

News, opinions, short stories, pets, photos, and more!

MEOPHAM MONTHLY

**Meopham School's
Student Magazine**



ISSUE SEVEN – NOVEMBER 2022



Cover Art by Robyn Fitzpatrick

WELCOME

Hello! Welcome to our second Magazine issue of this academic year. We only started the magazine at the beginning of 2022, so this year's themes have been what you might expect: November is no different. Our Remembrance issue features articles and opinion relating to Armistice day, as well as our usual mix of short stories, news and plenty of photos on our gallery and pets pages.

If you would like to submit a short story, article, drawing, poem, photos or anything else for our future issues, please get in touch with the team at MSS-magazine@swale.at or come along on a Thursday lunchtime to English 5.

We hope you enjoy this issue!

Editor: Robyn Fitzpatrick (Yr 12)

NEWS JUST IN!

Mr. Dyer is delighted to announce that Meopham have been awarded a place on the Royal Shakespeare Company's 'Associate Schools Programme'. This prestigious position will mean our students will be able to experience Shakespeare in a brand new way and will even get the chance to perform in a production of 'As You Like It' in collaboration with the RSC! This is a very exciting opportunity, as we all know.... "All the world's a stage."



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**With thanks to everyone who
contributed this month:**

Kaya Akyuz (Yr7)
Florence Baker (Yr7)
Miss Biscombe
Jack Bremner (Yr7)
Fletcher Clark (Yr7)
Dolly Darby (Yr7)
Maisie Davidson (Yr8)
Luke Deacon (Yr7)
Jess Ellis (Yr7)
Charlie Gannaway (Yr7)
Lola Gardner (Yr7)
Elsie Green (Yr7)
Jessie Hoadley (Yr13)
Jack Hollis (Yr7)

Sally Ingles (Yr7)
Shanice Jarvis (Yr7)
Silver Kesby (Yr7)
Adam Nachyla (Yr7)
Maia New (Yr12)
Lucy Parker (Yr12)
Harriett Pritchard (Yr7)
Muhammed Ali Qamar (Yr7)
Ashe Reeves (Yr13)
Stella Santamaria (Yr8)
Mr Vilday
Marzena Wieczorek (Yr7)
Mrs Williamson

REMEMBRANCE DAY

By Charlie Gannaway (Year 7)

It all started in 1914, the First World War had just begun and soldiers were going to fight. They lost hundreds of soldiers every day. The war lasted around 4 years until they declared peace. At 11am on the 11th November the guns fell silent. Because of this day, the 11th November was known as Armistice day (Remembrance Day).

Did you know?

Did you know that in 1997, Australia decided to officially change its name from Armistice Day to Remembrance Day. This meant that the day recognised and celebrated any Australian who had served in any war or conflict.



Why are poppies so special on Remembrance day?

The red poppy was one of the first plants to come up through the grounds of the battlefield of World War One, making it the symbol of soldiers' sacrifice. Since 1918, poppies have been made using silk or paper and sold to raise money for those serving in war or those who have been affected by the war.



What are some interesting facts about Remembrance Day?

→ **1.5 million** Canadians have served in our military

More than 1,500,000 Canadians have risked their lives for our country and more than 118,000 sadly died fighting.

→ **18,000,000** poppies

Around 18,000,000 poppies are distributed around the world every year.

YOUTH THEATRE



More at: <https://gravesham.foodbank.org.uk/>

MR VILDAY'S VIEW

Views from a latter-day Viking

I've had a love of history for as long as I can remember, but the one period of time that fascinates me the most is the First World War. I try to imagine myself being in the position that millions of young men were put into. To be living in trenches full of mud and rats and knowing that next time you went 'over the top' could be your last moment. Or seeing friends die or horribly injured or driven mad in the horror that surrounded them.



It's easy today to say "I wouldn't have gone" but the peer pressure would have been immense on any young man who hadn't signed up to fight and the punishment for trying to run away or refusing to fight was to be executed by firing squad.

In more modern times we have looked again at many of these cases of so-called cowardice and realised what a great injustice was done to many of these men. Here are two tales of men who, in reality, did no wrong, but they were tried, found guilty of being cowards and then executed.

Sergeant Joe Stones was 5 feet 2 inches tall but regarded as a brave leader of men by those around him.

One day he was on patrol with a group of soldiers when the Germans ambushed them. His officer was killed and Joe's rifle didn't respond. As his troops retreated, he had the presence of mind to wedge his rifle across a trench to slow the Germans down.

When he got back to base, he was charged with throwing his rifle away. In court, despite other officers saying he was a brave man and had risked his life countless times to save others, he was found guilty of cowardice and executed.

He was 25.



continued...



Sergeant Peter Goggins followed orders when a fellow Sergeant told him and his men to “Run for your lives, the Hun are on top of you”. Sgt Goggins got his men back to a reserve trench only then to find out it was a false alarm.

Despite the other Sergeant admitting he had made a mistake, Goggins was tried, found guilty of cowardice and executed.

He was 22 and had been married for 6 months.

While we remember the many people who died during that conflict, and others, perhaps we can also honour the memory of those who were killed away from the battlefield, for reasons that we see today as sad and avoidable. The young men above, and many others were often forgotten by their families as they were seen to be traitors or cowards when actually their actions were either mistaken or they were suffering from great mental stress.

The Great War resulted in a growth of poetry which attempted to raise awareness of exactly what the soldiers were going through. For me, the greatest of those poets was Wilfred Owen. This is one of my favourite poems by him.

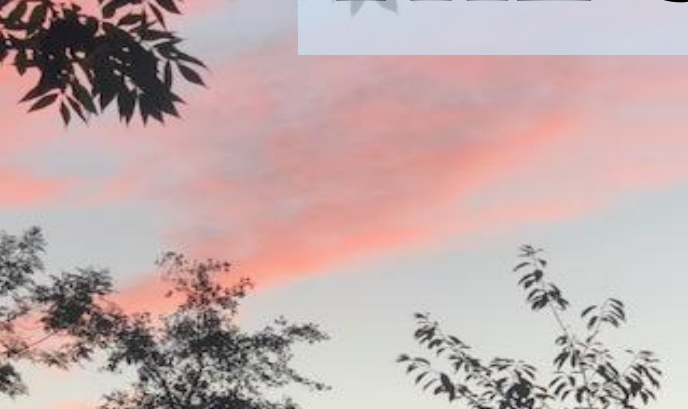
***Futility* by Wilfred Owen**

Move him into the sun—
Gently its touch awoke him once,
At home, whispering of fields half-sown.
Always it woke him, even in France,
Until this morning and this snow.
If anything might rouse him now
The kind old sun will know.

Think how it wakes the seeds—
Woke once the clays of a cold star.
Are limbs, so dear-achieved, are sides
Full-nerved, still warm, too hard to stir?
Was it for this the clay grew tall?
—O what made fatuous sunbeams toil
To break earth's sleep at all?



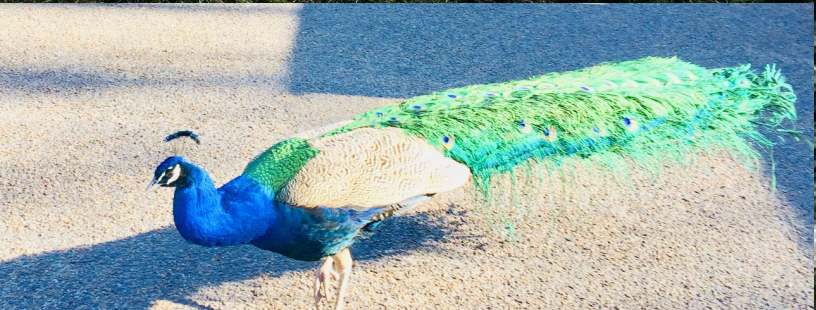
THE GALLERY



Photos and artwork by : Robyn F, Lucy P, Sally I. Stella S

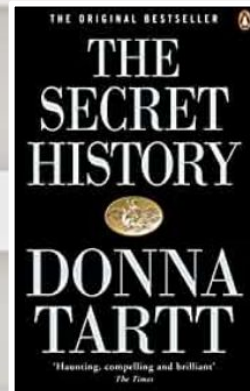
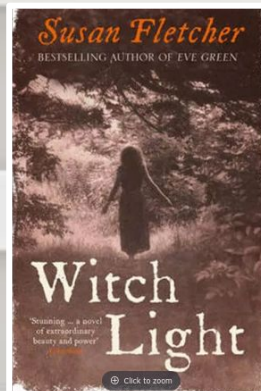


THE GALLERY

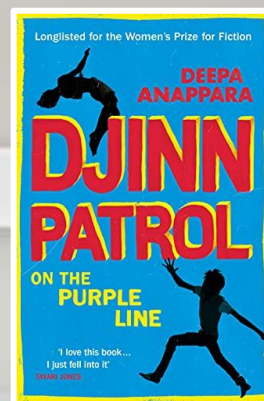
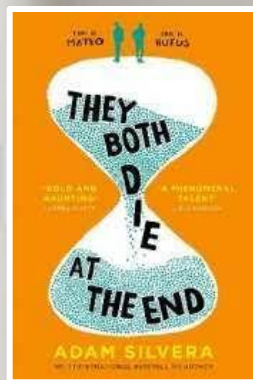


Photos and artwork by : Robyn F, Lucy P , Sally I, Maia N, Adam N

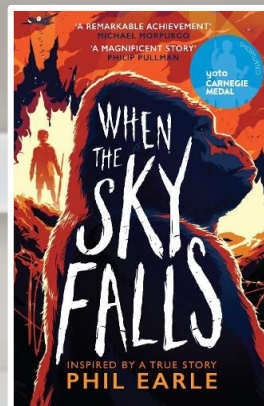
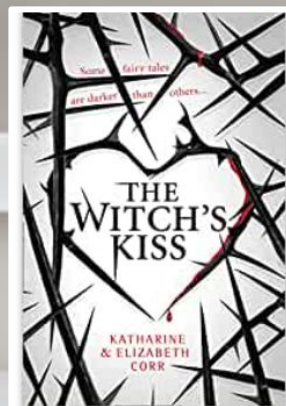
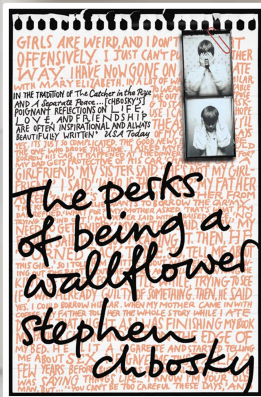
BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS



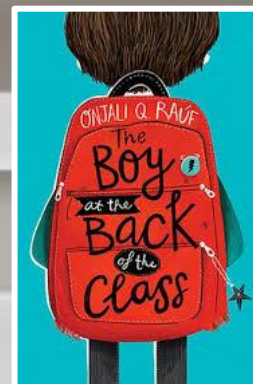
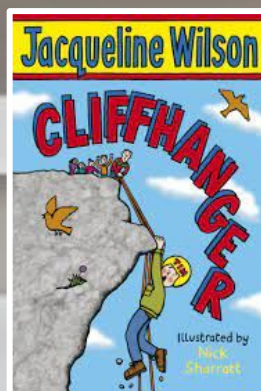
Year
12/13



11



9/10



7/8

Recommendations by the editorial team. If you have a recommendation, or would like to write a review for a future issue, email us at MSS-magazine@swale.at

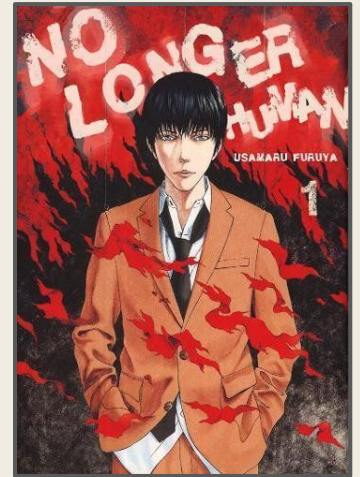
BOOK REVIEWS

No Longer Human by Osamu Dazais

Review by Jessie Hoadley (Year 13)

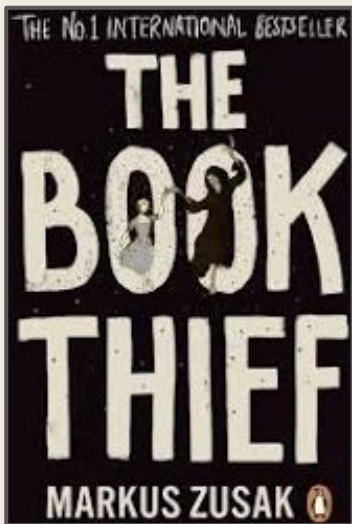
One of my favourite books is the manga adaptation of Osamu Dazais, "No Longer Human". The book is about a man called Oba Yozo who feels detached and alienated from society.

During the book, Oba goes through many tribulations and continues to ponder the meaning of his existence, he also feels fundamentally at odds with everyone around him. There are quotes within the book that explain it very well. "the world, after all, was still a place of bottomless horror". "My unhappiness stemmed entirely from my own vices".



The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

Review by Lucy Parker (Year 12)



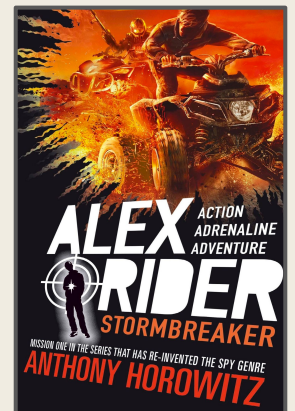
The Book Thief is narrated by an unexpected third person, Death. Death is telling a story of an orphan named Liesel by following her around her town of Molching, Germany during World War Two. Liesel gets everything taken away from her but manages to find her feet when she discovers new friends and her passion for books. By following Liesel it tells the story from the perspective of innocents during the war and what emotions day by day people went through while bombing and threats were taking place.

This must read book is a unique eye opening perception of the difficulties and struggles that took place in Nazi Germany. But, it also brings aspects of: love, appreciation and gratitude toward the sacrifices civilisation made during the war.

Alex Rider: Stormbreaker by Anthony Horowitz

Review by Adam Nachyla (Year 7)

I like this book because it has an equal amount of suspense and tension, with a mix of fun. I read this in primary school and my class seemed to like it. It starts off calmly, then the action starts! I rate this book a 9/10 overall.



WRITING & REVIEWS

SUNRISE

By Silver Kesby (Year 7)

The golden, yellow sunrise dawned in front of my eyes. The blinding orange sun looked so beautiful behind the extraordinary clouds. All of my worries washed away like the sand being washed away by the waves. I could hear the seagulls over my head, running around in the splendid sky. I could taste the sweetness of the calm air, the wind barely singing for joy. Nothing in my path, just the wind and the calm morning. The luminous sun continued to shine. The sand under my feet sent an amazing tingle up my spine. Threads of light slowly rose over the horizon. I could hear the ocean slowly crashing against the shore far ahead. The beautiful, beige, soft sand awaits ahead to send a shiver up my spine.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

By Shanice Jarvis (Year 7)

Remembrance Day is a day where people take part in two minutes of silence, to remember all of the people who unfortunately died during wars. Often people tend to make poppies or buy poppy wreaths to put on their front door or on somewhere like a graveyard.

THE BLACK DEATH

By Muhammed Ali Qamar (Year 7)

The Black Death was started in Asia in 1347. It was a rodent plague in the middle ages. Many people died from the bad smell of the plague, but some people survived the Black Death. In 1348 it started in UK and Europe. There was an earthquake in Magdeburg and the rat flea was infected.

BREAK-TIME BUNNIES

Book Review by Dolly Darby (Year 7)

I love this book. I got so hooked that I finished it in 30 to 40 minutes. It was very relatable. I like that it is not all about the same thing and it has three short stories: Break-time Bunnies, Special Guest and The Bewitched Violin. I like that the paragraphs are very small so it is a very small book. It is quite funny, especially when they say that the teacher is a professional hand dancer! It is about a primary school. It is 103 pages long and it has amazing illustrations, like a comic book but with more words.



THE GOD OF SUN VS THE SERPENT OF CHAOS

By Ashe Reeves (Year 13)

Ra, in his feline form skulked across his domain, the sun setting on his horizon in the never ending sky. Feeling the prayers and offerings fueling his might, his coat shone with power. Threatening rumbles of darkness spread across the atmosphere, corrupting the baby blue into a deep sinister black.

A serpentine body arose from the horizon. Atop the western mountain of Bakhu, his hiss made the mortals shiver as their bones and muscles reacted to the God of Chaos's warning cry towards his nemesis.

Ra, in the great form of a mau, disregarded the god's hisses and continued to stalk forward, solar flares seeping from his limbs as his coal coat erupted into a cascade of crimson. Ra's eyes burned with the offerings of his followers, the bright blue causing fear to strike his opponent, branding him 'enemy of Ra'.

Gold spheres of souls of priests and worshipers circled the Egyptian God and he yowled towards the serpent god. In return his hiss shook the surrounding ground and split the earth beneath Ra in two. Lava bubbled and spat from the crack and formed an arena around the two legendary beings.

Apophis's scarlet eyes stared at the god expectantly, his large body coiling around the mountain, waiting for his opponent's first move, his blackened body shuddering in anticipation.

Let the battle begin.



Apep (also Apophis) was the Great Serpent ancient Egyptian god of Chaos (isfet) that reigned over the Underworld and fought sun and creator god Ra in his solar barque (also solar barge), in endless fights, night after night. Image from Wikimedia Commons

WELLBEING CORNER

By Maia New, Year 12

WHAT IS GRIEF? AND HOW DO WE COPE WITH IT?

There's no simple way of understanding grief, it feels unpredictable and out of your control. It can be viewed as the most vulnerable state the human psyche can be in.

So how do we approach it? The theory of the '**5 Stages of Grief**' is a good way to understand what to expect and how grief is universally processed by all:

1. **Denial:** this begins when given the news of the passing of a loved one and is used as a coping mechanism by the brain to avoid facing reality.
2. **Pain and Guilt:** once you get out of Denial, you will feel a harsh ache in your chest. You may feel overwhelmed or have temptations to "numb" it, but pain can be healing too, resulting in a new reality, a new life. The feeling of guilt is very common during this stage: stemming from an unresolved issue, not showing "enough love" or appreciation. After a while the guilt will pass after thinking rationally. The pain will remain during this process and unfortunately after, but, in time you will be able to function and live with the reality of your loss.
3. **Anger:** if there's moments you find yourself lashing out at friends/family, blaming them for what has happened, prioritising an outlet is most important to avoid damaging relationships.
4. **Depression or Loneliness:** exhaustion sets in and hopelessness may be circling your mind. To recognise this, you can find yourself not enjoying things you may have loved, convincing yourself you aren't hungry or choosing to isolate yourself from friends/family. During this time you **SHOULD NOT** be alone with your own thoughts because we tend to overthink. Surrounding yourself with people you trust, communication and an abundance of self-love is the best medicine. You'll realise life still goes on and the depression will slowly lift. Some feelings may remain but with less intensity and hopelessness.
5. **Acceptance:** it can be confused with forgetting, but, it is truly accepting the passing, living with it and understanding it will be part of you.

FINAL NOTE: Be mindful that the grieving process is different for everyone. You may stay in one stage longer than someone else and that's fine. You should never compare your grief with someone else's.

THE MEOPHAM (PET) FAMILY



Eddie - Elsie G



Jasper - Luke D



Buddy - Dolly D



Pebbles & Rocky - Jess E



Harvey - Charlotte M



Kitty - Fletcher C



Pippa - Lola G



Chrupek - Marzena W



Bow - Jack B

If you would like to share a pet photo for a future issue, email it to MSS-magazine@swale.at, along with a note of your pet's name.

Remembrance Poem

By Sally Ingles

Remembrance day is a very special day

To remember our loved ones

who have sadly passed away

With poppies and many showers of praise, spitfires and planes

And a two minute silence whilst there is a special parade

We're so thankful of our heroes who protected us in war

And now we feel so safe and warm

We thank you for all you did for us at war and now we will
remember you forever and more

