

# THE HARROVIAN

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## POLO

*Polo v Eton, A Team, Guards Polo Club, away,  
10 June, Harrow wins the double*

On the hottest day of the year, the Harrow polo A team emerged triumphant after a heart-stopping match against their rivals Eton. The air was charged with excitement as spectators eagerly awaited the start of the highly anticipated annual showdown, which promised a high level of polo from two teams equal in handicap.



From the opening chukka, it was evident that both teams were fiercely determined to claim victory. The A team looked splendid in their La Martina team shirts and Ulysses Hu, *The Head Master's*, wasted no time in scoring the first goal for Harrow. Eton quickly responded with an expert neck shot to even the score. Shortly after, captain Hector Rogberg, *Druries*, stunned the crowd by sending the ball high over the goal to score from a 25-yard penalty but, in the last few seconds of the first chukka, Eton snatched an equalising goal.

Despite valiant efforts from both teams in the second chukka the score remained 2-2. Harrow were undeterred by the mounting pressure and continued to exhibit remarkable composure and adaptability, relentlessly seeking opportunities to take the lead. Defensive play from both Arthur Porter and Ibrahim Faisal, both *Druries*, stopped Eton from scoring on many occasions. As the third chukka started, the game was still very open. Eton took an early lead, scoring a goal. Harrow were awarded another long penalty and, undeterred, Rogberg scored again, sending the ball neatly between the posts. As the match progressed, Eton intensified their tactics, taking the lead again. It was Hu who stunned the crowd with beautiful long run down the field to score for Harrow, finishing the third chukka in a draw.

The final chukka brought a flurry of adrenaline-fuelled action, with the teams locked in a fierce battle for supremacy. Harrow's determination and unwavering spirit shone through as they unleashed a series of powerful strikes to score a fifth goal. Eton fought back quickly with another goal to even up the scores again. In the last 30 seconds of the game, Harrow were awarded another penalty. In this nail-biting moment, the captain stepped up to take the shot, everyone held their breath as he calmly put the ball through the goal with gasps of astonishment from the crowd followed by thunderous applause.

As the final whistle blew, the scoreboard displayed 6:5 a hard-fought victory for the Harrow team. The entire arena erupted with cheers and applause, commending the players on their

impressive display of skill, sportsmanship and sheer tenacity. The A team had showed great teamwork and strategic prowess throughout the match, leaving a mark on all who witnessed their remarkable performance. With their impressive triumph, they were an inspiration for aspiring polo players, and a testament to the many afternoons of dedicated training.



## NHEHS SYMPOSIUM

*'O Tell Me the Truth about Love',  
The Royal Society, 25 May*

On 25 May, The Royal Society hosted 21 boys from Harrow School's Lower Sixth and 22 girls from Notting Hill and Ealing High School for an interdisciplinary symposium titled 'O Tell Me the Truth about Love'. After first meeting on 6 March, the students were divided into their groups and given a research theme (loosely) relating to love across a range of disciplines, and tasked with producing an academically rigorous paper on these. The students took to the challenge immediately, working collaboratively over the following two months to produce a truly outstanding collection of papers on their selected topics. Following this, the groups summarised their findings in a short presentation which they brought with them to present at The Royal Society.

James Lanni, *The Grove*, and James Amihyia-Marsden, *West Acre*, had the unenviable task of going first, questioning when, if ever, 'love' can be used as a legal defence for *le crime passionel* and drew on several interesting laws and cases from historical France and contemporary America. Mark Zeng, *Elmfield*, followed with an exploration of Hall's Marriage Theorem, which states that a matching between two sets can be made under certain conditions, and how it can apply to various acts of real life – including matching romantic partners. Andrew Arthur, *The Knoll*, and Sebastian Murray, *West Acre*, investigated John Milton's views on marriage and divorce through both his written works and the influence of the wider changes happening in England during the turbulent 17th century. The perennial dilemma of the relationship between the words 'like' and 'love' was explored by Oliver Mitchell, *Rendalls*, and Melvin Ackah, *Newlands*, through the roots of both words, how the context of their use changes their meaning, the difference in use between men and women and comparisons with their use in French. Returning to a more technical topic, Oscar Wickham, *The Head Master's*, and Aryan

Rudraraju, *The Grove*, spoke about the probability of two lovers meeting (or a drunk person returning home) while on a random walk; while this is certain (on a long enough walk) for lovers in one and two dimensions, there is only a one in three chance of this happening for those travelling in three dimensions. The first session has concluded by Misha Newington, *Moretons*, JB Yeung, *The Grove*, and Tamir Zolboo, *The Head Master's*, who compared the neurochemical and behavioural similarities of love and alcohol: while both release dopamine and can result in a long-term attachment, love fortunately does not produce the structural changes and damaging withdrawal that alcohol does.



The attendees retired outside for tea and cakes, and a lively buzz of conversation filled the room as speakers and guests alike spoke passionately about the groups' work. June Hyun, *West Acre*, and Lovin Jose, *Rendalls*, resumed proceedings by talking through some of the significant physiological changes caused by love, including our in-built attraction to others' scents, neurological changes upon the sight of loved ones and the physical effects of being 'love-sick'. Joey Quartey, *Druries*, and Luke Smedley, *Druries*, captivated the audience with their investigation into the optimal shape of champagne glasses, outlining the physics behind our enjoyment of fizz and systematically examining the common (and less common) glasses, concluding that the best shape is the one that you prefer drinking from (*quelle surprise!*). Chris Mutombo-Ramazani, *Bradby's*, and Krish Rana, *The Knoll*, turned their attention to more local affairs, using Ealing Council's consultation on the Gurnell Site development as a case study for how local governments should (and shouldn't) work to help residents love where they live. This was followed by Michel Quist, *The Grove*, and Henry Webster, *Druries*, revealing the ever-decreasing differences between natural and lab-grown diamonds, and the wider economic and social impacts these may have in the future. The last presentation was by Dome Srithong, *Lyon's*, and James Basslian, *Rendalls*, who investigated the far-reaching economic consequences of teachers who love to teach, concluding that passionate teachers can lead to a stronger overall economy – clearly playing to their audience! After such an enriching and informative afternoon, the student delegates decamped to a nearby restaurant to celebrate with some well-earned pizzas and doughballs.

Ms Copin, Academic Deputy Head of Notting Hill and Ealing High School, explained the higher purpose of the symposium back in March: *l'enfers c'est les autres*, hence it is important to practise working with different people, and that interesting topics are, well, interesting – and should be celebrated. As the audience at The Royal Society and the soon-to-be-published articles will attest, the event was a resounding success on both counts.

A full summary of each talk, written by EMK, can be found on the Scholars' Firefly page.

## FOX TALBOT PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

16 May

This year the Fox Talbot Photography Competition was full of magnificent images, across all five year groups. There were a variety of themes in place, with photos taken by drones, film cameras, phones, and much more. The range of style and content was impressive and made a very beautiful exhibition in the Pasmore Gallery. This year we also invite a new judge, Old Harrovian Theo McInnes (*The Grove*, 2005<sup>3</sup>).

Theo McInnes is a photojournalist and documentary photographer. Working editorially for magazines such as *Huck*, *Vice*, *The Guardian*, *Society*, *Glory* and *Iconic*, he has covered poignant moments of civil unrest and social change in the last eight years, as well as working on more in-depth reportage photo stories and video documentary projects – most recently co-creating a film and photo project on a dying generation of pigeon fanciers. Commercially, Theo has worked for big-name brands such as Nike, On Running and Talisker, photographing prominent faces from the likes of Eric Cantona to Jeremy Corbyn. Currently, Theo is working on a long-term documentary project centred around the lives of travelling showmen in the UK.

Our second judge, Clive Barda is one of Britain's most distinguished photographers of the performing arts and was awarded the OBE in 2016. While reading Modern Languages at London University, Clive developed a passion for music and photography that remains undimmed. In 1974 he photographed *La Bohème* for the Royal Opera House and went on to work with the RSC, the National Theatre and all the main UK opera companies. He has built up an unrivalled record of past and current performers, including countless album covers, portraits of musicians and stage performers. He became a Freeman of the Musicians Company in 2017. He has also published a number of books and a major retrospective exhibition of his work toured in China and the UK in 2012.



Our third judge was Clare Park. Clare Park's creative energy and insight into physical psychology and human behaviour enable those around her to fully participate in photographic storytelling. Clare originally trained as a ballet dancer and, in the 1980s, she entered the world of international fashion as a model and an aspiring photographer. Later she veered away from the fashion industry to study photography at the Royal College of Art and began exploring self-portraiture, developing this work through narratives of her own life journey. The expressivity of the body lies at the heart of both her personal and collaborative work. Clare's distinctive style is evident in the posters she devises for theatre companies, such as the Royal Shakespeare Company and the National Theatre, as well as for editorials, portraiture and books. In collaboration with co-creator Debbie Green, she recently self-published *Breaking Form: Re-Formed* about one man's journey with Parkinson's, and *A Square Foot of Sky*, visually interpreting the writings of a woman's experiences of 13 years spent in secure institutions. This personalised way of





working is the key to the creation of Clare's photography. Clare has won many awards and her work is widely exhibited. It is held in permanent collections at the National Portrait Gallery and the V&A Royal Photographic Collection.

Of the 300 entries into the competition, 100 were selected to be displayed in the exhibition, and there were two final winners, one for the Lower School, and the other for the Senior. In the Junior category, Viren Bhaika, *Lyon's*, came out on top with *Langur Phone Tree*. This photo portrays two Indian langurs sitting on different trees in a national park in India, all illuminated by a perfect, golden sun coming in behind the subjects. A beautiful golden outline is shown on one of the langurs, a great touch to the photo, highlighting the subject glamorously.

Coming right after Viren, Joseph Li, *The Grove*, was the runners-up to the junior category with his photo *COVID Testing*. This photo shows a COVID testing stand in Shanghai near midnight. The surroundings of the tent are pitch-dark, while a lamp within illuminates the doctor and the woman taking the test. The lighting brings out the subject, and immediately draws attention to itself, as well as signifying the late hour of the day. This photo brings back vivid, or perhaps emotional, memories of the pandemic we have just been through.

In third place for the junior category, Charlie Aliday, *Moretons*, with the photo *Abbey Road*. This photo, taken in Nepal, has a very interesting colour theme to it, taking reference from a Beatles album cover. The blue tint the photo gives it a very urban vibe. The photo shows three local women walking across a street, with crowded residential buildings around them and a beautiful mountain in the background. A very normal event in Nepal is captured very elegantly.

The winner of the senior category was Omar Ait El Caid's, *Bradlys*, photo of an old man on the streets of Edinburgh, *Prime*. This photo is profound. The image perfectly captures a human moment, with the man looking into the camera with eyes whose light stuns the viewer. The power of this photo comes not only from the skill in taking it in the first place but, even more, the content of the photo. This ordinary man is pictured so brilliantly. A common thing many people forget

about photography is its purpose: to record life. This photo shows life. Life in its purest form. A man who is happy to be here, who sees everything from its bright side.

The runner-up for the senior category was Elliot Taylor, *West Acre*, for his photo *Midnight Expressions*. This photo shows tube trains lined up next to each other in a very well-selected perspective and focal range. The long focal range flattens out the image and makes a great cityscape, with lights coming out of the trains to provide illumination and warmth to the night in London.

Every year, the Fox Talbot competition receives new, innovative photos with different content and in different styles. We will welcome any boy who wishes to submit photos next year.

## ATHENAEUM SOCIETY AND PIGOU SOCIETY

*'What does a city with no government look like? The story of Gurgaon', Aryan Rudraraju, The Grove, 17 May*

Aryan Rudraraju, *The Grove*, began by teaching us how to pronounce Gurgaon: the r is rolled and the n is silent. The origins of Gurgaon begin with the Delhi Development Act in 1957, which prohibited private factories from being built and real estate companies developing in Delhi. Entrepreneur Sanjay Gandhi wanted a car that the Indian public could be proud of but the government pushed back, saying that public transport should be improved. The Prime Minister's cabinet ended up passing a bill to begin production of such a car as Gandhi was the Prime Minister's son, and Gandhi was awarded that contract in 1971.

Gandhi had to choose a site to manufacture his dream cars and chose Gurgaon. The land was underdeveloped, cheap and just outside of Delhi, perfect for a factory. However, the project failed and was eventually bought by Japanese carmaker Suzuki.

The real industrialisation of Gurgaon began with a deal between the American firm General Electric and the DLF, one of the largest real estate developers in India. In 1996, GE began constructing their head Indian offices in Gurgaon.

More foreign investment in Gurgaon followed as its proximity to Delhi's airport and the plentiful supply of cheap labour nearby made it attractive for investors. Rudraraju displayed a graph showing Gurgaon's population growth, which clearly demonstrated a huge increase in people coming in to work.

Gurgaon continued to develop: skyscrapers and public transport were built, yet there was still no government. Rudraraju explained that many of the main roads in the city still had no name.

However, Gurgaon, due to a lack of government, is missing many necessities. The electricity is erratic and not guaranteed and only one third of the city has is on a sewage system. There are only 4,000 public police officers, whereas private developers employ 35,000 security guards. Rudraraju explained how developers had created quasi-public fire services, as developers had started to build their own emergency services.

Rudraraju then evaluated whether the city was a success or not. The city has its luxurious high rises and world-class hospitals, it is the second largest IT hub in India and the third largest financial hub. Higher education institutions and many start-ups have moved to Gurgaon due to foreign direct investment. However, outside the city centre, infrastructure is lacking and there is much pollution. To conclude, Rudraraju said he thinks the city is a success.

When asked about lessons that people can take away from Gurgaon, Rudraraju explained that the most valuable lesson is that the free market will always provide what is needed, and that countries can look for foreign investment. Having said that, Rudraraju warned that trying to artificially emulate a city like Gurgaon in other countries is unlikely to work as these cities must form organically.

## GORE SOCIETY

*'What is an organism?', Will Morgan, University of Bristol, 15 May*

On the evening of the 15 May, the Gore Society welcomed Dr Will Morgan who spoke on the question of 'What is an organism?'. Dr Will Morgan is a Research Associate in the Metaphysics of Science at the University of Bristol, and in his talk he presented the significance of being able to classify things as organisms, as well as the possible approaches to achieve this.

Dr Morgan began the lecture by explaining how the number of organisms seems easily quantifiable and there seems to be no issue in counting them. However, he followed up with a series of counter examples, where we would instinctively count them as a single organism when in fact they were not. For example, the Portuguese Man-of-War would appear to be single jellyfish-like organism, when in fact, scientists would classify it as a colony of organisms. Dr Morgan explained, citing Jack Wilson's Problem of Biological Individuality, that we should question how we think about organisms and their classification.

Dr Morgan then shifted the focus to explaining why it was so important to care about the question of 'What is an organism?'. Firstly, he stated that it mattered greatly for biology and science as a whole. Since biology is the study of living organisms, it is essential to have a commonly accepted understanding of what makes an organism. This focuses more on the biological and observable world rather than the purely metaphysical realm. Furthermore, given that science is an empirical and objective source of knowledge, it is essential and practical to have a commonly accepted definition for an organism.

Secondly, he emphasised the question's significance in representing part of our personal identity. Ultimately, we are organisms and so should strive to form better definitions and understanding of the term 'organism'. If we are able to classify whether something is an organism or not, we will get solutions for other questions, such as when exactly our lives begin and end as organisms.

Lastly, Dr Morgan raised medical and ethical issues that give much more significance to potential solutions to the question 'What is an organism?'. He stated that, throughout their lifetimes, organisms can get sick, be healed and eventually die. However, without a proper definition and criteria for organisms, it is extremely ambiguous with regards to when their lives begin and end, raising medical issues about determining the span of an organism's life. Furthermore, ethical issues already exist regarding the treatment of certain living things and if they were to be unclassified as organisms, their treatment and rights will come under question, creating moral implications.

Having established the importance of answering the main question, Dr Morgan moved on to answering how we should go about identifying organisms. The first method he cited was the phenomenal approach, which focuses on the subjective experience of an individual organism and their interactions with the environment, emphasising the importance of studying an organism's behaviour, experiences and perceptions to gain a deeper understanding of what it means to be alive. Dr Morgan quoted T. Pradeu who said that we can easily determine what the biological individuals are since we can see them. However, Dr Morgan did accept that this was the least helpful approach to answering the question due to its subjective nature, which in itself raised further issues.

He next introduced the physiological approach, which focuses on the physical and chemical processes that make up an organism. This approach defined an organism as a functionally integrated biological whole, composing of various parts that work together to maintain the organism's life processes. For example, organs, tissues, cells and molecules are all integral parts of what makes us alive.

Within the physiological approach, there are the metabolic

and immunological versions of the theory. The metabolic version of the approach defines organisms as something that uses energy from its environment to maintain itself. On the other hand, the immunological approach classifies organisms as beings which have immune systems. Both these versions improve on the original approach, precisely defining organisms and their attributes. However, Dr Morgan raised the issue that the approach is highly counterintuitive, using the foetus and its mother as an example: Although we would not usually count the foetus and the mother as a single organism, they share the same metabolic and immune systems. An implication of the approach was also that it deemed people with severe autoimmune disease as beings which are not organisms.

Lastly, Dr Morgan presented the evolutionary approach to the question. This approach defined an organism as something that has the capacity to participate in evolution by natural selection. This required the identification of units of selection, where organisms come into existence when its units of selection come into existence and they die when the unit goes out of existence. An advantage of this method is that it relies on evolution by natural selection, which is the most powerful biological theory about how complex organisms came to exist, and this was ultimately Dr Morgan's favourite approach to answering the question.

## SOMERVELL SOCIETY

*'Depp v Heard: An insight into the most famous defamation case of our generation', Charlie Ni, Elmfield, 15 May*

On 15 May, the Somervell Society was addressed by Charlie Ni, *Elmfield*, who gave a lecture titled: 'Depp v Heard, An insight into the most famous defamation case of our generation.' It proved to be a fascinating talk which kept the audience engaged throughout.

Ni started by stating the record of the events leading up to the case, then he gave a rundown of the trial itself, and finished with an interesting discussion about the ethics and morality of the decisions made by the Fairfax County, as well as the impact of media coverage on this trial. He informed the audience that the main claim of the defendant originated from an op-ed published by Heard in December 2018, which can be summarised succinctly with its title: 'I spoke up against sexual violence – and faced our culture's wrath. That has to change.' This was referencing a PSA (public service announcement) that she took part in for the GirlGaze Project, discussing her experience of domestic violence. Ni stressed that, to understand why Heard was chosen as a spokesperson for a public movement, we must retrace to her relationship with Depp. In 2015, Heard married Depp following their engagement in 2014. However, after just a year, Heard filed for divorce followed with a temporary restraining order against Depp. The divorce was filed on the grounds of physical abuse, and a \$7 million settlement was reached by August 2016. Heard later went on Dutch television, claiming that the entire settlement would go to charity; this would also become a key point of contention in Heard's cross-examination, as both organisations had reported a lack of fulfilment of the pledge by Heard.

Depp's career was damaged by the discourse that surrounded this case, including being cut from several film projects permanently due to the implications of the divorce. In 2019, Depp would then sue Heard for \$50 million dollars for defamation over the op-ed article. The lawsuit said that the defendant 'is not a victim of domestic abuse, instead she is a perpetrator'. It also posited that Heard's allegations were part of an 'elaborate hoax to generate positive publicity'. In the court filing that attempted

to dismiss the suit, Heard detailed multiple ‘instances’ of alleged abuse that occurred in their relationship, claiming that she had scars on her arms and feet from an incident where Depp had allegedly threw her on a ping pong table and dragged her through broken glass.

To further examine the lawsuit, Ni mentioned that Depp filed against the publisher of The Sun, News Group Newspapers in the UK. The suit was for a 2018 article that called Depp a ‘wife beater’, which Depp sued for libel. A libel is a published false statement that is defamatory. This is a quick rundown of the trial. This suit was settled in High Court in the UK, with two of Depp’s ex-partners, Winona Ryder and Vanessa Paradis, providing statements in support of Depp. Furthermore, a police testimony, a private medical practitioner and even Heard’s ex-personal assistant testified for Depp. The plaintiff alleged that Heard defecated on his bed and punched him, along with having extra-marital affairs with James Franco and Elon Musk. The defendant alleges that Depp had physically abused her and threatened to kill her on several occasions. The ruling ultimately was in favour of the publisher. With the worrying lack of specialist evidence on Heard’s side, even with police and medical evidence saying otherwise, the judge heavily favoured Heard’s testimony.

This verdict was what gave confidence to Heard’s legal team for the US defamation case, with overwhelming support from The Sun and other journalistic outlets writing of her courage in speaking out against abuse. Ni’s final evaluation of Depp v Heard was that of malpractice of law and flawed judgement. Depp would try and fail to appeal the ruling with the judge, Justice Nicol, who rejected the statement and ordered him to pay a sum of around £600,000 in legal fees to NGN. Currently, after the verdict in the US case, there is a petition to investigate Judge Andrew Nicol for misconduct with over 15,000 signatures. There is reason to believe that bias was formed because of social links between the judge’s son and the journalist in The Sun who had written the articles in the first place. There is more speculation as the judge stepped down soon after.

Finally, Ni talked about the structure of the trial, as well as giving the plaintiff and the defendant’s opening statements, which were followed by the stages of testimonies between 12 April and 26 May 2022. It is important to examine the purpose of bringing testimonies to a trial. Expert or specialist opinions can give verifiable valuations of events that are otherwise alleged in the case, and personal witnesses can give first-hand accounts.

Ni concluded by showing a couple clips that showed particularly poor bad cross examination by Heard’s team, and Heard’s own testimony, in which she spontaneously mentioned her dog stepping on a bee.

Many thanks go to HRF for organising the event, and to Ni for his unique insight into this topic and for delivering such an intriguing and truly educational talk that informed those interested in learning more about law.

## JUNIOR LABORDE SOCIETY

*‘The Mystery Behind the Bermuda Triangle’,  
Alp Erkazanci, Newlands, 23 May*

Alp Erkazanci’s, *Newlands*, talk was about the mysteries and possible explanations of the numerous ship and plane disappearances in the Bermuda Triangle, also known as the Devil’s Triangle, located between Miami, Bermuda and Puerto Rico. The first major disappearance was of the ship *Mary Celeste* in 1872, which was en route from New York City to Genoa when it was discovered by a British ship in the region. When the captain ordered his sailors aboard, they found all aspects of the ship in good condition, while the captain and crew were nowhere to be found. They had

six months’ worth of food and water, which seemed to all have been abandoned. Next was the *Ellen Austin* incident in 1881, where 21 people died when the ship found itself stuck in a storm, and then the disappearance in 1918 of the *USS Cyclops*, a US Navy ship used to transport coal and troops during WW1. The ship vanished into thin air while travelling in the Bermuda Triangle, and no wreckage or debris was ever found. Finally, there was the 1945 disappearance of five US Navy planes doing a routine training mission from Fort Lauderdale. All five aircraft vanished and, once again, despite an extensive search by the US Navy, no wreckage or bodies were ever recovered. In wake of these famous tragic incidents and countless others about which less is known, numerous theories emerged about the Bermuda Triangle. One possible explanation is simply human error, citing that the region is prone to storms because of its proximity to the Equator, and that it sees a lot of traffic with few navigational waypoints. Another (albeit heavily disputed) explanation is the potential existence of magnetic anomalies, which can affect and jam compasses and other critical navigational equipment used by sailors or pilots. The most scientific and likely explanation is that these incidents were merely the result of natural phenomena, since the area sees many phenomena such as powerful rogue waves and intense and long-lasting underwater earthquakes. In conclusion, it was a very informative talk, giving us a good insight into one of the biggest historic mysteries of all time.

## OPINION

### CORRESPONDENCE

*Letters to the Editor*

DEAR SIRS,

The article on Mr John Davie’s talk *The New Testament from a Roman perspective*, says that ‘the Gospels...may not be as reliable as we might think.’ While this is a fair reflection of the talk, it is not a fair reflection of the state of contemporary scholarship (unless ‘what we might think’ is a form of biblical fundamentalism). Certainly, there are sceptical scholars who have doubts about the historicity of the Gospels. However the talk lacked balance and did not refer to scholars who are more confident of the historical accuracy of the Evangelists, neither did it investigate the evidence for their confidence. For example, Géza Vermes was presented as being at the cutting edge of contemporary scholarship. Vermes is dead. His great work *Jesus the Jew* was published 50 years ago. The towering scholars of our own day, of whom NT Wright is probably the greatest, have a very high view of the historical accuracy of the Gospels, but neither they, nor their evidence, featured in the talk. Instead, claims were made about scholars being united in views, in which they are not, in fact, united.

It is difficult at this distance for me to fish the talk from memory. So suffice it to say: of course one can be sceptical about ancient history, the Gospels included. But if one is to be rationally sceptical about the Gospels, one needs to set out and answer the evidence in favour of their accuracy. If one was still a sceptic after so doing, then one would need to be equally sceptical about all ancient history. And if one was that sceptical, then one ought to be sceptical about whether it is even possible for a contemporary scholar to provide “a Roman perspective” on anything, let alone the New Testament.

Yours faithfully,  
SPS



DEAR SIRs,

I confess I was not present at the talk given by Mr John Davie to the Gore and Classical Societies, but as for his opinions on the historical Jesus, and the ultimate origin thereof, I think the page number at the end of the write-up says it all.

Best wishes,  
PDR

*[The article happened to be printed on pg. 666, which, according to the Editors, was completely coincidental and does not reflect the opinion of the Editors; but may, if one considers, serendipitously reflect the opinion of God. – Eds]*

DEAR SIRs,

The Harrow Rifle Corps is an ugly lump on the beautiful, smooth, shapely, effeminate, womanly, curvaceous bosom that is our School. If I sent a letter to the International Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg that started with: 'This afternoon, I will be marching about like a baboon looking for a mate, for one hour in 30 degree Celsius heat, dressed up in an ill-fitting costume seemingly purely for the entertainment of Archie Tait and prospective parents: for the supposed protection of a vaguely drunkenly, crowned old man I neither voted for nor particularly care for and for his country, which I want to be rid of as soon as possible', they would be on their electric bicycles setting off for Harrow School before you could say "saucisse épicée". My point is, on a day like today (that is: Monday 12/06/23, where the temperature is now 28 degrees Celsius, and it seems like it's about to chuck it down) I don't look forward to CCF a great deal.

I'm aware that some find the whole pursuit of "war-craft" most enjoyable. I'm aware that the honourable Head Master himself (and, by extension, his honourable deputy) are tickled pink by the idea of mud in every bodily crevasse and constant, unceasing tinnitus. In fact, my own father served in the military for his fair share. It's just that... I really, really don't get it.

I don't wish to seem like a coward. After all, looking at the state of affairs abroad, it does seem like the burden of being shipped off to France to fight another great war has landed on my generation. However, I have never seen a tank rolling up High Street (barring Barimah, of course) and never have I ever seen a warplane in the sky (barring the paper plane that missed the back of Dr Bentley's head) and so, one must conclude, CCF is protecting the Hill and her residents from nothing and no-one. And as for defending the country, I simply don't believe that any Harrovian will ever be drafted into the military due, in large part, to their respiratory diseases.

Therefore, most honourable gents, I do propose that (especially in Trials week) we, the servile class, get a choice in conscription to the "Hawwow wifw Cor".

Yours sincerely,  
NICK ARNISON, MORETONS

DEAR SIRs,

Upon my glorious return to the Hill, when Monday morning arose and a Maths lesson was upon me, I swept past an empty area of land. In my hurry to the form room, I was entirely oblivious to their absence.

As soon as I was finally released from MS3, my heart sank to see that the gorgeous bushes that once adorned the area had vanished, leaving behind only a desolate, empty landscape.

How is it that, within the space of a week, the great leafy giants that adorned the walkways around Physics and Maths Schools came to be demolished and destroyed?

The greenery that lay amongst the buildings was a source of comfort and oxygen to many boys and beaks, that much I am certain. It is scientifically proven that having more green spaces can improve mental health and alleviate stress and concern, much of which will have been building up during previous Maths and Physics lessons.

Furthermore, not only have the relaxing life-givers been removed, but their remains have been left strewn across the ground. This has caused many boys to become saddened at the sight, which is left so open and bare, without a thought as to removing the wreckage and allowing new life to grow.

I hope that the School can learn to rectify the gross mismanagement of hedge trimmers and at least tidy up the area left behind. At best, a new set of bushes can be put in place and our great School can be returned to its former glory.

To those boys or beaks who have been affected by the tragedy that has befallen our School, the Chaplains are always available to talk to, as well as a School Counsellor and an independent listener. Please do use these if you feel that you must.

Yours leafily,  
ARJUN KULAR, ELMFIELD

DEAR SIRs,

In response to Arjun Kular's letter in No 25 of The Harrovian on 10 June, I would like to say a few words. First, is his unjustified hostility towards internet research. The internet can be a useful, efficient and accurate source of information, provided that it has been used properly (same for a lot of things, like communism), and, in our own day, when Surfaces are our principal tool of learning, internet research becomes even more important. It is far better than books in a number of ways, being more accessible and providing free information about a larger variety of subjects, and is often more efficient as you don't have to search for a pea in a vichyssoise of verbiage to obtain a speck of useful information. I am in no way objecting the advantages of researching using books or denying the disadvantages of internet research: I merely think Mr Kular is displaying some sort of internet phobia, some sort irrational fear as if the internet is a monstrous being that must be kept behind the bars, as if it was 'sacrilegious' 'godforsaken', inferior, and even vulgar and unprofessional.

I agree completely that research by book is an excellent way to gain knowledge and increase our understanding of language, allowing us to write and read better. However, it has obvious flaws in that it is ineffective since there are not books written specifically for every topic so it takes long to find what we want in a pile of tangentially related writing; and if there are very specific books they are usually too expensive (thanks to the Vaughan we don't have to worry about it). On the other hand, internet research can be a lot more targeted, covers a wider variety of subjects, and saves more time. I think that even though there are problems with internet research, we should not be avoiding it entirely simply because of the problems; instead we should teach people how to use the internet properly, how to find reliable sources, and how to discern truth in the ocean of information that is on the internet. What we definitely should not do is to shy away from internet research simply because 'the art of books' is 'being lost every minute': if the tradition of books becomes outmatched and outdated by the internet, we should not amputate our own hand to preserve this tradition that cannot keep up with modernity, let it so be lost if it is no longer useful.

I would also like to address the additional benefits of using the internet properly: the amount of information on the internet is far more than one could find in any book. In the case of a book the publishers and editors delete and filter stupid content for you; on the internet you are on your own. It is an amazing place to test our critical thinking and learn how to read information accurately. So do not treat internet research as the great untouchable academic taboo: embrace it instead, use it to your advantage, exploit its benefits. There is nothing wrong with the internet as long as it is used in the right manner and produces good research, for that is all that matters no matter the method of research, just as Machiavelli claimed: 'the end justifies the means'.

Yours sincerely,  
ARTHUR YANG, WEST ACRE

# METROPOLITAN

## BIRDSONG

Birdsong echoes around, travelling from one tree to another, beautiful noise. A wondrous chorus fills the air and runs through the bushes. Creaking emanates from the wooden bench below me; startled, I arise and am greeted by the most breath-taking of views.

Above the verdant hedges that surround me, only visible from a higher ground, is the sky. Filled with grey and white, casting great shadows over the ground I walk on. Traversing across the cerulean sky they allow rays of glorious sunlight to shine through their faults.

When observed from a distance, rain falling appears to form one solid column of water descending from above. So too does the sunlight as it pours down from amongst the clouds, flooding the land below with a radiant gold that runs down every street and dripping off every rooftop, like heavenly honey. Flat fields dotted with white ants are illuminated by the flaming fire, burning in the void. Leaves become ever more greenish; the sky painted with streaks of the most vibrant blue.

Closer to where the land and the sky touch, traces of pink and purple stretch across the sky. A faint orange haze tints the clouds and the sky suddenly loses its monochrome hue. Colours dancing on the horizon and a baby blue sky floating directly above me. Birdsong heralds the sunlight as it continues to fall out of space and into my view.

Beauty is the nature of nature.

## SPORT

### CRICKET

*The XI v Free Foresters, Home, 8 June, Won by 10 runs*

The XI put in another super performance against the Free Foresters on a gloriously sunny Thursday down on the VI Form Ground. The XI batted first and posted a commanding 286 all out from their 45 overs, with Charlie Nelson's, *Bradlys*, 103 the highlight of a brilliant first innings from Harrow. The XI backed up their batting performance with the ball on another flat VI Form track, and Toby Ferneyhough's, *Elmfield*, 3-42 saw the end of the Free Foresters' hopes, eventually finishing on for 276/8 in the 45th over. It was a superb day of cricket in perfect conditions and a splendid way to set up a big Cowdrey Cup clash away at Tonbridge on Saturday.

Nelson 103 & 2-48, Jay Madan, *The Park*, 60, Ferneyhough 3-42

*The School v Tonbridge, Away 10 June, Lost by 143 runs, Cowdrey Cup*

The XI had a humbling day at Tonbridge on Saturday, losing by 143 runs. After losing the toss and being inserted to the field in 30 degree heat, they failed to handle the Tonbridge batting

aggression and bowled too many poor balls. Tonbridge eventually finished on 349/9 from their 55 overs, and the fatigue from the fielding effort clearly showed as the Harrow side attempted to chase the runs. Harrow were eventually bowled out for a 206. Full-credit must go to the Tonbridge opening batters for the pressure they implied early on in the heat, but this was not a performance to remember for the XI. The XI will need to work hard this week as they look to produce an improved performance in their remaining Cowdrey Cup games against Radley and Charterhouse over the next few weeks.

2nd XI home v Tonbridge School, Draw

Harrow School 2nd XI drew with Tonbridge School 2nd XI. Tonbridge 243-7 declared (50.2 overs) (Jack Artis, *The Head Master's*, 3-34), Harrow 209-7 (42 overs) (Caspar Baker, *Moretons*, 104).

3rd XI v Tonbridge School, Away, Won by 27 runs

Harrow showed some determination and grit to scrape to 137-8 after 30 overs. They followed up there batting with some superb bowling and fielding to bowl Tonbridge out for 110, securing the first win for the 3rds over Tonbridge in nine years. Top Batsman Olly Hills, *The Head Master's*, 44 runs; Top Bowler Connor Scott, *Rendalls*, 6 overs 4 wickets for 15 runs

Colts A v Tonbridge School, Home, Won by 3 wickets

A superb victory. Harrow bowled first, doing very well on a lively pitch with Henry Porter, *Moretons*, the pick of the bowlers taking 4-22, and Edward Swanson, *Druries*, taking two excellent slip catches to pin Tonbridge down to 124 all out. Harrow's chase stuttered along until Hal Herse, *Newlands*, and Swanson steadied the ship with 33 and 29 respectively to lead Harrow home to an accomplished victory.

Junior Colts A v Tonbridge School, Home, Lost by 2 wickets

An agonising first defeat of the season where a lack of intent with the bat and discipline with the ball were the reasons for the disappointment. Freddy Bourne-Arton, *Elmfield*, 52 and Dario Holland, *The Park*, 4 for 20.

Junior Colts B home v Tonbridge School, Won by 46 runs

Junior Colts C home v Tonbridge School, Lost by 30 runs

Junior Colts D home v Tonbridge School, Lost by 92 runs

Tonbridge won the toss and elected to bat. After 20 overs they had amassed a total of 207 runs, with the loss of four wickets. After 20 overs, Harrow were 115 for 7.

Yearlings A away v Tonbridge School, Lost by 19 runs

Ned Steel, *Druries*, and Kavish Mehta, *The Grove*, were the pick of the bowlers, taking a wicket each and being economical in the context of the game. Alfie Lawson-Brown, *The Park*, and Rishya Rawal, *Rendalls*, top scored with 33 each.

Yearlings B v Tonbridge School, Away, Won by 8 wickets

Harrow won by eight wickets and with five overs to spare to chase down 149 to win against Tonbridge. Lucian Spencer, *Elmfield*, scored 60 runs and Freddie Danos, *Bradlys*, took 3-25

Yearlings C v Tonbridge School, Away, won by 5 runs

Sebastian Aucott, *Lyon's*, and Louis Criddle, *Newlands*, worked well as a partnership, scoring 50 of Harrow's 126 runs, with Jaden Odofoin, *The Grove*, taking four wickets in four overs.

Yearlings D v Tonbridge School, Away, Lost by 8 wickets

Harrow batted well to give a defensible total but an accumulation of fielding errors allowed Tonbridge to complete the chase, leaving lots to work on for next week.

Yearlings E v Tonbridge School, Away, Lost by 30 runs

## TENNIS

### *The School v Eton, 8 June*

1st Team v Eton College, Home, Won 6-3

Some excellent tennis from all six players. The standout pair were Jack Scott, *The Park*, and Hugo Maclean, *West Acre*, who won all three sets with some aggressive play and dynamic volleying.

Junior Colts A away v Eton College, Lost 2-7

Junior Colts B away v Eton College, Lost 3-6

Junior Colts C away v Eton College, Lost 3-6

Junior Colts D away v Eton College, Lost 0-9

Yearlings A v Eton College, Home, Lost 2-7

Michael Lourie, *Newlands*, and Talal Nsouli, *The Knoll*, won two of their three games.

Yearlings B v Eton College, Home, Lost 3-6

Special mention to Harry Winward, *Lyon's*, and Rocco Desai, *Elmfield*, winning all three of their games 6-3.

Yearlings C v Eton College, Home, Lost 3-6

Well done to Lucien Tyacke, *The Head Master's*, and Christopher Squire, *Bradlys*, for winning two out of their three games and beating the Eton first pair 6-5.

Yearlings D v Eton College, Home, Lost 0-9

A tough afternoon playing in the sunshine, nevertheless a good attitude by all.

### *The School v Tonbridge, 10 June*

1st Team v Tonbridge School, Home, Won 7-2

Some outstanding play from the team. The best tennis came from Cameron Timlin, *Bradlys*, and Mostyn Fulford, *The Knoll*, who showed power in their ground strokes and deft touch on the volley to convincingly win all three of their sets.

2nd Team v Tonbridge School, Home, Won 5-4

Another strong performance from our second team. The star players were Eliot Chua, *The Knoll*, and Stephan Baranov, *Moretons*, who won all three of their sets in a dominant display.

Junior Colts A v Tonbridge School, Home, Won 8-1

An excellent afternoon with strong performances from all in the heat. Clean sheets winning all three games 6-0 for Michael Lourie, *Newlands*, and Talal Nsouli, *The Knoll*. Charlie Chambers,

*Rendalls*, and Diego Castellano Burguera, *Rendalls*.

Junior Colts B v Tonbridge School, Home, Won 8-1

A strong performance from the entire team, winning all but the final game, of which the heat and long matches were factors to compete with. A clean sheet in games for Charlie Harrison, *Moretons*, and Harry Winward, *Lyon's*, winning all three games 6-0.

Junior Colts C v Tonbridge School, Home, Won 7-2

A convincing victory against Tonbridge C team, with special mention to first pair, Diederik Brouwers, *The Head Master's*, and Piers McDowell, *Elmfield*, for winning all three of their games, using serves of surgical precision.

Junior Colts D v Tonbridge School, Home, Lost 4-5,

Some excellent tennis played with great sportsmanship, ultimately ending with Harrow losing to a strong Tonbridge D team.

Yearlings A v Tonbridge School, Away, Lost 1-8,

The As had a tough match away at Tonbridge in the scorching heat. They came up against a slightly more consistent team but did well to compete in some close matches. The standout pair were Monty Harrison, *Moretons*, and Arthur Brown, *Druries*. They managed to get our only win of the day and had two other.

Yearlings B v Tonbridge School, Away, Lost 1-8

A effort by the Yearling B team after a lengthy and hot coach journey. Tonbridge were a stronger team and got off to a quick start but there were some very good matches with close results. Standout pair were Mark Pecherskiy, *Moretons*, and Zino Mendicino, *West Acre*, who had two close losses and our only win of the day.

Yearlings C v Tonbridge School, Away, Lost 2-7

There were some excellent close matches for the C team against a strong Tonbridge team. Edward Lloyd Day, *Newlands*, and Lucas Godoy, *The Head Master's*, were the standout pair with two wins out of their three matches.

Yearlings D v Tonbridge School, Away, Lost 0-9

A strong Tonbridge D team got off to a quick start and quickly went 3-0 up after the first round. Harrow struggled to come back but there were some very competitive games where we were in the running but struggled to close the match.

### Ways to contact *The Harrovian*

Articles, opinions and letters are always appreciated.

Email the Master-in-Charge [smk@harrowschool.org.uk](mailto:smk@harrowschool.org.uk)

Read the latest issues of *The Harrovian* online at [harrowschool.org.uk/Harroviaan](http://harrowschool.org.uk/Harroviaan)



CELEBRATING OUR PAST  
REFOUNDING OUR FUTURE