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SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY TRIP TO TERLING PLACE

On 4 June, 11 boys travelled to the lab of OH Lord Rayleigh accompanied by JAPB and RRU. Lord Rayleigh (born John William Strutt) was the 3rd Baron Rayleigh and is perhaps most widely recognised for his discovery of the third noble gas, Argon. This discovery followed Lord Rayleigh noticing the difference of densities between two samples of nitrogen gas: a pure sample extracted from chemical compounds and another (discovered to be impure) collected from the air. To be exact, there was a 0.1% difference between the densities, and this prompted Lord Rayleigh to investigate the difference, eventually discovering that there was a gas that was previously unknown which existed in the atmosphere. This achievement won him the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1904. He is also responsible for understanding numerous other phenomena, such as Rayleigh scattering which explains why the sky is blue, and for writing a textbook on the theory of sound, which is still in use today..



On arrival at Terling Place, we were welcomed by the 6th Baron Rayleigh, the great-grandson of Lord Rayleigh, who gave an introductory talk about the estate and the works of Lord Rayleigh himself. We were then taken on a tour of Terling Place, learning about its history and some of the interesting features (such as a flight of stairs outside that acted as a diffraction grating for sound waves). The group finally arrived at the actual lab of Lord Rayleigh, which consisted of several rooms dedicated to different purposes. As well as two large general laboratory spaces, these included a workshop, a space for making glass test tubes, and a dark room, all preserved in immaculate condition albeit a little dusty. We spent some time exploring the laboratory with a knowledgeable guide before reconvening in the main part of the house for tea and biscuits.

Before departure, JAPB presented Lord Rayleigh with a print of the Rayleigh Observatory at Harrow, named in honour of the 3rd Baron. Many thanks must be given to JAPB and RRU for organising this very insightful trip (and especially to JAPB for his expert driving skills, which managed to trigger an alarm several times on the minibus during the drive back). Gratitude must particularly be expressed to the current Lord Rayleigh and his family for welcoming us into their home, Professor Ted Davis of Cambridge University for co-ordinating the visit and for guiding some of us round, and Professor Jim Woodhouse of Cambridge University for guiding the remainder of our party.

SHERIDAN SOCIETY

Harry Pearson, *The Park*,
'17776 and Utopian Fiction', 4 June

On 4 June Harry Pearson, *The Park*, gave a short but succulent lecture on utopias. He first noted how there seemed to be very few books that are utopian in nature, compared to the dystopian novel, of which there are many more. In dystopia it is simple, there is an oppressive state that must be resisted by the protagonist. The problem is that a utopia, by its very nature, has no conflict!

Pearson then noted that aspiring utopia writers must find workarounds. Therefore, a political utopia comes into being. This is seen most notably in the *Philosopher Kings* in Plato's *Republic*, and as well as Thomas Moore's *Utopia*, where the word was first coined, which was a book about the functioning of this perfect utopia, which had a communist society structure.

Pseudo-utopias are also another noted workaround, with one of the most prominent examples being *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley. Everyone, in theory, is meant to be happy, with unlimited drugs, job satisfaction and no existential fear. Sadness is completely absent, and movies are replaced with feelies, stories that provide only pleasure and no melancholy. They are horrified by how we live, and we are by how they live. So, Pearson poses the question: what is dystopia, and what is utopia?

Pearson moved onto the subject of the lecture, *17776*, an online story about football that falls into the utopian genre. It is a conversation between space probes that have gained sentience, and we quickly realise that people on Earth have stopped ageing. The conflict circles around people failing to meaningfully fill their time, and therefore they fill it with football. It is incredibly different from our idea of football, and each game has completely different rules. One lasted so long that a small river had turned into a canyon by the end of the game. This is perceived as a good thing, as they have found something to fill their time.

But the characters in the novel still struggle for purpose, where everyone only has wants, but no needs, and feels a growing lack of satisfaction. This is also experienced by one of the space probes, who asks "Should I have woken up? Why did you wake me up?"

On that note, Pearson left us with a final question:

If a story exists where people are not always happy and have unlimited free will, what is a utopia? Both, or nothing?

In the discussion after the talk, different books such as *Island* (also by Aldous Huxley) were mentioned, as well as TV shows, statements seeking to answer what a utopia is, social theory to justify and rebut, chemistry and philosophy, as well as terrifying idealisations of how to bring a utopia about. So much, in fact, that the person doing the write-up has given up trying to transcribe the conversation as there is just too much to unpack. Pearson has arguably cracked the formula for a perfect Sheridan Society lecture.

If you would like to make a talk to the Sheridan Society, please contact ERPB or one of the secretaries.

MEDICAL SOCIETY

Jasper Brockwell, *Druries*, 'The history of CTE: The brain damage that still baffles scientists', 3 June

Jasper Brockwell, *Druries*, gave an incredibly well-researched and informed talk to the Medical Society on chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), a condition that appears later on in life through repeated head trauma, which has been prominent in the contact sports world for quite some time.

Brockwell first recalled the School's glorious win at the Continental Tyres Schools Under-18 Cup at Twickenham earlier this year, but only a month earlier The Times had run the headline 'Rugby in schools is a form of child abuse, says sports experts'. The argument presented in the article is that sports which 'intentionally structure multiple types of brain trauma into their practice' would constitute a form of child abuse. Naturally, this paper was subject to immediate controversy and slander, comments that would not be fitting in any sort of self-respecting write-up for *The Harrovian*.

Brockwell went on to ask whether child abuse is actually a reasonable accusation. After all, rugby has had many rule adaptations, such as scrum and tackle rules. But he was not interested in the possible present injuries, but rather the possible future injuries, which were also described in the paper the Times article cited.

In 2003, England won the Rugby World Cup, with the final goal scored by Johnny Wilkinson. The deciding goal was made during the last seconds of extra time. Brockwell confidently states that 'almost everyone of age in 2003 remembers this moment'. He then cited Steve Thompson, who was there for the goal but remembers none of it. He was diagnosed with dementia and possible CTE.

So, what is CTE? CTE is when repeated head trauma breaks the blood-brain barrier, controlling what enters the central nervous system. This causes the release of S100B brain proteins, which release into circulation. The body then mounts an immune response, creating antibodies to kill the protein, and, with more injuries, the antibodies will enter the brain. Hauntingly, Brockwell described this as 'becoming allergic to your own brain'.

The symptoms begin appearing when one is around 40, and include lapses in reasoning and judgement, as well as impulse control and aggression. Currently, it is impossible to diagnose CTE before death, even with the latest technology, and all diagnosis must be made from observation of behaviour and sporting history.

Brockwell explained that CTE was first described by New Jersey pathologist Dr Harrison Martland in the 1920s. However, there was no formal term, and it was referred to as 'punch-drunkenness' by the public. Martland concluded that it was distinct from other head-injury-related conditions, with bleeding followed by scarring in the brain.

The condition chronic traumatic encephalopathy was first documented with this name in the textbook *Injuries of the Brain and Spinal Cord*. This culminated in boxing being recognised as dangerous and being phased out in many places, such as the School in the 1960, which was then still a revered sport at Harrow according to *A History of Harrow School* (Tyerman, C.).

Brockwell detailed how, in 1973, British pathologists obtained the brains of 15 retired boxers, then examined and recorded their findings of punch drunkenness. This was revisited in 2016 after an agreed definition of CTE was established in 2015, and the 1973 study was all but confirmed.

All was quiet on the boxing front until 2007, when an ex-player of American football, Mike Webster, died by suicide, with possible links to the brain damage sustained during his lucrative career. Upon examination of his brain by pathologist Dr Bennett Omalu, initially nothing seemed wrong, until they stained Webster's brain with a dye that detected neurodegenerative diseases and found the exact same symptoms documented in the

1973 paper. After publishing the results, attempts were made for it to be buried by parties interested in American football. This is because lawsuits could be levied for sustained brain damage in the players involved. Brockwell described how, in 2017, families donated the brains of 111 American football players, and 110 had CTE. But CTE being only a postmortem diagnosis is hindering the progression of lawsuits. It is complicated by alternatives such as TES (traumatic encephalopathic syndrome), which shares many similarities with CTE.

However, there are still issues with this methodology; it could even become a defence for murder. For example, Aaron Hernandez was sentenced to prison and committed suicide soon after. He was diagnosed with CTE post-mortem, and raised debates about CTE as a defence for criminal acts.

Finally, although Brockwell did not come to a strict conclusion on whether CTE is child abuse, he noted that contact sports are slowly dying out. In conjunction with public awareness of CTE increasing, he speculated that, a few decades from now, perhaps there will be more systems in place to prevent the head trauma that occurs in rugby.

All in all, it was an extremely enriching talk given by Brockwell, who traced CTE's history, symptoms and causes, and explained it at a level that all of us can relate to, supporting his talk with an eye-watering number of sources. If you are an avid rugby player or fan, please wipe your memory of the several hundred words you have just read for the safety of the speaker. Please contact BAS or one of the Medical Society Secretaries if you have any interest in giving a talk.

MEDICAL SOCIETY

Jenkyin Keigwin, *The Knoll, Topical Laser Therapy*, 17 June

Jenkyin Keigwin, *The Knoll*, gave an illuminating lecture on laser therapy that can recreate all the effects of drugs without actually being a chemical with potentially dangerous side effects.

For the talk, Keigwin focused on wavelengths of light between 660nm and 905nm (although lights of other wavelengths can induce other exciting and promising effects) that can penetrate through skin and tissue. This low-intensity light then helps in tissue repair, pain relief and inflammation.

This occurs as the photons remove nitric oxide from mitochondria, and oxygen can therefore be used more efficiently by the mitochondria. By doing this and therefore moving from low ATP generation to high ATP generation, increased by the now more efficient rate of respiration, one literally de-ages oneself.

Keigwin then explained how such a simple mechanism, which just increases respiration rate, causes faster tissue repair, pain relief and respiration as well as having numerous positive effects. Tissues are repaired faster as more oxygen is available to injured tissues, and because more signalling molecules can be produced from the high respiration rate, immune responses are faster and suppress long-term inflammation. More collagen and cartilage are also produced, improving elasticity and joint function, and reducing scarring, as well as even increasing fertility, according to a Northern European study.

Keigwin noted a rather unethical experiment where heart attacks were induced in rats. Lasers were shone directly on some of the rats' hearts. The ones who had the laser treatment

had much less scarring on their hearts than the ones that did not. This treatment was then modified to target the bone marrow in the tibia to increase stem cell production, as human bodies have the lungs obscuring the heart.

The experiment in rats worked. It reduced the dead tissue area size, therefore reducing scarring. Keigwin explained that laser therapy is currently used mainly in physiotherapy and veterinary practice, but it shows great promise for human usage.

However, there is no utopia, and everything comes with risks. Keigwin stated that one must not shine the laser into the eyes (for obvious reasons), nor can it be used on cancerous tumours (as no-one wants a tumour to receive more oxygen), or on foetuses, and one should be aware of epilepsy risks and potential burning.

Keigwin then said that biophotons are emitted as a byproduct of cell metabolic processes, such as in neurons, meaning the brain can also respond positively to laser therapy, as it also naturally employs this process.

Finally, Keigwin demonstrated how laser therapy is already being used, such as in treating De Quervain's Syndrome, which causes tendons around the thumbs to swell, as well as speeding up the healing process in stem cell therapy, and even curing blindness caused by macular degeneration, by sealing off the damage causing fluids to leak into the eye through burning the macular. He then shared a personal story of how laser therapy helped his dog recover faster and with very little scarring, showing a lovely picture of the dog in question. Keigwin ended by speaking of an optimistic future in this technology for use in humans.

This was an extremely enlightening talk from Keigwin, and it was well researched and informed, taking recent studies and giving all of us a forecast of what is to come in the medical world. If you would like to give a lecture to the Medical Society, please contact BAS or one of the secretaries.

AYODHYA'S RAM MANDIR TEMPLE

How decades of anti-Muslim social doctrine in the world's largest democracy led to the erosion of rights for India's second largest ethnic group.

The recent grand opening of the Ram Mandir temple at Ayodhya by prime minister Narendra Modi on 22 January 2024 was celebrated by millions of Indian Hindus across the globe, live-screened from New York's Times Square to Dubai's Burj Khalifa. But this was not a mere religious celebration, but also a socio-political event. Instead of inclusion, it revealed the increasing exclusion of a significant proportion of India's ethnically diverse society. Behind all the grandeur, the troubling and multifaceted relationship between Hindus and Muslims in India is often forgotten. The site of the Ram Mandir temple itself is enshrined in controversy: this was the site of a Hindu temple, as Ayodhya is supposed to be the birthplace of the chief Hindu deity Lord Rama. However, in 1528, the large Babri Mosque was constructed 'by Mir Baqi Tashqandi, the governor of the province of Awadh during the reign of Emperor Babar of the Mughal dynasty, who named the mosque after Babar to honour his successful military campaign in India' (Wilson and Batool 2022). In 1992, the mosque was destroyed by Hindu ultra-nationalists. This case exemplifies the increasing divide between Hindus and Muslims who, according to India's constitution, were promised a land in which they could live safely in a secular and multicultural democracy.

This essay examines some key examples that illustrate the staggering discrimination against Muslims in India – a development that mirrors global tendencies, notably since the events of 9/11. Though some friction between Muslims and Hindus had existed in India since the Mughal Empire (1526–1761), the increasing violence between Hindus and Muslims has significant consequences on the level of inclusion and role of human rights in modern-day India since we are dealing with the two largest ethnic groups: 1.21 billion Hindus and 172 million Muslims (Census 2011). To understand today's conflicts we need to look at the Gujarat riots of 2002 when thousands of Hindus and Muslims were killed after religious tensions broke out over the burning of a train carrying Hindu devotees. This triggered anti-Muslim tendencies that, among others things, led to further violence and discrimination against Muslims, which we also see in political decision-making, notably the new citizenship law of 2019 that granted Indian citizenship to all refugees that had entered the country before 2014 unless they were Muslims, as well as the loss of autonomy of India's only Muslim-majority state of Jammu and Kashmir. In this respect, the grand opening of Ayodhya's Ram Mandir, constructed on the site of a mosque razed by Hindu ultra-nationalists in 1992, symbolises the culmination of discrimination against Muslims in contemporary India (Mashal and Kumar 2024).



We first need to investigate the Gujarat Riots as this was the first case in modern India where systematic large-scale violence was conducted against Muslims: 'On February 27, 2002, a train filled with Hindu pilgrims returning to Gujarat from Ayodhya was burnt by a mob in Godhra. At least 58 Hindu pilgrims were killed' (Aswani 2022). This caused widespread outrage across India, especially in the state of Gujarat. Over the next three days, thousands of innocent Muslim families were lynched, which shocked the entire country (Jaffrelot 2008). More significantly, the Gujarat state police did not assist these Muslims and the Gujarat Chief Minister at the time, Narendra Modi, never criticised the violence and instead instrumentalised it for his 'nationalist' agenda and to fuel an 'anti-Muslim mood' (Jaffrelot 2008, 12). It has even been theorised that he was the architect of the whole incident, which might have been used to set Hindus against Muslims in order to make his Hindu Nationalist BJP party win in upcoming elections: 'These were very serious claims that Mr Modi had played a proactive part in pulling back police and tacitly encouraging the Hindu extremists', according to Jack Straw, UK foreign secretary at the time. The BBC made a controversial documentary detailing the incident, which was heavily criticised by the Indian Government, but hailed as a source of truth and alternative view outside India. The documentary has been banned in India as the very same Narendra Modi is now the country's prime minister.

Secondly, the Citizenship Amendment Act and the revocation of Article 370 in 2019 presented a paradigm shift for India's central government by creating clear anti-Muslim policies which contradict the country's constitution. On 11 December 2019, in a bid to combat illegal immigration, people across the country

had to show their documents to government agencies to prove that they had either entered the country legally or were legal citizens due to their ancestors having lived in India. Failure to procure documents would result in one's citizenship being retracted. However, since many tribal and rural communities could not provide such documents, the government tweaked the law so that everyone who had entered the country before 31 December 2014 (the year Modi came to power) would be granted citizenship, unless they were Muslims. This was a direct attack on the largest ethnic minority of India, those of Muslim descent, since hundreds of thousands of Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists and people of other religions were able to claim Indian citizenship after they had fled their home countries, namely Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal.

The citizenship amendment was decreed shortly after the removal of autonomy of India's only Muslim-majority state of Jammu and Kashmir, which lost its special status on 5 August 2019, followed by the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019. As demonstrated by Verma (2019), these decisions were highly unconstitutional. For the Muslim population in Jammu and Kashmir, this meant that their legislative body was suspended, local politicians were put under house arrest, numerous state laws were repealed, thus essentially putting the region under the direct control of the central government in New Delhi. Furthermore, Kashmir has been plunged into chaos as internet and electricity blackouts rock the region and Indian military units patrol the cities and border, under the pretence that such high-level security measures are necessary to combat terrorist operations. Again, we see the clear discrimination against Muslims in India by the central government, which were considered legal by the Supreme Court.

This leads us to the countless court cases regarding Ayodhya, when Muslims and Hindus vied to (re)build a place of worship for their own religion after the destruction of the mosque in 1992. It was again in 2019 when, amidst much controversy, the Supreme Court ruled in favour of the Hindus on 9 November, paving the way for the construction of the Ayodhya temple. Many Muslims saw this as the Indian government once again curtailing their rights as had been seen in the events of 2002 and 2019.

All these events have happened due to an escalating anti-Muslim sentiment being built up on both national and international backdrops. First, we need to examine the Indian national anti-Muslim sentiment. According to Deshmukh, '*Islamophobia is arguably the biggest factor at play in communal violence and rise of Hindutva [Hindu religious violence] in India*' (Deshmukh 2021). A major reason for the motivation of religious violence and subordination stems from the ruling Indian party, the BJP, with Indian prime minister Narendra Modi being at the forefront:

'The opening for the right wing came in the decades after [Jawaharlal] Nehru's [an OH] death. When his descendants — first his daughter, Indira Gandhi, and then his grandson Rajiv Gandhi — toyed with appeasement of fundamentalists on both sides in the 1980s to keep themselves in power, they walked into a game for which the Hindu right was much better prepared' (Mashal and Kumar 2024).

However, it is not just the BJP who are responsible, as shown by Deshmukh: '*The rise of Islamophobia and anti-Muslim sentiment in India is linked with the steady rise of RSS and VHP*' (Deshmukh 2021). In his work on Hindutva violence, Ramachandran argues, '*At the forefront of this violence is the Sangh Parivar, a conglomerate of Hindu nationalist organisations that includes the BJP, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), its ideological fount, the Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP), its global forum and the Bajrang Dal, its foot soldiers, among others*' (Ramachandran 2020). These various groups are all responsible for propagating the nation-wide sentiment that subordinates Muslims, especially RSS hard-liners who in the past have said that they would execute all 'non-believers' (i.e. Muslims) and that India is the home and natural property of the Hindus.

Viewing the anti-Muslim sentiment from a global perspective,

it must be kept in mind that it is not only in India where Muslims increasingly face violence and discrimination. Anti-Muslim sentiment in the Western world was triggered by the events of 9/11 in 2001, resulting in numerous acts of discrimination against Muslims between 2001 and 2024. It was the onset of 9/11, with an unprovoked attack on US homeland, when the Western powers decided to launch military campaigns in the Middle East, initially to root out terrorists, but later escalating into toppling regimes (and securing guaranteed oil trade routes). As Kunnummal states, Muslims became the target '*of a new security paradigm in the context of the global war on terror*' (Kunnummal 2022). In the Far East, in modern-day China, Uyghur Muslims not only face detention in 're-education' camps but also have their human rights and civic rights curtailed by an authoritarian government that aims to 'integrate' all its people as one. Other examples, such as the Christchurch Mosque Shooting on 15 March 2019, when 51 Muslims were killed by a crazed gunman, reveal the increasingly widespread anti-Muslim sentiments in countries across the globe. More importantly for our study, 9/11 and the subsequent political and military fallout, such as the 'war on terror' and the invasion of Afghanistan, also had an important impact on Indian politics as it gave the RSS and their political wing, the BJP, fuel to promote their anti-Muslim doctrine to a wider public.

In conclusion, the multitude of events both inside and outside India demonstrate that Muslims face increasing violence and discrimination. I therefore urge readers to consider the events in our world where not only Muslims but people of all backgrounds face discrimination and state aggression. This is why inclusion is so important for our complex and cosmopolitan societies in this global world. India, the melting pot of so many different cultures and peoples, was created as a secular state for this purpose. It is important to uphold people's constitutional rights and their human rights to prevent any harassment or violence against ethnic minorities. In a harrowing statement, it was revealed that '*Hindu mob attacks have become so common in recent years that India's Supreme Court warned that they could become the "new normal"*' (Maizland 2022). This shows that greater action is needed to protect the rights of all minority groups globally, demonstrated by the worrying events in India.

METROPOLITAN

ECLECTIC TUNES

Shockingly, a *Harrovian* editorial column has reached its third instalment without being abandoned. In celebration of this milestone, I present another collection of eclectic and, at times, odd music (this time complete with a hip-hop section, courtesy of Rupert Lam).

Indie/Folk Music of the Week

Car Seat Headrest – *Twin Fantasy*

Will Toledo's 2011 album under moniker Car Seat Headrest is a fascinating door into experimental, lo-fi indie rock. From its haunting, percussive introduction to its heavy, distorted outro, *Twin Fantasy* exists as a rebellious yet yearning free spirit, leaning somewhere between Romantic poets, Pink Floyd, and Neutral Milk Hotel. Rhythm is fluid on this record, propulsively bleeding to the whims of Toledo's fancies, soundtracking a stunning ode to queer identity and same-sex love.

Please note that there are two editions of this record: the 2011 version, which was recorded on a computer and is referred to as *Twin Fantasy (Mirror to Mirror)*; and the 2018 re-recording,

which features a more expansive sound, lyrical edits, and is referred to as either *Twin Fantasy* or *Twin Fantasy (Face to Face)*.

Rock Music of the Week

Maruja – *Connla's Well*

With 2023's *Knocknarea*, Maruja established themselves as amongst the most exciting and experimental bands of the British underground. On *Connla's Well*, they extend their obscure referencing, ironic songwriting, and brutal fusion of jazz and rock to new heights, presenting an EP which rivals full albums despite its 21-minute run time. The music here is dense, jarring yet controlled, filled with an intensity that rises and roars across its five tracks. Eerie and dark, *Connla's Well* delivers an experience akin to Ted Hughes and The Clash meeting at a black-leather jazz club; inexplicable yet so natural, it is masterful.

Pop Music of the Week

梅艷芳 — 似水流年

Anita Mui, christened the 'Madonna of the East', consolidated her hit-making prowess with 1985's 似水流年, a record which firmly delivered Cantopop away from its 'gangtai' origins, linking the Asian music scene firmly with movements in Western pop whilst retaining a distinctively Cantonese flavour. Playing much like a greatest-hits record, it is a brilliant entry point into the multi-faceted world of Cantopop, presenting Mui's trademark contralto vocals on songs both sentimental and outrageous. Few records have managed to capture so acutely a sense of place and time, with even fewer contain six number-one hits. Mui would go on to record more iconic records, but this would forever be the moment that a superstar was made.

Hip Hop Music of the Week

A Tribe Called Quest – *Low End Theory*

Low End Theory is among the most important rap albums ever recorded. Corbin Reif of Complex declared that it "broke major ground and pushed the sonic envelope of the entire rap genre." Minimalistic yet brimming with ideas, the record flows with a distinctive melange of hip hop and fusion jazz, teaming chilling verses with laid-back bebop. By stripping down music to its essentials, A Tribe Called Quest a truth universal, propelled by the simple bass and boom of the sonic ideals. Heralding a new wave for hip hop and alternative music, *Low End Theory* announced the arrival of new heroes for the rap scene.

Electronic Music of the Week

Paradis – *Recto Verso*

In 2016, Paradis released *Recto Verso*, a mere three years after Daft Punk's *Random Access Memories* captured global imagination in whirlwinds of synthesizers. Both albums would go on to be the swansongs for the two groups; both albums are exemplary examples of French house; yet, both albums cannot be more different. Whilst Daft Punk's approach was fixated on precise sampling and vocoded vocals, Paradis presented a vision of the future in touch with France's chanson culture, linking electronica to the likes of Edith Piaf and Jacques Brel. Effortlessly cool and affecting, the record floats in its hazy dream of romantic detachment, like Nico and The Velvet Underground on acid.

Surprise Music of the Week

Neutral Milk Hotel – *In the Aeroplane Over the Sea*

The poster-child of cult albums, *In the Aeroplane Over the Sea* has reached a point of public saturation that its 'niche' identity is now perhaps at risk: an album once relegated to underground love and discussion, it now finds itself celebrating the anniversary of its release with limited-edition vinyl and cassette editions. What is so profound, then, is that despite its renewed hype, the record remains just as elusive and mysterious as the day it was released in 1998. With a soundtrack that masterfully combines folk, classical overtures, interludes and indie-rock, Neutral Milk Hotel presented a foray into the hyperreal and the surreal, emphasised all the more by obscure lyricism which fixates on

Anne Frank, Mediaeval-inspired monsters, folk tales, sexualised mountains, homo-eroticism, power, and abuse. A stunning listen that draws one further into its stunning yet pained world. This is an album made to confuse, to baffle, and to enthrall.

EDITORS' EXITUARIES

June Hyun, *West Acre*

Wednesday afternoon. Fresh out of the tosh, I carry laundry from A-landing to my room. I put on some McCartney or Grover Washington, fold the black-and-white socks into square blocks, and without fail, Outlook pings red with another week's load of editing. Without fail for the past 92 weeks. And it ends today.

Opening *InCopy* (the software we use to format the paper) has always been a bit of a lottery. The odd weeks presented beautiful prose and investigative works that restored my faith in Harrovians' literary abilities; that faith would crumble all too quickly against lacklustre society write-ups and incomprehensible match reports. Still, I just might miss sifting through bundles of words and "This Tuesday the Society welcomed..." as we leavers come close to finalising our long (too long) goodbye.

As a Shell, I had set my target on *The Harrovian* because I wanted to become a classicist or a journalist. I am now a prospective medic studying Physics instead of Greek for A Level. My first submission was a book review on *Wuthering Heights* since I was an avid fan of the Bronte sisters' work. I'm more of a Steinbeck and McCarthy reader at the moment. All in all, circumstances change over five years, and the writing, reading and editing I have done for the sake of enjoyment have significantly influenced how I define myself. It feels too early to be reminiscing in some ways, given that I'm still in the thick of A Levels. However, I hope that many more in the future will be able to look back as I am doing now and appreciate all they gained from *The Harrovian*. For now, farewell and 잘 있어!

Vincent Song, *The Head Master's*

I became a Harrovian editor through an AI gimmick. Today, it would be a blatant case of plagiarism. But when I started writing for *The Harrovian*, ChatGPT was yet to be released. The world was very different back in 2021. Messi hadn't yet won a World Cup, diffusion models have just been invented, Large Language Models as we know hadn't gained traction, and AI-generated content was still an object of fascination.

Finetuning a version of GPT-2 on articles from The Harrovian archive, I created a program which generated new articles based on simple prompts. I utilised several open-source libraries, so the code wasn't particularly tricky. Mysterious letters written by an AI began appearing in the Correspondence section of The Harrovian, signed off by Maruna Kwena, a name concocted by, you guessed it, another AI I programmed. It sparked a fierce debate, with even old boys writing back to discuss the use of AI in our newspaper. Was it justified? From my point of view, Maruna was a valid experiment. The potential of AI in journalism, and creative industries in general, were unclear at that time of writing; Maruna could be seen as a social experiment to gauge public opinion on the matter.

The more interesting part of the project was figuring out what Maruna learnt: it readily picked up the names of all the major Houses, became well acquainted with the format of sports reports, and signed every correspondence with one name in particular: Dylan Winward. Rather stereotypical.

Maruna helped me infiltrate the secret operation that is The Harrovian. Ironically, I wrote less after becoming an editor than before, but I began reading each issue in a lot more detail. And I noticed a trend.

My contention is that technology homogenises writing. If SMK assigns articles to each editor randomly and uniformly, as I presume he does, then I should receive content of varying styles every week. But over my time as an editor, the kinds of editing I perform every week has been surprisingly similar. Comparing *The Harrovian* today to what we can read from the archives decades ago, there is certainly a greater proportion of each issue dedicated to events around the School, and this may be the cause of such homogeneity. But I cannot help but notice that everywhere, from online encyclopaedia to ChatGPT to our feeds, an increase in information bandwidth has decreased our stylistic bandwidth. A faster flow of data accelerates the exchange of ideas, but also the mimicking of form. Like how dyes diffuse quicker in water when stirred, I wonder whether the information age helps diffuse some manner of standard writing style more rapidly than ever before.

Or, perhaps, I am just an old boy about to depart the Hill, reminiscing about some trivial ideals that ultimately do not detract from the journalism of this publication; I am glad to have been part of a vessel delivering the present into posterity.

Andrew Arthur, The Knoll

As I depart from Harrow I leave with the overriding feeling that my five years at the School have been extremely fulfilling. Granted, there have been occasions when I have disagreed with certain decisions in relation to School life, but I will not go away from the Hill denying that Harrow truly is a special place. In my role as an editor of *The Harrovian*, I have been fortunate enough to edit reports on subject matter that often quite frankly exceeds my brain capacity, and it has been a pleasure to comment on School news and the achievements of my fellow Harrovians. Viewing, hearing and writing about what my peers are achieving outside the form room has been a catalyst for my own sense of drive and perseverance. On the basis of the success that I've witnessed over the last five years, it wouldn't surprise me if the School continues to go from strength to strength.

Harrow, however, is not about achievements in isolation. What I'll miss the most about the School is the people. They have been the driving force being my enjoyment at Harrow. The simple 'good morning, how are you?' with beaks, cleaners, kitchen staff and friends across all the year groups and Houses goes a long way, as I've discovered during my time on the Hill. When exploring the archives of this very newspaper, I came across the old adage that 'it is nice to be important, but important to be nice' and from a personal perspective, this phrase epitomises the spirit that the majority of boys and staff exhibit on a daily basis. Being a School Monitor, a captain of a sport, a secretary of a society, or a member of The Guild or The Philathletic Club are accolades in themselves, but what your fellow Harrovians, masters and staff will remember is your personality and your ability to engage meaningfully with your community. And it for this reason that it is the energy, passion and hilarity of the Harrow community is what I'll look more fondly than the majority of unique and quaint traditions and events at this very place.

My final reflection on my time looks towards the future rather than the past. At a time when Harrovians are spending increasing amounts of time hooked on their devices, writing good prose in *The Harrovian* (which serves as a record and a forum for opinion) will matter more than ever. I refuse to believe that only ten Harrovians each week have an opinion on matters relating to current affairs or School life, so it would be more encouraging to see more boys put pen to paper or finger to keyboard and express their opinions in a measured way. We will not always get their way but standing up for your convictions is more worth a try. As I embark on a new educational journey across the Atlantic (A Levels permitting), where student activism is prominent, my heart will thrill at the thought of the Hill, perhaps not in the next weeks or months but certainly in years to come.

EXITUARY FOR YE OLDE HILL SHOPPE

In this "Exit Edition" of *The Harrovian*, we not only say goodbye to various beaks across the Hill, but also to the Hill Shop. I'm sure many of you read the impassioned editorial from 4 May, wherein the Editors attempted to offer solutions and express outrage. Unfortunately, this did nothing to stop the shut, so now we must say farewell to the Hill Shop and hello to a (hopefully revamped) Hill Café.

I'm certain that almost every boy has visited the Hill Shop at least once, be it for a refreshing can of Coke on a hot day, some last-minute revision materials, or for some desperately needed toiletries.

Indeed, its extreme utility is second only to the three wonderful people who are always there to greet us with a smile, saying "last name, please?" John, Jill, and Nuala, I'm sure I write for the rest of the School when I wish you the best of luck in your endeavours in the future.

"ELEKTRISCHE FISCHE"

extract, translated by Nick Arnison for Anthea Bell

Und als ich an diesem stürmischen Samstag im April den Ostseewind auf der Haut spüre und ihn sogar riechen kann, da ist mein Zuhause zum ersten Mal wieder da, es ist kein Ostseewind, es ist ein irischer Wind, und alles stimmt, die Windstärke und diese warme Sorte Kälte und wie weich die Luft ist, alles fühlt sich genau irisch an.

Der Wind ist Dublin.

Und Dublin weht mich an, weht um mich herum, umzingelt mich, es bringt meine Haare durcheinander und die meisten meiner Gedanken, Dublin riecht nach Samstag und Stille und Velgower Baublüten, nach gewaschener Wäsche und nach Kartoffeln, Fleisch, Gemüse, nach einer-einzigen-Zigarette-nur, die zwischen zwei Großvater Fingern klemmt, nach Frühlingswärme mit kühlen Streifen und einfach nur nach Wind.

Und jetzt ist dieser Wind in meiner Nase und in meinem Kopf und auf meiner Haut, aber ich kann ihn nicht festhalten, so sehr ich es auch versuche. Was mich am Anfang noch froh gemacht hat, bringt mich jetzt fast zum Weinen, ich greife nach dem Wind und wie Sand rinnt er mir durch die Finger, nur viel leichter, viel weicher, und irgendwann reicht es mir und ich denke, wenn mir der Wind mein Zuhause nicht zurückgibt, dann vielleicht das Meer.

And when I feel the Baltic Sea wind on my skin on this stormy Saturday in April and can even smell it: my home has found me again. No, this ain't no "East-sea breeze", it's an Irish gale. And then everything is right: the wind pull and this sorta' warm-cold and how soft the air breezes: everything feels Irish, exactly...

The Wind is Dublin.

It's Dublin that spews at me, blasts all around me – she banjaxes up me' hair... and most me' thoughts too – she smells like Saturday and stumm and velglow tree-blossoms, like washed sheets and potatoes, flesh on verandas, veg stalls, like a lone cigarette clamped in the vice of two Grandfather fingers, like Spring warmth with cool streaks and only the wind.

And now this wind is in my nose and in my head and on my skin, but I can't keep it, no matter how hard I try. That which once gave me joy now almost makes me cry: I reach for the wind. And it runs through my fingers like sand. Only, much lighter, much softer and, at some point, I'm through with it all. I think, that if the wind don't give me my home back, then maybe the sea will.

OPINION

CORRESPONDENCE

Letters to the Editors

DEAR SIRS,

Please note that it is Jack Young, *Newlands*, who will be a Monitor next year – and a fine man indeed. But I shall not be. So could you all please stop congratulating me whenever you see me.

Unapologetically yours,
ROBERT YOUNG, THE GROVE

SPORT

ATHLETICS

The following boys have been selected to represent Middlesex at the English Schools' Track and Field Championships 10-12 July in Birmingham.

Tito Odunaiké, *Elmfield*, – Under-17 triple jump, Otis Farrer-Brown, *Newlands*, – Under-17 1500m, Michael Cattini, *Moretons*, – Under-20 1500m, and Tommy Mackay, *Newlands*, – Under-20 discus.

ATHLETICS

Saturday 15 June away at Marlborough.

The final competition of the season took place on Saturday hosted by Marlborough College. Competing schools included Charterhouse, Bradfield College, Sherborne, Kingswood, and Marlborough College. It was once again a competitive and thoroughly enjoyable afternoon of athletics with several boys posting personal best times.

Final Results

3rd Marlborough College – 84 points

2nd Charterhouse – 87

1st Harrow – 154

All competitors are to be congratulated on their performance but in particular, Cayden Debrah, *Moretons*, Nate Wei, *Rendalls*, Sterling Smith, *Lyon's*, Murray Runacres, *Lyon's*, Harry Jodrell, *Elmfield*, Lase Akindele, *Newlands*, Tito Odunaiké, *Elmfield*, Nathan Kasonga, *The Park*, Tom Dargan, *Druries*, Auberon Dragten, *Rendalls*, Tochi Orji, *The Park*, Edward Latham, *Bradlys*, Arenzi Ofurum, *The Head Master's*, Darren Chiu, *Newlands*, Tommy Mackay, *Newlands*, Henry Dargan, *Druries*, and Elliot O'Sullivan, *Newlands*.

Highlights included:

Tom Dargan – threw 12.96m in the U17 discus which is a personal best.

Murray Runacres – ran a personal best time in the U15 1500m, 4:43:40

Harry Jodrell – ran a personal best time in the U15 1500m, 4:47:00

Arinze Ofurum (making his first appearance for the team) recorded an impressive 23.30s in the U20 200m.

Tochi Orji and Edward Latham both clearing 1.80m in the U20 high jump.

A very impressive set of performances across the board.

TENNIS

1st v HLTC, Lost 2-7

In challenging conditions against wily opponents the boys played with spirit, skill and determination. This was not enough to force a victory against a very strong team from Harrow Lawn Tennis Club. The boys should all be commended for their impeccable behaviour as well as their performance.

2nd v HLTC, Lost 3-6

All six boys always in an excellent spirit and showed the improvements they had made over the term. Each pair won one of their three sets. The guile and volleying skills of their opponents was just too much for them as a group.

Junior Colts A v HLTC, Lost 3-6

JCA tennis lost 3.5-6.5 to the Harrow Lawn Tennis Club 3rd team. It's always a great experience to play against adult opponents, and the boys faced up well to the challenge, and the inclement conditions.

CRICKET

*Junior Colts A v Merchant Taylors' School, Northwood,
Won by 7 wickets County Cup Final*

The JCAs were excellent in their pursuit of winning the Middlesex T20 County Cup. They now face KCS Wimbledon this afternoon in the Regional finals, where the winners of this fixture will advance into the National Finals held in September. Neel Gupta, *Elmfield*, bowled beautifully, picking up two key wickets, and Rishya Rawal, *Rendalls*, Edward Stabb, *The Head Master's*, and Alf Beresford-Peirce, *Elmfield*, all contributed excellently with the bat.

Yearlings A v Hampton School, Won by 8 wickets, County Cup Semi-Final

With heavy rain forecast in the late afternoon, Yearlings A won the toss and bowled first in a shortened T20 County Cup semi-final game. Hampton had some strong batters at the top of the order, but they found it hard to get away, primarily due to an outstanding spell of bowling from Matthew Hughes, *The Head Master's*, whose figures four overs 2 for 2 were fully deserved for his consistency. One of the Hampton openers persisted though, and with a quick fire 49, he set his team up with a competitive total of 124-6 from their 20 overs.

The Harrow chase started steadily with a good partnership between Luke Attfield, *Druries*, and Tanmay Mittal, *The Grove*, and despite the run out of the latter for 23, the innings continued to build momentum. George Bamford, *The Head Master's*, played a nice cameo, and Attfield grew more and more attacking as time passed, launching two big straight sixes on his way to a magnificent 73 not out off 47 balls. Harrow ultimately won by 8 wickets with 3 overs to spare and will take on Merchant Taylor's in the final next Tuesday.

1st XI away v Radley College, Won by 8 wickets

The 1st XI defeated Radley College by eight wickets to continue their unbeaten run in the Cowdrey Cup. Eesa Faheem's, *Bradlys*, opening spell of 4-38 helped the 1st XI restrict the Radley side to 167-8 from their 45 overs. Henry Snow's, *Rendalls*, 1-19 at the top of the innings and Charlie Hope's, *Rendalls*, 1-27 proved crucial in limiting the Radley total. The Harrow chase stuttered as an early wicket fell, but Charlie Nelson, *Bradlys*, (63*) and Jack Nelson, *Bradlys*, (63*) came out firing to secure a professional victory for the 1st XI by eight wickets.

Harrow is now four from four in the Cowdrey Cup, and a victory on Tuesday against Charterhouse will bring the trophy back to Harrow outright for the first time since 2008.

| | | | | |
|--|----|-----|--|--|
| Radley College | R | B | | |
| Rory Wooster, b Eesa Faheem | 10 | 30 | | |
| Oliver Stanley, b Eesa Faheem | 4 | 7 | | |
| George Reynolds*, b Eesa Faheem | 0 | 4 | | |
| Morgan Barnes†, ct Eesa Faheem, b Henry Snow | 20 | 10 | | |
| Henry Redmayne, st Dylan Rawal, b Charlie Nelson | 60 | 103 | | |
| Manny Lumsden, ct Dylan Rawal, b Eesa Faheem | 0 | 2 | | |
| James Du Plessis, ct Dylan Rawal, b Caspar Baker | 2 | 10 | | |
| Tino Mushonga, b Charlie Hope | 16 | 45 | | |
| Henry Hutchings, not out | 24 | 55 | | |
| Bertie Hall, not out | 6 | 7 | | |
| Ben De Laszlo, did not bat | | | | |
| Extras 25 | | | | |
| Total 167 | | | | |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|----|---|-----|---|
| Harrow School Bowling | | | | |
| Bowler | O | M | R | W |
| Henry Snow | 7 | 0 | 19 | 1 |
| Eesa Faheem | 9 | 2 | 38 | 4 |
| Caspar Baker | 5 | 0 | 20 | 1 |
| Charlie Hope | 7 | 0 | 27 | 1 |
| Kalan Niyarepola | 9 | 1 | 25 | 0 |
| Jack Nelson | 6 | 0 | 24 | 0 |
| Charlie Nelson | 2 | 1 | 7 | 1 |
| Total | 45 | 4 | 167 | 8 |

| | | | |
|---|----|----|---|
| Harrow School Batting | | R | B |
| Dylan Rawal†, ct Rory Wooster, b Manny Lumsden | 4 | 7 | |
| Jay Madan, ct Tino Mushonga, b James Du Plessis | 31 | 42 | |
| Charlie Nelson*, not out | 63 | 84 | |
| Jack Nelson, not out | 63 | 58 | |
| Henry Macdonald, did not bat | | | |
| Caspar Baker, did not bat | | | |
| Henry Snow, did not bat | | | |
| Eesa Faheem, did not bat | | | |
| Kalan Niyarepola, did not bat | | | |
| James Felton, did not bat | | | |
| Charlie Hope, did not bat | | | |
| Extras 8 | | | |
| Total 169 | | | |

| | | | | |
|------------------------|------|---|-----|---|
| Radley College Bowling | | | | |
| Bowler | O | M | R | W |
| Bertie Hall | 6 | 0 | 37 | 0 |
| Manny Lumsden | 9 | 1 | 41 | 1 |
| Henry Redmayne | 5 | 0 | 18 | 0 |
| Henry Hutchings | 4.2 | 0 | 23 | 0 |
| Ben De Laszlo | 1 | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| James Du Plessis | 5 | 0 | 31 | 1 |
| Rory Wooster | 1 | 0 | 7 | 0 |
| Total | 31.2 | 1 | 169 | 2 |

2nd XI v Radley College, cancelled
 3rd XI v Radley College, cancelled
 4th XI v Radley College, cancelled

Colts A away v Radley College, Lost by 3 wickets

A tough loss in challenging conditions, Harrow showed tremendous resilience to make this a close game after setting a smaller target than hoped. Radley won the toss and put Harrow into bat in tough June conditions. Freddie Bourne-Arton, *Elmfield*,

started well to give Harrow early impetus, but a middle-order batting collapse made it tough for Harrow to sustain momentum, with Ben Hufford Hall, *Moretons*, providing the backbone of the innings with an unbeaten 42. Harrow were all out for 119 and had plenty of work to do. The Radley batsmen played confidently and, at 100/2, looked like they had done enough to secure the win. However, Harrow did not give up. Peter Ballingal, *Moretons*, and Francis had been lively in the field all day, and the pressure paid off as Radley slipped to 115/7, with Hufford Hall, Arthur Cutler, *The Knoll*, and Dario Holland, *The Park*, all bowling well. Sadly, Harrow's total was too short, and Radley chased it down with three overs and three wickets to spare.

Colts B away v Radley College, Lost by 115 runs

The Colts Bs had a tough final fixture, losing to a very strong Radley side by 115 runs. Ben Stevens, *Newlands*, bowled brilliantly, picking up four wickets for eight runs in his six overs.

Junior Colts A v Radley College, cancelled

Junior Colts B v Radley College, cancelled

Junior Colts C v Radley College, cancelled

Junior Colts D v Radley College, cancelled

Yearlings A away v Radley College, Won by 6 wickets

Harrow won a tightly fought contest against Radley with four balls to spare thanks to an exceptional run chase from Aaryan Basu, *Druries*, and George Bamford, *The Head Master's*. Harrow bowled well to restrict Radley to 168-7 off their 35 overs. The chase started slowly and Harrow found themselves 61-4 off 19 overs. Basu and Bamford showed fantastic maturity and determination to complete the run chase with a 109 run stand off 87 balls ending on 88* and 44* respectively.

Radley- 168-7 off 35, Harrow- 170-4 off 34.2

Aaryan Basu 88*

George Bamford 44*

Yearlings B away v Radley College, cancelled

Yearlings C away v Radley College, cancelled

Yearlings D away v Radley College, cancelled

Yearlings E away v Radley College, cancelled

Junior Colts A v King's College School (KCS), Wimbledon, Won by 2 wickets, Regional Final

*1st XI away v Charterhouse, Won by 52 runs,
 Cowdrey Cup*

The 1st XI completed a famous Cowdrey Cup campaign with a 52-run win away at Charterhouse on Tuesday. Henry Macdonald's, *The Park*, sublime 124 helped Harrow to 255 at the halfway point. A 130-run third-wicket partnership from Charterhouse put Harrow under pressure, but a fine spell from Jack Nelson, *Bradlys*, (4-37) and some brilliant fielding swung the momentum back to Harrow. Charterhouse eventually fell 52 runs short to leave Harrow the victors. The 2024 1st XI win the Cowdrey Cup with a clean sweep of victories against Eton College, Tonbridge School, Radley College, Wellington College and Charterhouse School.

*This is the final edition of The Harrovian
 for the 2023-24 academic year*

Ways to contact *The Harrovian*

Articles, opinions and letters are always appreciated.

Email the Master-in-Charge smk@harrowschool.org.uk

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