!

Note: You must be signed in your school account to access it.

All this is available at:

sites.google.com/millthorpe.southbank.academy/millthorpenews

Or for after school use only:

Scan the QR code:



& quiz online copy QR:



Credits

Editorial Team

Y10 - Oliver Lynch

Head Editor, Puzzles, Book of The Week Writer, Latest Tech Writer
& Site Editor.

Y10 - Tom Brook

Head of Marketing & Military News
Writer.

Y10 - Will Bruce

Graphic Designer and Writer.

Writers

Y10 - Freddie Newton

Can Humans Live on Mars Writer, Around the World Writer, Music
Review & Media Review Writer.

Y10 - William Bradley

Science & Environment News Writer & Main News Writer.

You can be here!

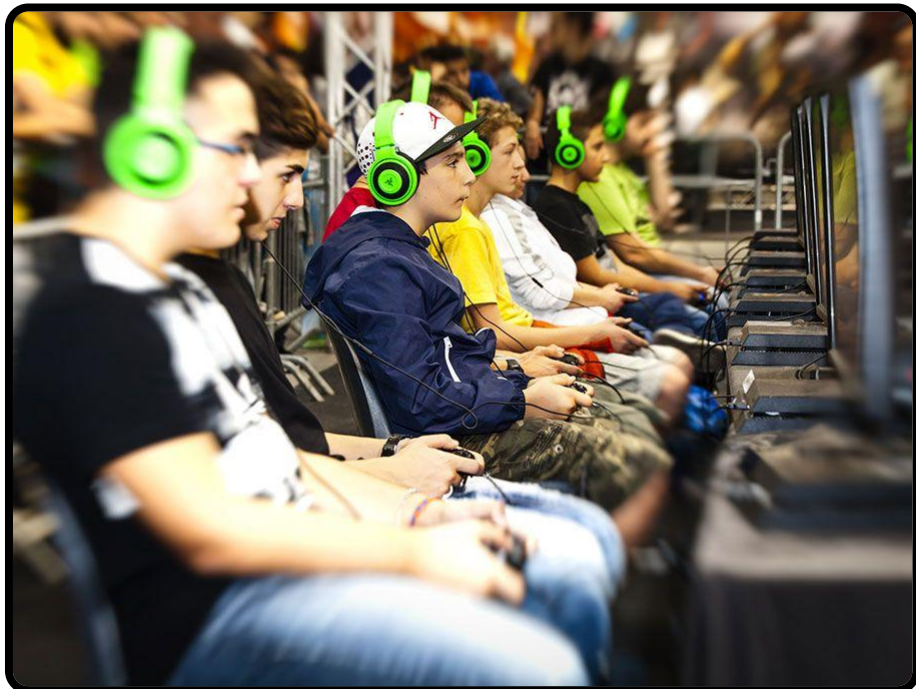
Email or ask a member of our team to join.

THIS WEEK'S TOPIC FOR DEBATE AND DISCUSSION IS:

We should ban the sale of violent video games to minors

FACTS:

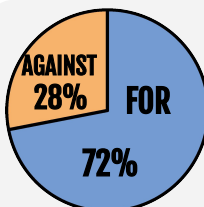
- In 2011, the US Supreme Court ruled against the notion of banning the sale of violent video games to minors in California, which would have imposed a \$1000 fine on stores who sold video games to children!
- In case you are confused at what exactly makes a video game violent, the California law determined violent video games as "[Games] in which the range of options available to a player includes killing, maiming, dismembering or sexually assaulting an image of a human being".
- Furthermore, They then intimated that their reasoning for the notion was because the government felt violent video games "lacked serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value."



FOR

Freedom of choice • ___ • ___

PENDING



Last issue's results on:
Books are better than Television.
Thanks for voting!

AGAINST

Negative Message • Time Wasting • ___

PENDING

FOR

←-VOTE->

PUT A TICK IN EITHER BOX TO VOTE

AGAINST

Military News

A Modern Disaster: The Ukraine War



UK Uses inflatable balloons as guns

Defence News

Overview: This fantastic story places the reader in the misty, mysterious and marvellous world of LJ Ross' murder mystery 'Holy Island', set in Northumberland. When, on a gloomy morning, a village woman stumbles upon a corpse, something that has not happened in this tightly- knitted community in many, many years. On leave from work, DCI Ryan takes the tolling job of finding the person or *people* responsible for this murder...

The Ukraine War.

N/A