



Millthorpe Library News

Weekly News to your Library!

Minimum wage to rise to £11.44 per hour!

	NMW rate	Annual increase (£)	Annual increase (per cent)
National Living Wage (23+)	£10.42	0.92	9.7
21-22 Year Old Rate	£10.18	1.00	10.9
18-20 Year Old Rate	£7.49	0.66	9.7
16-17 Year Old Rate	£5.28	0.47	9.7
Apprentice Rate	£5.28	0.47	9.7
Accommodation Offset	£9.10	0.40	4.6

Minimum wage in the UK is set to rise by more than a pound to £11.44 per hour by April next year. Currently, it is at £10.42 an hour for workers who are over 23, but for the first time, it has also been decided that this rate will also be applied to people 21 - 22. This means that a full time worker would receive around £1800 more, and 21 - 22 year olds a £2300 annual rise.

(Read page 2 to find out more).

New Argentinian President

Argentines have elected far-right outsider Javier Milei, 53, as their new president. With almost all votes counted, Mr Milei had won close to 56% in the decisive run-off, ahead of his left-wing rival, Sergio Massa, with 44%. The 'radical newcomer's' victory has been described as "a political earthquake".

(Read page 3 to find out more).

First commercial carbon capture plant opens in the USA

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(Read page 6 to find out more).

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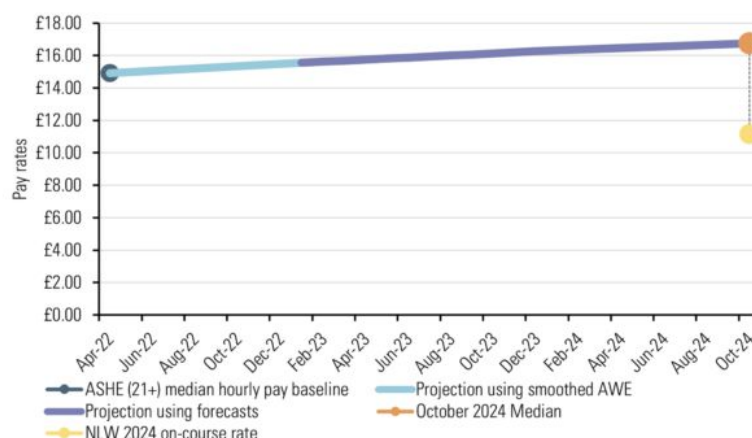


Minimum wage rising to £11.44 per hour!

Minimum wage in the UK is set to rise by more than a pound to £11.44 per hour by April next year. Currently, it is at £10.42 an hour for workers who are over 23, but for the first time, it has also been decided that this rate will also be applied to people 21 - 22. This means that a full time worker would receive around £1800 more, and 21 - 22 year olds a £2300 annual rise. The policy change comes ahead of Mr Hunt's Autumn

Statement, which will see the chancellor outline the government's latest tax and spending decisions. Mr Hunt told the Conservative Party conference in October that the minimum wage was set to rise above £11 in April, but the confirmed rises represent a 9.8% increase for over-23s on last year, and a 12.4% jump for workers aged 22 and 21.

The current minimum wage for those aged 21-22 is £10.18 an hour. The separate National Minimum Wage for 18-20-year-olds will also increase to £8.60 an hour from £7.49, meaning in total, the above-inflation wage hikes will benefit 2.7 million low-paid workers. Apprentices will also get a rise, with an hourly pay increase of over 20%, going from £5.28 to £6.40 an hour. The chancellor accepted the proposals in full from the Low Pay Commission, which advises the government on the minimum wage, saying that the Conservatives' target to "end low pay" by lifting the living wage to two-thirds of a measure of average earnings, had now been met. "The National Living Wage has helped halve the number of people on low pay since 2010, making sure work always pays," Mr Hunt said. Bryan Sanderson, chair of the Low Pay Commission, said the recommendation of increasing the minimum wage to £11.44 "attempts to steer a path" through a "high degree of political and economic uncertainty". The move comes as the higher cost of living has led to household budgets being squeezed, with people on low incomes the hardest hit by higher energy and food bills. But such pay rises have not been without concern from some in industry. Last year's similar rise led to retail and hospitality businesses voicing worries over higher wage bills.



New political outsider elected as President in Argentina

Argentines have elected far-right outsider Javier Milei, 53, as their new president. With almost all votes counted, Mr Milei had won close to 56% in the decisive run-off, ahead of his left-wing rival, Sergio Massa, with 44%. The 'radical newcomer's' victory has been described as "a political earthquake". It has been welcomed by like-minded politicians such as US ex-President Donald Trump, who said Mr Milei would "Make Argentina Great Again". Brazil's former leader Jair Bolsonaro said that "hope would shine again in South America". Sometimes dubbed "El Loco" (the madman) by his critics, Mr Milei has promised drastic changes, which include ditching the local currency, the peso, for the US dollar and "blowing up" the central bank in order to prevent it from printing more money, which he argues is driving inflation. He has also proposed cutting welfare payments and slashing bureaucracy by closing the ministries of culture, women, health and education, among others. In a round of media interviews following his election win, he said he would privatise Argentina's state energy company, YPF, and the country's public broadcasters. However, Mr Milei added that before YPF could be privatised, it would have to be "rebuilt". He did not say how long that process could take. The president-elect also announced that public works would be "cut down to zero" and those already in progress would be put out to tender so that "there would be no more state spending". On social issues, he wants to loosen gun laws, abolish abortion - which was legalised in Argentina in 2020 - and allow the sale and purchase of human organs. Mr Milei's victory comes amid a deep economic crisis which has seen annual inflation rise to 143% and 40% of Argentinians living in poverty. Mr Massa, who is the economy minister, quickly conceded defeat saying that "obviously the results are not what we had hoped for". Analysts say Mr Milei's aggressive style and his promise to "do away with the political caste", which he blames for the country's ills, appealed to voters who were fed up with Argentina's established parties. He also announced that the changes he would bring in would be drastic and immediate. His message appeared to resonate with voters celebrating his win in the streets of Buenos Aires. One woman told AFP news agency that "we were very tired, we wanted to renew, we wanted to see new faces, always the same ones, I bet on change, on Milei, that it will go well for him, it will go well for the country". His choice of Victoria Villarruel as his vice-presidential running mate shocked human rights campaigners in the country, in which 30,000 people were killed or forcibly disappeared under military rule from 1976 to 1983. Ms Villarruel, who comes from a military family, has defended officers convicted of crimes against humanity and proposed dismantling a museum which commemorates victims of Argentina's military junta. Mr Milei and Ms Villarruel will be sworn in on 10 December for a four-year term.



Banksy – street artist confirms first name in lost BBC interview

A lost BBC interview has recently been unearthed which seems to confirm the first name of the famous but mysterious street artist Banksy. In the recording, which was taken in 2003, the reporter asks if Banksy's name is Robert Banks, and Banksy replies: "it's Robbie". Many variations of the name have been previously speculated online, with numerous variations including Robbie, Robert, and Robin suggested. As well as suspected confirmation of the artist's first name, in the interview Banksy also states his comparison of his high speed, undercover graffiti artwork to microwaving meals. "It's quick", he sated. "I want to get it done and dusted". The interview is thought to be one of the earliest interviews with the street artist, who is commonly referred to as "secretive", and "mischievous" by the press. Though his true identity has never actually been revealed, the interview has given his fans a rare glimpse of Banksy's voice - something generally uncommon with the street artist. The artist was interviewed by Mr Wrench in 2003, a prior BBC arts correspondent in order to mark the opening of Banksy's Turf War show, held in east London. Not all the material from the material was used however, as the interview had parts edited out for the BBC's PM programme, which aired in July that year. The never before heard interview is also said to hold banksy's defence of street vandalism as art. "I'm not here to apologise for it", the artist said. "It's a quicker way of making your point, right?", he told Mr Wrench. "It's the same way my mother used to cook Sunday roast every Sunday, and says every Sunday 'It takes hours to make it, minutes to eat'. Other people, they can change it. They can get rid of it", he said.



Around The World



Russia seeks extremist label for LGBT Movement

A motion has been filed within the Russian supreme court to ban the activities to what it refers to as the “international LGBT public movement”. The motion, which was filed by the Russian justice ministry states that the movement had shown signs of “extremist activity”, as well as inciting “social and religious strife”, and the ban is thought could leave any LGBT activists at risk to criminal prosecution The top court will examine the motion on the 30th of november.



President Ruto to find 200,000 jobs in Germany for Kenyans

President William Ruto has said he is aiming to locate 200,000 jobs for kenyans in Germany amid an unemployment crisis within his own country. He made the statement shortly before heading to europe for a G20 meeting, Many african leaders are headed for Germany’s capital, Berlin, in order to seek economic opportunities.”Kenya’s chancellor was in Germany 3 or 4 months ago.I am travelling to Germany tonight because he promised us that we would secure 200,000 jobs”, Ruto has stated.



Rescuers to drill new tunnels to save trapped workers

Rescuers in Uttarakhand, india have been looking to alternative methods in order to save 41 workers who have been trapped for 8 days. New plans had to be agreed on Friday to save the workers, who were trapped within a tunnel, after work to insert metal pipes into the wall resulted in a cracking sound. The tunnel caved in from a landslide on 12th november, and officials say they plan to dig two parallel tunnels in order to get them out.



Brazil records its hottest ever temperature

As parts of brazil endure intense heat waves, Brazil has just recorded their hottest ever temperature of 44.8C.The record was made in the southeastern brazilian town of Aracuai, and the recent extreme weather has been linked to the ongoing El Nino event and climate change. The National institute of Meteorology has stated that the recent temperature has beaten the previous record of 44.7C, set in 2005. Luckily forecasters say the heat is likely to ease this week.



200 sentenced to 2,200 years in prison for links with italian mafia.

More than 200 defendants facing trial in one of Italy’s largest Mafia trials ever have been ultimately sentenced to more than 2,200 years in prison.The three year trial has seen defendants sentenced for numerous amounts of crimes including drug trafficking and extortion. The defendants are said to have ties to the ‘Ndrangheta group, one of the most influential criminal organisations within europe, and have a large influence over society and politics in southern Italy.



Science & Environment News



First commercial carbon capture plant opens in the USA



The Icelandic Orca carbon capture plant aims to clean up a mess by capturing the carbon we emit, and store it underground.



The first commercial carbon capture company in the USA, Heirloom, recently opened its first facility, aiming to remove 1 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide by 2035. Carbon capture is expensive at around £410 per tonne but sometimes used by companies or people to offset greenhouse gas emissions. It is thought that sooner or later, similar technologies focusing on the large-scale extraction of carbon dioxide will be implemented with some estimates claiming that tens of thousands of these plants could reverse climate change entirely. The startup company opened on the 9th November in Tracy, a city in California, and claims to capture 1,000 metric tons (1,000,000kg) of carbon dioxide annually. The plant will be run by renewable energy and harnesses the natural qualities of limestone which allow carbon dioxide to be pulled out of the air. The company said on its website: "Rocks are some of the planet's most vital carbon sinks. Over geological timescales, CO₂ from the atmosphere binds to minerals and permanently turns to rock - a process known as carbon mineralisation. Limestone is one of the most abundant rocks on the planet, capturing massive amounts of CO₂ from the air over years, Heirloom's technology accelerates this natural process to just days."

Heirloom's chief executive, Shashank Samala said his troubling childhood in south-east India, where he experienced severe heatwaves and droughts, motivated to take action to prevent the irreversible effects of climate change. "For me, it's really important to work on a solution that actually has a meaningful, scaled impact on climate change, to actually make a dent on this," he said. Unlike other seemingly futuristic carbon capture plants, Heirloom does not use many fans which require lots of energy to direct carbon dioxide into specific places. Instead, the business lays down hundreds of trays of calcium oxide powder onto 12-meter-tall rack, which turns into limestone as it encounters the abundant carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Then, the workers heat up the limestone, which releases the carbon dioxide and reforms the substance back into calcium oxide powder ready to be used again. The carbon dioxide which is released is then permanently enclosed into concrete via a cooperation of Heirloom and another CarbonCure Technologies. The Department for Energy in the US has awarded Heirloom a grant of \$600 million to help building a carbon processing hub involving limestone in Louisiana.

Whilst claiming to be the first direct carbon capture facility in the USA, they are not the first in the world - most notably comparing to Switzerland and Iceland's commercial facilities which are part of the company, Climeworks AG (see a plant above on the left) who claim to remove 4000 metric tons of carbon dioxide every year. Some scientists have praised the last minute attempt to save our planet, whilst others say it excuses people from bothering to make positive change.



Military News

Mali's army gains control of Kidal



Recently, Mali's army gained control of Kidal, a town in the north of the country that ethnic Tuareg rebels have held for over 9 years. Just after the UN peacekeepers left the town (see previous issue), the army along with Wagner group mercenaries seized what has been described as a 'bastion for an Tuareg rebel group' which was the last urban stronghold not under Mali's junta.

Russia to test ballistic missile



In an eye-opening report from Russia's state controlled media, Vladimir Putin will reportedly test 'Satan 2', the world's largest ballistic missile, by flying it over the South Pole next month. The claim was quickly censored. The missile was designed to strike the West by flying over the North or South poles, which, according to the daily mail, makes it impossible to strike down with current air defences. However, Putin has insisted that his designers have 'finished work' on the Sarmat super heavy missile which is very similar to what he said eleven months previously.

Royal Navy ship averts disaster



An incident that happened just over a year ago has just come to light via an exclusive interview with the Sun (the least trusted news brand in the UK). One of the Royal Navy's ballistic missile submarines, the vanguard class, which carry the UK's ultimate deterrent and weapon, had a depth gauge (an instrument which tells crew how deep underwater a submarine is) failure, meaning that it read as being in shallow waters when actually it wasn't a million miles off its 'crush depth' (maximum depth). However, due to back up systems being in place, a secondary gauge highlighted the anomaly and averted potential death for the vessel's 132 crew members.

Book of the Week

Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone

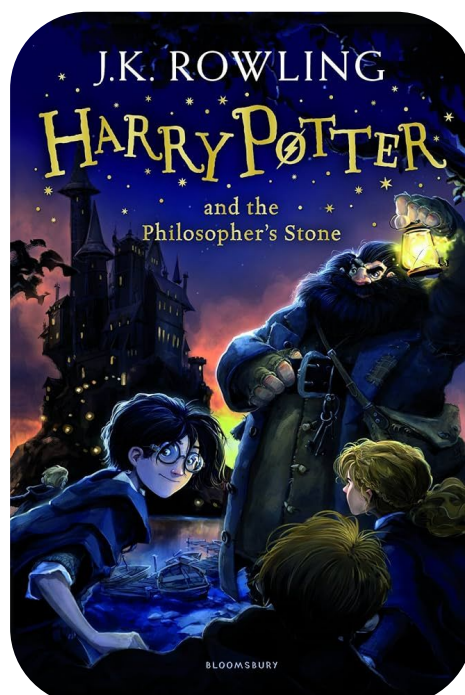
You are likely to have read it at some point in the past, but in case you haven't, here is a plot and description of this great read! Harry Potter is an ordinary boy who lives in a cupboard under the stairs at his Aunt Petunia and Uncle

Vernon's house, which he thinks is normal for someone like him whose parents have been killed in a 'car crash'. He is bullied by them and his spoilt cousin Dudley, and lives a very unremarkable life with only the odd hiccup (like his hair growing back overnight!) to cause him much to think about.

That is until an owl turns up with a letter addressed to Harry and all hell breaks loose! He is literally rescued by a world where nothing is as it seems and magic lessons are the order of the day. Read and find out how Harry discovers his true heritage at Hogwarts School of Wizardry and Witchcraft, the reason behind his parents' mysterious death, who is out to kill him, and how he uncovers the most amazing secret of all time, the fabled Philosopher's Stone! All this and muggles too. Now, what are they?

Age Rating:

9+, but still a good read for most in the school!



Puzzles

Riddles

Easy - What question can you never answer yes to?

Medium - What is easy to get into than out of?

Hard - What has legs but can't walk?

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

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

$$\spadesuit + \heartsuit \times \spadesuit = 108$$

$$\heartsuit + \diamondsuit \times \heartsuit = 140$$

$$\diamondsuit + \diamondsuit + \spadesuit = 27$$

$$\spadesuit + \diamondsuit \times \heartsuit = ?$$

Last Issue's Answers

Riddles: Easy - A Shadow, Medium - A Table & Hard - A Comb

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:



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