

# THE STUDENT VOICE

## ISSUE 2

### Migrant Apocalypse?

## THIS MONTH'S JOURNALISTS:

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Asylum seekers off the African Coast on the Mediterranean Sea.

*Click on images or underlined text to view source.*

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# MIGRANT APOCALYPSE?

Lara Huddleston

“Protect our children!”  
 “Save our village!”

These were the words of protestors in Kegworth, a rural village in Leicestershire.

“They have no right to be here!” echoed demonstrators in Skegness, a coastal town in Lincolnshire.

They’ll take your job. They’ll take your healthcare. Apparently, they’ll even take your children. These people are *animals*, according to Donald Trump.

If migrants really are so dangerous, why did the government let 1.2 million of them into the UK in 2023? How come there were 50,546 asylum seekers living in 380 UK hotels last June? According to Suella Braverman, this “misguided dogma of multiculturalism” is an “existential challenge” for the UK.

Are migrants really a threat to this country? More importantly, are they really a threat to you?



**Anti-migrant protestors in Skegness.**

Over the last year, ‘migrant’ has become somewhat of a bad-word. Politicians left, right, and centre have been debating the ‘crisis’ of immigration – not to mention constantly blaming each other for it. It can be difficult to work out what’s the truth, and what’s just politics.

How many people in the world do you think are migrants? According to research, it’s probably a lot less than you think.

Only 3.5% of the world’s population are migrants. Of that tiny fraction, only 10% are actually asylum seekers – people forced from their country because it’s not safe. Remember when I

said that 1.2 million entered the UK in 2023? Of that number, only 19,346 were certified refugees.

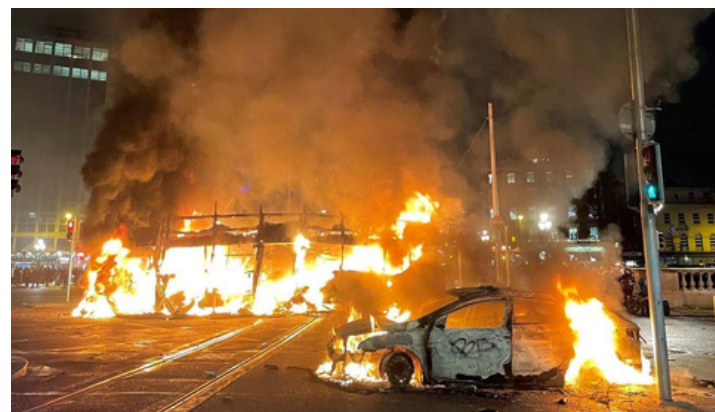
And what about the other 1.18 million? Most of these people are economic migrants, leaving their homes for a better job and a better life. So, when you talk about migrants, this is often what you’re really talking about.

And what would actually happen if we let all these people in? This article will give you the plain, simple facts. These facts come in 4:

1. Impact on us (the destination)
2. Impact on them (the migrants)
3. Impact on the origin country
4. Impact on the world (*everybody*)

But first, we need to get a few things straight.

You might’ve heard that all migrants are terrorists, sex-offenders, spies. These sorts of rumours, along with others framing migrants as invaders, criminals, money-leeches, or vectors of disease, dominate European media. To make matters worse, when immigrants do commit a crime, it often takes over the news. Think of the horrific Clapham chemical attacks earlier this month, which immediately sparked anti-migrant speech and lead some to conclude that we are “importing crime”. Think of the Dublin riots last November, triggered by disinformation on social media claiming that an attacker was an immigrant.



**Riots in Dublin on the 23rd of November, 2023**

What makes these narratives so powerful? It’s because, like any scary story, they manipulate our fears.

Many people in the UK have (serious) concerns about the future. The conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East, plus rising tensions around the world, are turning up the international heat.

Speaking of heat, extreme weather and rising sea levels are also threatening our way of life, and that's not even to mention the cost-of-living crisis.

Analysts argue that these worries feed into *metathesiophobia*: a fear of change. Migrants, it appears, are an easy target, and to make things worse, many are voiceless in the face of their discrimination. This fear of migrants has grown in Europe alongside nationalism, populism, and far-right extremism, and it's not a coincidence. Hans Kundnani, an Associate Fellow at Chatham House, explains that the "cultural questions around identity" that "immigration" raises are significant drivers of the social conflict we now face.

Jennifer Duggan, a writer for Time Magazine, reported on the Dublin riots. She says: "the agitators harnessed a deeper set of grievances among young people, struggling with spiralling prices and a desperate lack of affordable housing".

Mick Barry, lawmaker for the People Before Profit Solidarity party, also highlighted that "you cannot pepper spray alienation, you cannot baton charge anger at social inequality, you cannot taser the housing crisis or use water cannons to wash away a culture of toxic masculinity". Perhaps our fear of migrants conceals much deeper societal problems.

Ultimately, our fears leach into government policy...



## Part 1: What about us?

"There are trillion-dollar bills on the sidewalk," says Micheal Clemens, Senior Fellow at the Centre for Global Development.

According to his research, eradicating immigrant-blocking policies would be the single "most profitable and most productive investment" that a government could make for its country.

There is also little evidence to support the cliché that immigrants 'take your job'. Research shows that when migrants arrive, locals are actually *boosted* into higher-skilled, higher-paying work. This is because migrant jobs are 'complementary' to ours – they take labour-focused work that don't require much English. In the words of Giovanni Peri, Professor of Economics at the University of California, our "jobs are connected".



This is especially good news for single parents. Two thirds of UK nurseries currently have a waiting list of almost 6 months, and more than half of carers are thinking of leaving in the next year. If migrants were welcomed onto the payroll, the average working hours of women in the top wage quartile would increase significantly.

But what about migrants who are highly skilled? According to Peri, this would have "even more of a positive impact". People who successfully migrate are likely to be the most ambitious, intelligent, and motivated – a process called 'selectivity'. More than half of America's billion-dollar start-up companies were founded by immigrants, including Tesla, Google, and Ebay. Furthermore, taking in more foreign students has been shown to increase the frequency of groundbreaking STEM publications.

On the other hand, local services are likely to bear the brunt of an immigration influx – but research suggests that this would be small and short-lived. According to the UN, immigrants into New Zealand began making net contributions to the economy within 5 years. In fact, after an initial integration period, migrants will pay more in taxes than they consume in social services. Immigrant populations in the UK, Canada,

Germany, Greece, and Spain have not been more reliant on government assistance programs than have native citizens.



Immigrants taking complementary jobs

Part 2: What about them?

“The same worker in Ghana, working in the United States or the United Kingdom, can see the productivity of their work go up by a factor of more than 8,” says Clemens.

Migration from a poor country to a rich country is transformational for a person’s wealth – but money doesn’t buy happiness, right?

Maybe not, but it does buy better healthcare, education, housing, safety, and leisure – in other words, a better quality of life. Ultimately, with these lifestyle improvements, migrants have the freedom to be their best self.

Take Beth, for example, a domestic helper who emigrated from the Philippines when she was 23. “I left home to help my family” and “lift them from poverty,” she explains. “It was very hard. I cried a lot”.



Now, after working in London for over 16 years, Beth is “so happy to reach this prestigious country” and has succeeded in financing her family back home.

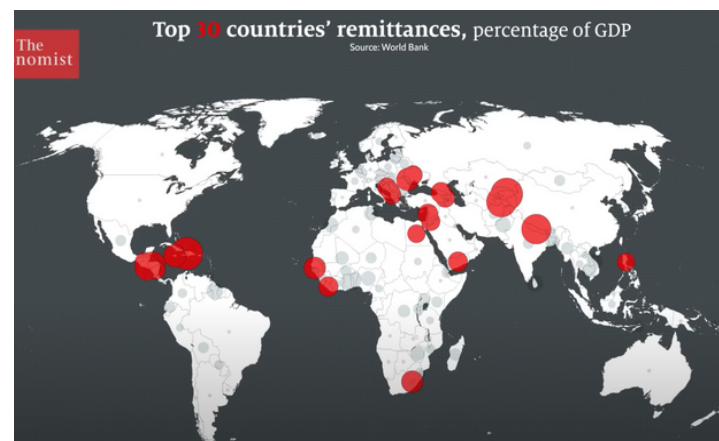
“If you support them, you’re so happy. You feel like you are successful.”



Part 3: What about the country they leave behind?

While rich countries reap the benefits, it’s likely that origin countries will experience some side effects. In 2016, around 30 developing countries lost more than 20% of their university graduates to job opportunities abroad – a ‘brain drain’, as some analysts would say.

However, many countries around the world are also reliant on remittances. Remittances are bundles of money that migrants send back home to their families. They’re worth more than 10% of national GDP in over 30 countries around the world. Remember Beth? Her remittances financed her younger sister’s education and her nephew’s medical care.



Migration has also been shown to reduce unemployment and increase education levels in origin countries. Furthermore, migrants who return home bring with them new technologies, skills, and ideas.



**Part 4: What about everyone else?**

Let's look at the bigger picture.

According to Robert Guest, Foreign Editor for The Economist, liberalising migration would be “the simplest policy change you could make that would have the most immediate effects in making the world richer.”

“The best estimate says that the world GDP would be roughly double every year if people were allowed to work where they wanted.”

Michael Clemens also states that allowing just 1 in 20 migrants to work in a rich country would increase world GDP more than dropping *all* policy barriers on trade.

So the economic impacts of migration seem clear, but the socio-political implications are perhaps more murky. Clemens asserts that migration is “a tremendous opportunity for humanity as a whole” – but how can we be sure? While some see opportunity, others see apocalypse.

It's a complicated issue and this article doesn't pretend to have all the answers. Instead, what it offers is facts – not fears. As always, it's up to *you* to decide what you think and what your opinion will be...



**Border checks through a legal immigration channel.**



**A legal migration route into the UK.**



**Illegal migrants crossing a border fence between Mexico and the U.S., on the bank of the Río Grande.**



**Illegal migrants crossing the English Channel.**



**Illegal migrants walking along a border fence between Hungary and Serbia, now patrolled by 'border hunters'.**



**Illegal migrants stopped by Italian border controls, travelling from North Africa.**

To learn more, click on the link in each title.

# GLOBAL FESTIVITIES: FEBRUARY

**American National Baked Alaska Day**  
 No, not that kind of baked. This a day of desserts - namely, the 'baked Alaska', made with ice cream, sponge cake, and meringue!



**World Golden Retriever Day**  
 A day celebrating one of the most popular dog breeds. Not only do they make good friends, but they also provide disability assistance to blind and deaf people.



**World Cancer Day**  
 A non-profit initiative to promote cancer awareness and raise research funds, lead by the Union for International Cancer Control.



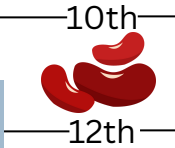
**British Yorkshire Pudding Day**  
 Enjoy a delicious roast dinner in honour of this irresistible Yorkshire delicacy.



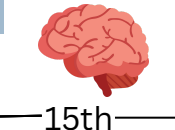
**Polish Fat Thursday**  
 A day of rich eating in Poland before the commencement of Lent - especially featuring donuts!



**World Pulses Day**  
 A celebration of all things beany.



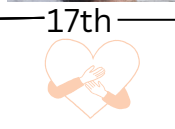
**International Epilepsy Day**  
 A day to learn about epilepsy and raise awareness about treatments.



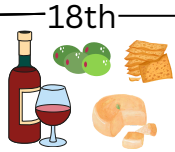
**World Hippo Day**  
 Dedicated to hippopotamuses and their preservation.



**Random Acts of Kindness Day**  
 Started in 1995.



**National Drink Wine Day**  
 Wine was first invented in 7000 BC and has been important in cultures across the world for centuries.



**Japanese National Cat Day**  
 Celebrated in Japan, this festival was founded in 1978 by the Executive Cat Day Committee.



**World Bartender Day**  
 The first bartender probably lived in the 1400s in Europe or Asia. It wasn't until the 1800s that the 'father of bartending', Jerry Thomas, became famous for his special cocktails in New York City.



**Taiwanese Annual Lantern Festival**  
 Marking the grand finale of Chinese New Year and the first full moon day of the new year. It's celebrated with Yuanxiao (rice dumplings), lanterns, and riddles.



2nd

**Groundhog day**  
 A small rodent, the groundhog, emerges from hibernation. If has a shadow, there will be 6 more weeks of winter. If not, spring has arrived!



**World Ukulele Day**  
 This small instrument originated in Portugal, but was popularised in Hawaii during the reign of King Kalákaua.



**World Nutella Day**  
 Started by a fan in 2007, this day is about exactly what it says on the jar!



6th

**UK Ice Cream for Breakfast Day**  
 Yes, it's a real thing! The best way to start the day, founded in 1977.



**UN International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation**

Over 200 million girls and women alive today are survivors of this appalling breach of human rights. The UN aims to end FGM by 2030.



13th

**International Condom Day**  
 It is estimated that, every year, there are more than 80 million unwanted pregnancies globally and more than 1 million people catch STIs.



**Australian National Sorry Day**  
 Held annually in Australia to remember the Stolen Generations, in which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were forcibly removed from their families.



25th

**Georgian Soviet Occupation Day**  
 A commemoration of the Soviet invasion of Georgia in 1921, one of the darkest days in Georgian history.



27th

**Pokemon Day**  
 Marking the day of Pokemon's introduction in 1996.



National Science Day

28th

**Indian National Science Day**  
 Celebrates the discovery of the 'Raman Effect' by Sir C.V. Raman, which led to him winning a Nobel Prize in 1930.

# COUNTRY PROFILE:

## NEPAL

Poppy White



**Capital:** Kathmandu

**Population:** 29, 641, 000

**Language:** Nepali

**Religious Majority:** Hindu

**Currency:** 1 GBP = 167.82 Nepalese Rupee

**Climate:** Subtropical and warm.

**Politics:** Nepal's government became a federal democratic republic after the abolition of the monarchy in 2008 and the passing of a new constitution in 2015. Nepal recognises three political parties in the republic: Nepal Communist Party, Nepali Congress and Janata Samajwadi Party. After the ongoing humanitarian crisis in 2015 helped to spur negotiation on the new constitution, Bidhya Devi Bhandari became the first woman to hold office in the country. Ram Chandra Paudel was elected as president on 9th March 2023. The newly elected president immediately faced a political crisis following a petition from the Supreme court which demanded for the former president Dahal's arrest and investigation into his leadership, during a decade-long civil war that had killed thousands.

**Economy:** Agriculture remains Nepal's principal economic activity, employing about 65% of the population and providing 31.7% of GDP. Nepal has used a series of five-year plans in an attempt to make progress in economic development which, since 1975, has improved government administration and rural development. Despite this, Nepal has consistently been ranked as one of the poorest countries in the world, often relying on Gurkka pensions, international aid and the

world-renowned Mount Everest that attracts many keen tourists to the country.

**Safety:** Political protests, demonstrations and strikes are common in Nepal. Transport is highly risky due to cliff-top airports and stations, like Lukla Airport. Nepal is also susceptible to many floods, landslides, fires and epidemics, especially during monsoon season.

**Current Affairs:** As of November 2023, Nepal's Minister for Communications and Information Technology, Rekha Sharma, led the decision to ban TikTok, saying that social harmony and goodwill are being disturbed. More than 1,600 TikTok-related cybercrime cases have been registered over the last four years in Nepal.

**National Anthem:** [Listen here!](#)



**Mount Everest, Nepalese Himalayas**



**Itum Bahal, Kathmandu**



**Lukla Airport, 'The most dangerous in the world'**

# POLITICAL ANGLE

Maddie Lloyd,  
Politics Correspondent

## LOCAL POLITICS

INTERVIEW WITH **LABOUR** PPC, JOE EMMETT

I interviewed Joe Emmett, teacher, dad, musician, and local Labour Prospective Parliamentary Candidate about his politics. Joe suggested you'd be "hard pressed" to find something the Conservatives have done well in the last 13 years and offers his view on what changes need to happen in Herefordshire.



When asked why the young people of Herefordshire should vote for you/Labour in the next election, Joe told us: "I'm going to stand on a platform which is going to, where possible, create a more equal country, where people don't have to leave their homes in search of work elsewhere."

He found, after doing a hands-up poll in his class, that a large proportion of people wanted to leave the county, stating:

"Maybe because it's a cycle, that when people get older they come back to Herefordshire, but I think it's also because they look around them and don't see enough opportunity. For the housing side of things, why can't there be more starter up homes, social housing, something which allows people to stay?"

He displayed a passion for creating a city which is pleasant in terms of leisure and for keeping the rivers clean, meeting with 'Friends of the Upper Wye':

"For the other side of life; the fun side, the livelihood, the recreational things, places need to be more vibrant and offer opportunity. We also need to sort out some of the traffic issues in the city and county. I think it's too circular; not enough is happening or being done."

Joe also spoke about the decline of third places (community spaces for socialising aside from your workplace and home):

"Lots of areas have it (a third place), from cafes, to theatres, to hubs, but they are increasingly going, we're losing that third space in that way. These places need funding and support but

under the current government we can see massive holes in council budgets, they're being stretched."

He acknowledged the mental health issues this can cause, stating:

"We have both young and older people increasingly stuck in their homes and we need to make sure that there are places there for those people. If more people are working at home, there need to be places where they can step away from work."

I then asked if there were any assumptions that the public might have about the Labour party which he believed to be false, to which he replied:

"The Assumption that we were purely just a working-class party has now moved and shifted in some eyes to an assumption that we have turned our back on the working class. I wouldn't say that is the case."

So how can we tackle the issue of low turnout amongst younger voters:

"In the New Year we're going to try and get a Good Apple Army together of people from across the county who can be inspired to spread our message. It's not saying 'we know best', but instead 'what can we do better'. As always, we need to give people a voice, and as a teacher for 23 years, that's something which I'm hopefully fairly good at, allowing young people to talk and speak and share their thoughts and views."

And why is Labour the right party to deliver change?

"Labour have the plan, they have the strategy, the people out there who know that when they are in power, things get better. Something I always say when I'm speaking to people on doorsteps is, 'Tell me something the Conservative Party have done well in the last 13 years', and it's hard. Don't hand this man 5 more years. It's a chance to do something new, break the cycle."



*Thanks Joe! In the next issue, we'll be hearing from a different mystery party. Stay tuned!*



# RESOLUTION FOR GAZA AND ISRAEL: WHAT ARE THE OPTIONS?

Lara Huddleston

## The One-State Solution

The two nationalities, Palestinians and Israelis, would live side by side in a binational state.

*This option is supported by people who disagree with the two-state solution because the nationalities are so geographically intertwined and negotiations between them have broken down.*

*Many Israelis disagree with this option because it would make Israelis a minority, undermining Jewish nationalism and the Zionist movement. Many Palestinians also disagree. In a 2023 poll, only 23% of Palestinians and 20% of Israeli Jews supported a democratic one-state solution.*

## Expulsion

Palestinians would be 'transferred' from the entire West Bank.

*This is suggested by some far-right Israeli politicians; however, it is unsupported by most Arabs and Israelis alike, due to concerns about ethnic cleansing (even if it was somehow achieved without bloodshed).*



## Confederation

This would create something like a mini-European Union between the two nations. They would collaborate on issues such as resources, security, and economy, and there would be free movement and residency between them. However, citizens of each would only vote for their own government.

*This option is considered unsatisfactory to both nationalities, and the conflict would also be likely continue. Furthermore, as communication between the nations has broken-down, the probability of such a relationship is low.*



## The Two-State Solution

An Israeli state and a Palestinian state would be established.

*This is supported by the international community, including the UK. The United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, confirmed that "any refusal to accept the two-state solution by any party must be firmly rejected". Some argue that the armistice borders drawn up after the 1948 Arab-Israeli War should be replicated.*

*However, there are still many problems. There are over 700,000 Israeli settlers in the West Bank who would have to be forcibly relocated back to Israel. Furthermore, around 5.9 million Palestinian refugees live stateless throughout the Middle East (the largest stateless community worldwide, according to the Migration Policy Institute) who may want to return to the territory from which they fled in 1948, which is now controlled by Israel. Each of the two states may threaten the security of the other. Lastly, Jerusalem is important to both nations - it is unclear as to whom it should belong.*

## Federation

This is a variant on the one-state solution. Israeli law would be applied to the entire West Bank. Full Israeli citizenship and voting rights would be given to Palestinians.

*This solution was proposed by Emanuel Shahaaf, an author. It is unconvincing to many, especially because the resulting state would be divided into smaller provinces, calculated to maintain a Jewish majority (similar to gerrymandering, where the boundaries of electoral districts are drawn to give one party a political advantage).*

## Autonomy-Upgrade

The limited autonomy of the Palestinians would be upgraded so that they could hold their own elections and maintain their own public services. However, they would not be allowed to have a military or control their borders. Israel would also annex the West Bank territory.

*This solution was called for by right-wing Israeli politician, Naftali Bennet. For most Palestinians, it is not considered worthy of consideration.*

## MIRACULOUS MATABELE ANTS

A GROUNDBREAKING DISCOVERY

Lara Huddleston



Until recently, Matabele ants had an untold secret. These tiny residents of Sub-Saharan Africa may look like regular ants, but there's more to them than meets the eye...

Most ants have a highly varied diet, eating anything from fruits to fungus to amphibians – but not *Megaponera analis*. Matabele ants will only eat one thing: termites.

Although they're tasty, termites are extremely dangerous, which is why Matabeles have had to develop special tactics.

When raiding termite nests, many Matabele soldiers are seriously injured – up to 22% of veterans have lost a leg or two. Usually, an injury like this would mean death from infection, which is why other social insects have adopted special disease control procedures, like nest disinfection, self-isolation, and even slaughtering infected children. But Matabele ants have taken a different approach.

When Matabeles are injured in battle, their comrades carry them back to the nest to treat their wounds with incredible *antibiotics*. When a wound is infected, the hydrocarbon structure of the exoskeleton changes, which is how the ants can tell if a wound requires emergency treatment. If so, they will lick the wound for several minutes, applying a solution of over 50 antimicrobial and wound-healing chemicals, which are secreted from the metapleural glands.

“With the exception of humans, I know of no other living creature that can carry out such sophisticated medical wound treatments,” says the co-author of the study, Erik Frank. The idea of

insects caring for each other is not yet fully understood, but it's clear that Matabeles' national healthcare system is incredibly effective (maybe even more than ours). With this system, the mortality of infected nestmates is reduced by 90%.

But there's another twist. *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, the main bacterium that infects Matabele ants, also infects human wounds. What's more, several strains have become resistant to antibiotics. This makes research into miraculous Matabeles incredibly important for our own medical procedures. Perhaps one day our wounds will even be treated by tiny ant doctors...

## IN WORDSWORTH'S SHADOW

THE FEMALE ROMANTICS

Suzanna Pearce, English Literature Correspondent



Who do you think of when you think of the Romantics?

Wordsworth? Coleridge? Keats? Blake? Byron? Shelley? Most people will think of just these, all six men, who were revolutionary for this movement, changing how people thought of the world and of nature, prizing the individual experience and emotion over the increasing rationality of the Enlightenment. However, women were also writing extensively and there were over 400 published women poets and novelists as well as many playwrights, journalists and other forms of literary writers. Names like Mary Wollstonecraft, Mary Shelley and Dorothy Wordsworth are better known (though of course not as well as the men) but incredible writers such as Charlotte Smith, Sydney Owenson and Amelia Opie are mostly lost except in niche literary areas.

Charlotte Smith is argued by some critics to be the first poet in England to be considered Romantic, as well as responsible for the rebirth of the sonnet, and she had significant influence upon Wordsworth, Dorothy Wordsworth suggesting in her journals that Smith was one of the writers who inspired him to write sonnets of his own. Having been married off in her mid-teens, Smith separated from her husband in 1787, though not before she spent a year in a debtors prison with him, where she wrote her first poetry collection ‘the Elegiac Sonnets’. She became an advocate of the French Revolution from its early stages and wrote extensively on social justice as well as on the position of women. She was soon able to make a living by writing, but had to conform to the market and much of what she wrote was purely for public appeal to be able to survive, separating from mainstream Romanticism which argued for a rejection of society’s usual order. She died in 1806 at only 57 years old.

Smith is just one of the many female writers that have become overshadowed by male authors; hopefully through this I am able to gift her another reader.

#### Sonnet XLIV

Press’d by the Moon, mute arbitress of tides,  
 While the loud equinox its pow’r combines,  
 The sea no more its swelling surge confines,  
 But o’er the shrinking land sublimely rides.  
 The wild blasts, rising from the Western cave,  
 Drives the huge billows from their heaving bed;  
 Tears from their grassy tombs the village dead,  
 And breaks the silent sabbath of the grave!  
 With shells and seaweed mingled, on the shore,  
 Lo! their bones whiten in the frequent wave;  
 But vain to them the winds and waters rave;  
 They hear the warring elements no more:  
 While I am doom’d—by life’s long storm opprest,  
 To gaze with envy, on their gloomy rest.

*Charlotte Smith*

## HISTORY’S FORGOTTEN WOMEN

### CATHERINE DE MEDICI: SERPENT QUEEN

**Poppy White, History Correspondent**

**Born:** April 13th, 1519, Florence

**Died:** January 5th, 1589, Blois, France

**Dynasty:** Medici family

**Reigned:** 1560-1574

**Sons:** King Francis II, King Charles IX and King Henry III of France

Long since vilified by scholars as a power-hungry, unscrupulous and murderous woman, Catherine de Medici has often been maligned. Much of Catherine’s regency and reputation was marked by the French Wars of Religion and disastrous St Bartholomew’s Day massacre of 1572 that saw thousands of Protestant Huguenots massacred in the streets.

With Francis II, 16-year-old King of France, on his deathbed in 1560, his mother, Catherine de Medici, had to act fast if she wanted to remain in power. Her younger son Charles was just 10 years old, meaning a regent was needed – Catherine, a woman at a court dominated by ambitious men, was unlikely to be the first choice. The ‘Serpent Queen’ hatched a plan to secure her position: summoning members of the House of Bourbon and accusing the leading potential regent, Antoine de Bourbon, of treason. Catherine succeeded in obtaining the regency for Charles IX with Antoine de Bourbon, King of Navarre, as lieutenant general to whom the Protestants looked for leadership.

Despite Catherine ending the third civil war in 1570 with the Peace of Saint-Germain-en Laye, through a marriage proposal between Catherine’s daughter Margaret of Valois and Protestant Queen Jeanne d’Albret’s son, Henry of Navarre, the uneasy peace was soon destroyed. Shortly after the wedding, an assassination attempt on Protestant Admiral Gaspard II de Coligny caused religious and political tensions to explode. Although Catherine authorized the execution of Protestant leaders that ignited the spark which snowballed into the French Wars of Religion, she is not solely to blame. The Duke of Alba (governor of the Netherlands for King Philip II) took a hardline policy on Protestant activity, advocating for their arrest and execution which had been circulating among French Catholic nobles as early as 1560. Since Paris was a staunchly Catholic city it is no wonder that St Bartholomew’s Day turned into a bloodshed, regardless of Catherine’s orders. Stubborn, ruthless, and vicious, Catherine knew what was required of her to remain in power, but to be seen as the sole instigator of the French Wars of Religion? This seems a tenuous stretch.



# SPORTS THOUGHTS



**Peter Taylor**  
Sports Correspondent

Let's talk about some thoughts. Relating to Sports.

Among all the games of Round 4 of the FA Cup we saw a battle of David versus Goliath occur on Sunday the 29th of January at Rodney Parade. Giant killers Newport County vs the 20-time winners of the Premier League Manchester United which provided entertainment to thousands of viewers including myself. A 4-2 win for Manchester United (goals scored by Bruno Fernandes, Kobbie Mainoo, Antony and Rasmus Hojlund) which saw an inspiring comeback from Newport County to make it 2-2 from 0-2 down with an incredible goal scored by Bryn Morris in the first half and an additional goal scored by Will Evans just after the beginning of the second half. A game for Newport to be proud of indeed.

Meanwhile, in darts, we saw Luke Littler go out victorious from the Bahrain Masters after beating opponents such as Man Lok Leung and Gerwyn Price before defeating Michael van Gerwen becoming the winner of the Bahrain Masters 2024, however, he was to lose to Michael van Gerwen in the Dutch Darts Masters a few weeks after (losing 8-6 in a close game).

Now heading onto the local football news, currently play-off placed Hereford F.C have had mixed form throughout this January achieving 4 points of a possible 12, however, a 2-0 victory against Torquay United in the fourth round of the FA Trophy may bring some momentum to the Hereford side which is much needed for all teams at this stage of the season. A recent 2-0 defeat away to Darlington will hopefully spark motivation within the Hereford squad in near games including a home game against Blyth Spartans (the second most recent team to qualify for the Fifth Round of the FA Cup after Maidstone United F.C shock Ipswich Town F.C by winning 2-1).

In other sports news, England have been defeated in the Netball Nations Cup 2024 Final by Australia 69-49 and why not come along to the Sports Academy matches? With games such as 1st XI Girls v Hartpury University and Hartpury College and (Hockey) 1st XI v Hartpury University and Hartpury College on the way why not show some support?



*Manchester United at the FA Cup (featuring Rasmus Højlund)*



*Luke Littler at the Bahrain Masters*



*Hereford F.C. playing Torquay United*

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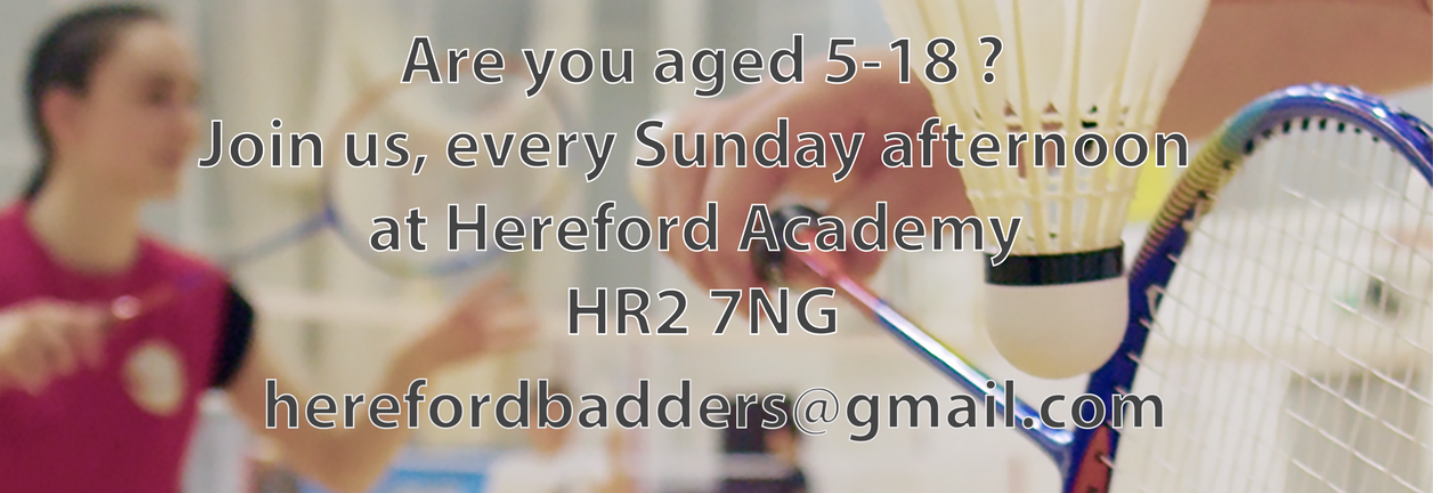
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