

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

MEOPHAM MONTHLY

**Meopham School's
Student Magazine**



ISSUE TWO – APRIL 2022



Cover Art by Jess Tibbs

WELCOME

Hello! Welcome to our April issue of Meopham Monthly. This month we wanted to focus on the environment, so you'll find information and features about deforestation, pollution and green living. Just like the last issue, we are including the Meopham Pet Family and Gallery, and would love for you to send in photos to be featured here.

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 11)

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

**Daniel Appleby (Yr13)
Sophie Chable (Yr8)
Laura Cooke (Yr7)
Zach Costas (Yr7)
Maisie Davidson (Yr7)
Lilly Ellis (Yr7)
Paige Granger (Yr11)
Charlotte Hooker (Yr11)
Penny Ingles (Yr8)
Isabella Lindop (Yr11)**

**Florence Maclean (Yr8)
Ella Maisey (Yr7)
Madison North (Yr11)
Fabian Odamo (Yr8)
Ashe Reeves (Yr12)
Ryan Reffell (Yr7)
Isabella Riches (Yr11)
Stella Santamaria (Yr7)
Jess Tibbs (Yr12)
Grace Westlake (Yr8)**



NEWS & VIEWS

CLIMATE CATASTROPHE

Maisie Davidson, Year 7

Over recent years, the change of the climate on earth has been increasing rapidly, with Global Warming heating the earth like a snowball and animal endangerment increasing due to a lack of food and a sudden change in temperature. You're probably thinking; "Yeah, and? That's not my problem," But, it is. By the time secondary students are 30-48 years old, the earth will not be the same. There may be no green grass, and landfill may take up 20% of land and ocean, which could, instead, be used for an extension to a poor densely populated country. In 1920, the average temperature all year around was 13.8°C and in 2020, the average temperature was 13.9°C. What could you do to help our planet? Perhaps you'll find some ideas in this month's magazine.



YOUTH THEATRE WITH MR DYER

Back on 25th April - Every other Monday
3.05 to 4.30pm

Activities include: stagecraft, mime, musical theatre, acting, makeup, stage combat and set/costume design.

And get involved in the Summer Showcase!



WELCOME TO THE FUTURE

A short story by MM

Buildings stood silently, rows upon rows of derelict bricks rotting with moss and mould. She looked around. The street was deserted except for one, and the words 'Welcome to the future!' with the date 2022 were situated on every billboard. Overgrown trees and other plants blocked anything from crossing the street, and the once beautiful sky that was filled with fluffy clouds was now a deep red with angry black wisps dotted around. Bleary-eyed and wheezing, the girl turned her body and made her way through a thick forest.

It's a strange and scary sensation to suddenly realise you're the only living being left on what's left of earth. She laughed bitterly at the thought. All of the pollution, littering, gases being released into the air. The warnings that people had put out to help change what was inevitable that nobody listened to. Videos of polar bears slowly but surely going extinct because of global warming. Nobody listened, and this was the consequence.

She'd thought about this moment, imagined it, for years, but she'd never expected this. Being alone, not even animals could keep her company. There was nothing left. Had Mother Nature finally had enough? Enough of the abuse towards her creations?



DEFORESTATION

An article by Grace Westlake, Year 8

Deforestation is the removal of an area of trees or a forest that is then converted and used for non-forest use.

Did you know that over 42 million trees are cut down every day, meaning that over 15 billion trees are being cut down annually. This is no laughing matter, and if we don't put a stop to this we could lose the existence of trees forever.

From 2001 to 2019, a total of 386 million hectares of forest were lost globally (in all forest types combined). This loss represents an almost 10% decrease in tree cover since 2000.

Our rainforests are rapidly disappearing and, if we don't stop and help, there will be no rainforests left. In 2019, 11.9 million hectares of tropical forest was lost. Primary rainforest made up nearly a third of that loss (3.8 million hectares). Rainforests play an important role in keeping our planet healthy, as the trees covering the land absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen, stabilising the Earth's climate. Also, according to the US National Cancer Institute, over two-thirds of medicines that were found to have cancer-fighting properties originally came from rainforest plants. Keeping the rainforests healthy and full of nature is a necessity.

Deforestation doesn't just affect us humans but it affects animals as well. Over 30 types of different species live in the rainforests. If we don't stop deforestation, all of these animals will lose their homes and there will be no-one to blame apart from ourselves. They will go extinct if we don't help them.

Are you just going to stand around and let this happen?! Are you just going to let the animals you love only live in zoos and not in their natural habitats?!

All animals should have the right to live in their own natural environment and not just live in zoos.

We should all help to stop deforestation because it is awful, and it is harming animals and humans.

Find out more at: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zpmnb9q/revision/4>

SHORT STORY

By Ashe Reeves, Year 12

Lightning was shattering the sky, as thunder roared threats across the torrential plains that were drenched in the tears of the clouds. A great beast stood snarling as the lightning coursed through its fur, jagged teeth snapping at the static in the gusts. Its shockingly blue fur stood poised in the tension of the air around it. The monstrous maw dripping in the blood of its foes, the sloshing in its jaws nearly paling in comparison to the cacophony of sound around the still creature.

Across from the first stood another, its wings bloodied and torn, large infected gashes across its side. It roared weakly at the victorious brute, who seemingly chuckled at the weakness of the other. The Rathalos attempted to spread its battered wings in mock flight to play at escape, however Zinogre would not let its prey escape so easily.

Leaping forward the Zinogre enveloped the neck of its foe with its maw coming close to crushing its spine with the power of its jaws. The blood seeped from the freshly made wounds, staining its white underbelly with its own fluid. Zinogre then bit at the wing joint, effectively severing the use of the wing. It screeched in pain, writhing weakly as the blood poured from the puncture wounds.

It cried to the skies, who responded in a great flurry of lightning surging in the Rathalos' body; screaming in anguish, it collapsed to the ground. Spent and dying it made one last call to its maker before perishing before the electric beast.

Another arrived, this was a devourer of the mighty, its name not even to be uttered by those who hunted it in fear of attracting its attention. Its spines flexed on its back, turning a thick impenetrable black in response to its foes snarling. Lunging forward the devourer's jaws snapped at the Zinogre who leaped back in response, the large trail of upturned dirt indicating the speed required to pull this stunt from both parties. Echoing its frustration it surged forward yet again. This time it caught the Zinogre's tail. Upon pulling it backwards, Nergigante the devourer severed the spine of its new chew toy.

CARS IN CITIES AND TOWNS

An article by Robyn Fitzpatrick, Year 11

In July of 2021, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced that, as part of his 'Ten Point Plan for a green industrial revolution', the sale of new petrol and diesel cars and vans will be stopped by 2030, with all new cars and vans being completely zero-emission from 2035 onwards. While it is understandable to be concerned about the current climate crisis, it could be beneficial to our economy if this plan was reconsidered.

If all petrol and diesel cars are banned in cities and towns, it would vastly decrease the available means of transport, leaving people to either buy a new car, use public transport, or physically travel on foot/wheels, however this is not considerate of many minorities who reside in these places. Some people may not be able to afford a new car that abides by Boris Johnson's 'Ten Point Plan', and some people may not be able to afford public transport. A single bus journey will cost around £2 – to put this in perspective, let us say you have to get the bus to and from work 5 days a week, that is already £20 weekly. If you work for 50 weeks in a year, then you would roughly be spending £1000 annually simply travelling to and from work. Continuing on, assuming that everyone living in cities and towns is able to walk/cycle is ableist, as many people have health conditions that may not allow them to walk for long periods of time, or even at all. Currently there are 1.2 million wheelchair users in the UK alone, so this assumption is incorrect, and also is an incredibly selfish outlook. This is not to mention the fact that if Boris Johnson then expects people with disabilities to use public transport, he will be blatantly ignoring the physical difficulties with getting on and off the vehicle.

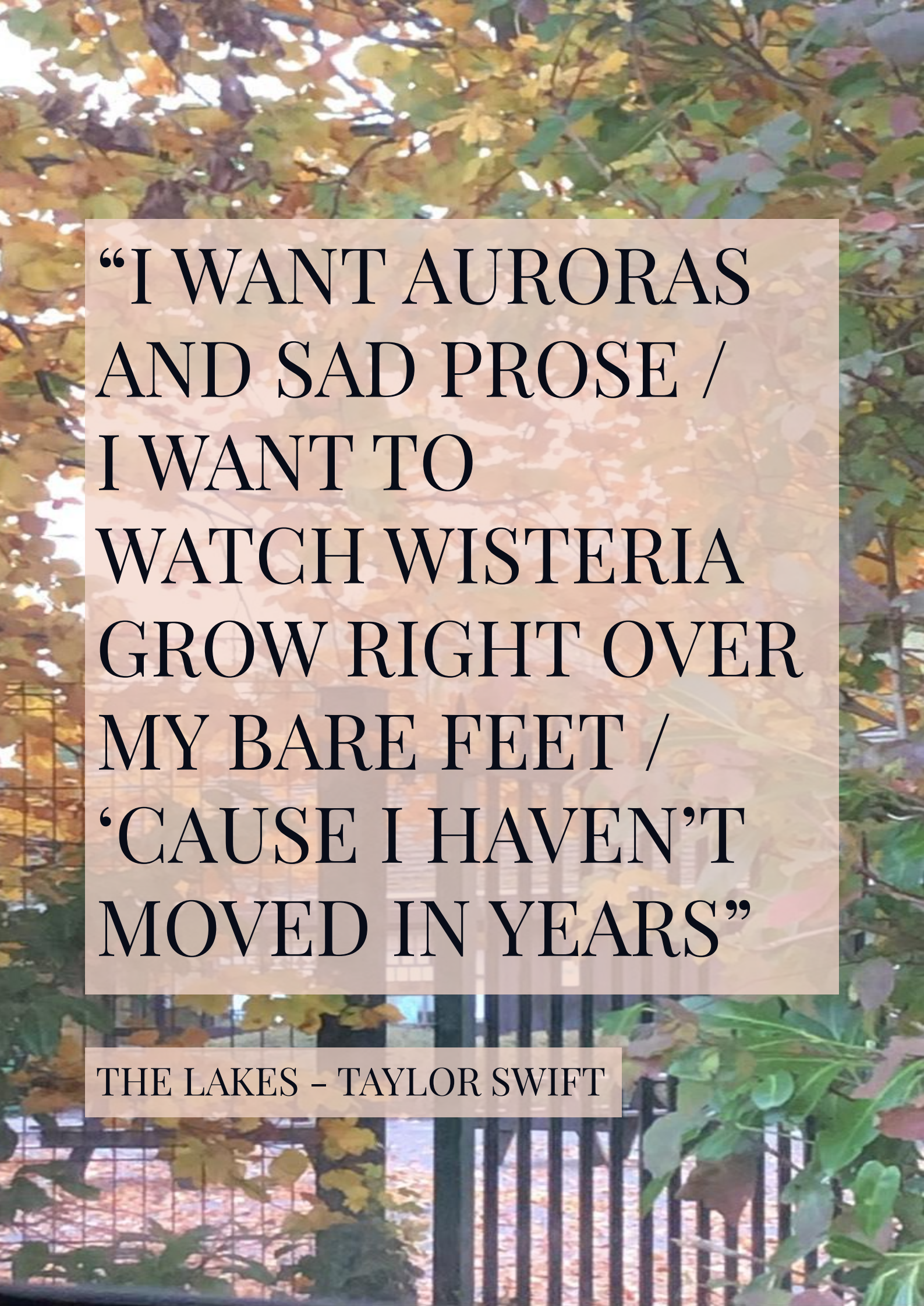
Despite all of this, if the Parliament decide to go through with the 'Ten Point Plan', then a counter solution could be put into place: even if all petrol and diesel cars are banned, lowering the price of public transport would make travel that little bit easier for the average person, and for people who may be unable to make changes in their schedule. Ultimately, towns and cities have higher employment rates, so while it would make sense to allow all types of vehicles in these areas, if the plan really does follow through, then people simply will find new, accessible jobs – resulting in the failure of our economy.

Cars are an essential part of living, especially in towns and cities. As technology advances and the population grows, we cannot expect everyone to suddenly drop their current means of transportation and buy into another vehicle. Overall it might be much more effective if the Government implemented safer and more environmentally friendly means of public transportation.

That being said, if you are not a part of the minority where you are physically unable to walk/cycle, then please be considerate of your actions. We have just the one planet to live on and only one chance to protect it however we can.



**Boris Johnson posing for photographs
with a branded electric taxi**

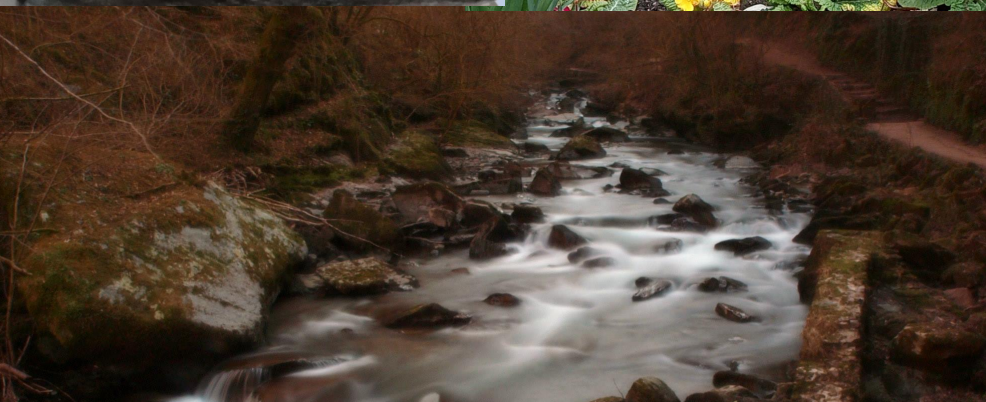
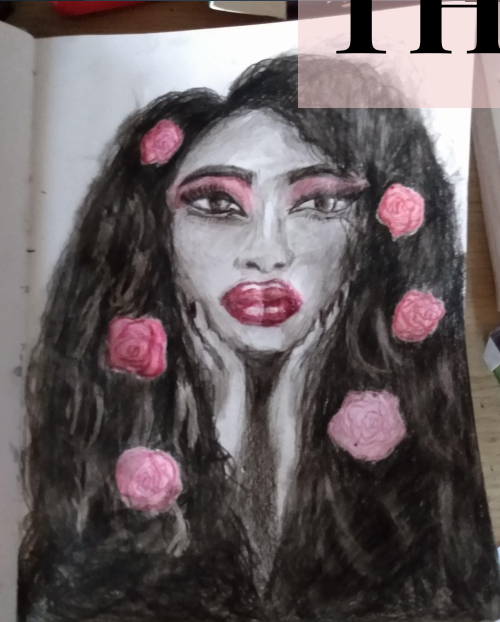
The background of the image is a photograph of autumn foliage. In the foreground, there are trees with leaves in shades of yellow, orange, and brown. Behind the foliage, a black metal fence with vertical bars is visible. The overall scene is a typical autumn landscape.

“I WANT AURORAS
AND SAD PROSE /
I WANT TO
WATCH WISTERIA
GROW RIGHT OVER
MY BARE FEET /
‘CAUSE I HAVEN’T
MOVED IN YEARS”

THE LAKES – TAYLOR SWIFT

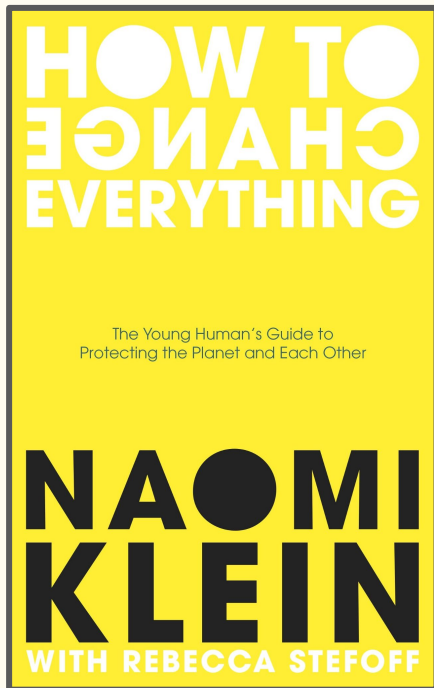


THE GALLERY



PHOTOS BY: Florence M, Sophie C, Laura C, Ella M & Mr Vilday

BRILLIANT BOOK REVIEWS

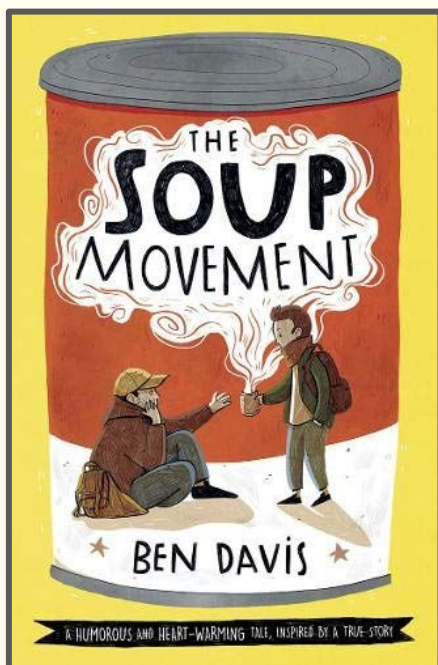


“How To Change Everything”

A book review by Laura Cooke, Year 7

This book is a great guide for any young person interested in Climate Change, as it address the subject in a simple but detailed way. It makes it clear what the issues are, and even has a toolkit for young climate activists, suggesting small but effective ways to make a positive impact on the Earth. The book also shows that although the UK and other richer countries may not be affected yet, there are many stories of climate change

making a big difference to people and environments around the world. It highlights many things that most people – and especially young people– don’t know that could be caused by Global Warming.



“The Soup Movement”

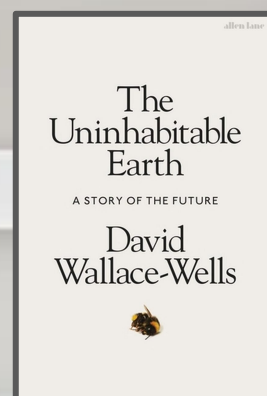
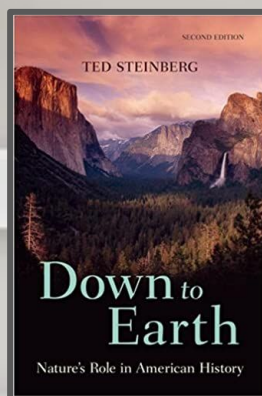
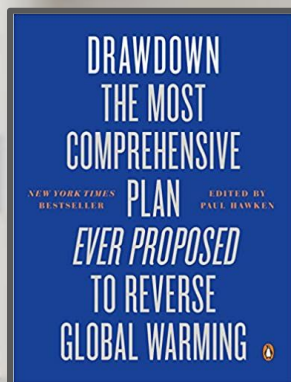
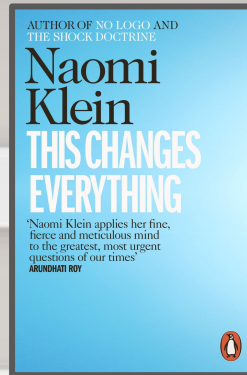
A book review by Ella Maisey, Year 7

Jordan has just finished his cancer treatment and is moving to a new city for a healthy new start. He starts getting strange looks as the new boy and his mum giving him soup for lunch every day doesn't help. One day he finds a homeless man and kindly gives him his soup and this happened repeatedly. One day Jordan’s

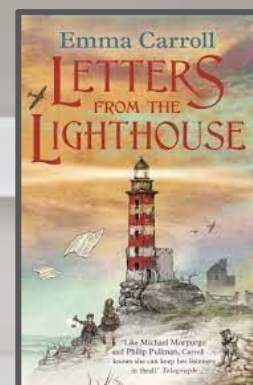
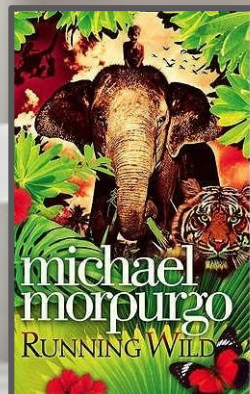
parents find out that he is giving away the soup and decide to help him start a business to make soup for the homeless. ‘The Soup Movement’ is about the power of kindness and how one small action can lead to something amazing.

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

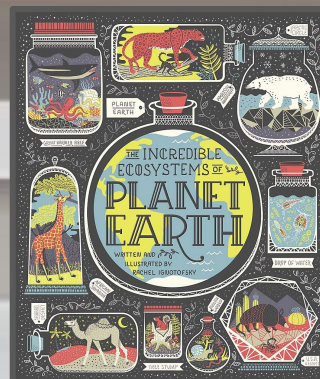
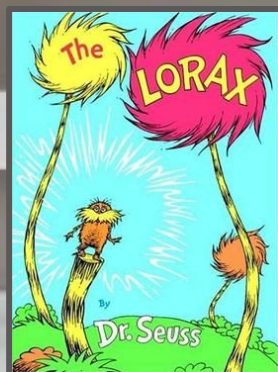
Year
12/13



11



9/10



7/8

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

MY CHEERLEADING ADVENTURE

By Lilly Ellis, Year 7

Hello, I'm Lilly. In February, I went to the American National Cheerleading Championship in Dallas. My team, Zirconium, from Kent Cheer Academy, won the NCA title for their division and had the highest collective score out of the 67 teams in their category. They were the first UK team to ever win the level 1 titles!

How did you feel when you won NCA?

Good question. I was at the point of feeling sick and I was so nervous and just looking at those trophies made me more sick. When we had got top three that's when I started to sulk, because I was so happy that we had at least got top three. Then it was top two and my hands were sweating. It was dead silence when they said "in 2nd place with a score of 98.1..." was the other team and I started to cry as they announced it wasn't us. I got so excited my teammates told me to *shhhhh*, so I didn't want the team to feel upset and I kept quiet but continued to cry. The other team walked off the stage with disappointed faces, but then they announced: "In first place is Kent Cheer Academy!" I beamed up and hugged Bay and we were all crying and it felt like we were the best cheerleaders in the whole world. We had bright faces and it was one of the best feelings I will ever experience and I still can't believe it's real.

What is it like being a part of Zirconium?

It is an amazing team, we had an amazing experience and I can't wait for more places to visit with them. We had a few arguments and disagreements but as we are a team, we have to let that slip past and support everyone and each other. We had loads of fun singing, dancing, cheering and I'm so happy this was a team. It was the best experience I will ever have and being with everyone made it so much better.

What was your favourite part of being away as a team?

Probably the memories because everything was fun out there and I miss it so much already, but my favourite part has to be winning of course !!!

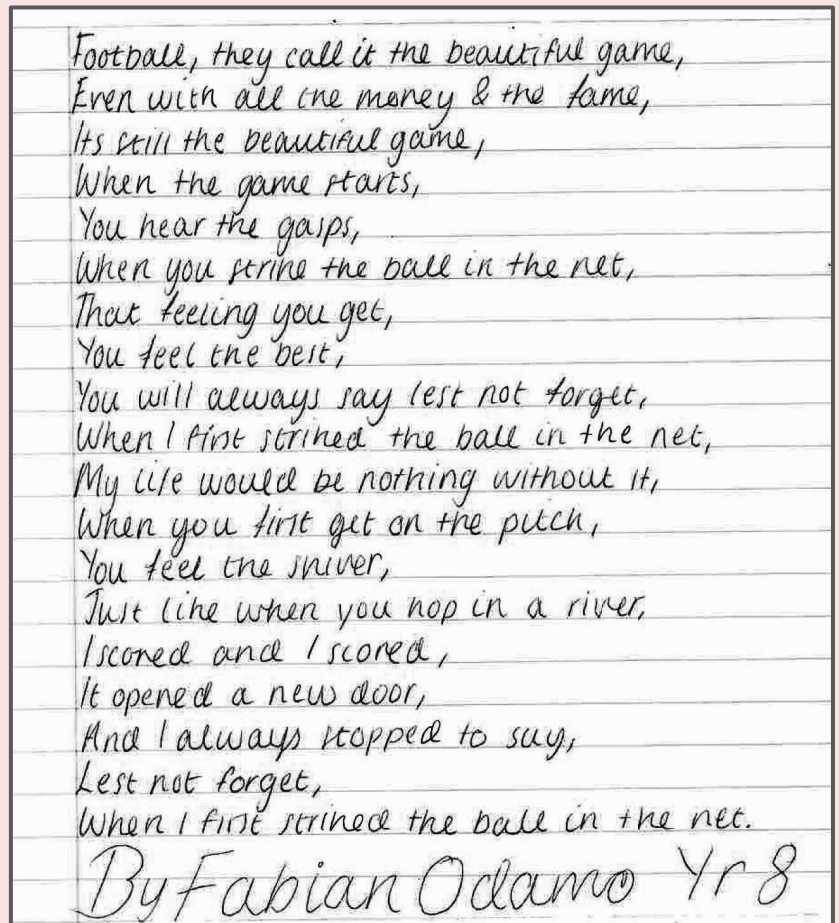


WORLD BOOK DAY TRIP

A group of students visited the Turing School in Eastbourne on 3rd March as part of a World Book Day event for all schools in the Swale Academies Trust. Students met with the awesome World Poetry Slam Champion, Harry Baker, and were encouraged to get creative with words themselves.

Ryan R in year 7 said of the event: *"I really liked listening to the poetry, which was interesting because it didn't rhyme. One of the poems called 'Paper World' really stuck in my head. I wrote a poem about my hobby, acting."*

We were really impressed by Fabian in year 8's poem about football:



A TRIP TO 'MACBETH' – SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE



48 students from Year 10 were lucky enough to visit Shakespeare's Globe Theatre on 17th March to see a production of 'Macbeth'. Students really got into the spirit of the show, cheering when tension was high; one student said: *"It was very exciting and engaging, especially getting into the fight scene at the end of the play."* Thank you to Miss Owen, Mrs Briscoe, Miss Sparrow and Mrs Bishop for making it such a brilliant day.

THE ADVENTURES OF ZHORON

LEORIC : THE RUINS OF THE FUTURE

A short story by Daniel Appleby, Year 13

Zhoron did not quite understand his purpose when he first met the Draconic mother. For what Rogel had told him, or not, she just stayed under the volcano. Zhoron at first thought that it was going to be some hermit or an old elf with a crooked nose and a boiling pot, not a dark elf lady who looked relatively healthy. As of now, Zhoron was sitting on the ground at the bottom of the volcano, he had placed all of his weapons and equipment down to the ground which consisted of the usual great axe, greatsword and two hand axes. No one likes to come unprepared.

He was still sitting besides the kindling purple flame when he felt the ground shake, as a massive dark and amethyst dragon walked up to him. On top of the head was the Draconic mother, draped in the same bat-shaped hood that Zhoron first saw her in.

“You finally going to let me out?” Zhoron asked.

“You could have left at any time.” She started, slowly walking off the dragon’s head and standing in front of Zhoron.

Zhoron stood up as well, stretching his legs ever so slightly so as not to pull a muscle; supposedly sitting down for so long had caused his legs to turn into spikes. He expected her to have something for him, instead it was something for him to do.

“I am aware, if I am not mistaken, that you were a warrior from a distant empire?”

“Yes, Rogal told you that.” Zhoron said in an annoyed tone.

“Good. There’s a Ruin from the south of this volcano. I think it would be of some use for you,” the Draconic Mother explained. “After all, I cannot go, the dragons need me and-”

“Hang on,” Zhoron walked slowly towards her. “You are well aware that you are a dark elf right? An ancient elf? Not a Dragonborn.”

She only looked at him for a few seconds before turning away, “Find the ruin. Answers lie in there.”

Confused and slightly amazed by the refusal to answer the question, Zhoron packed up his equipment and went on his way. When leaving the volcano, he did not expect to find an exit. He was amazed to see a huge gaping hole at the end of the tunnel, a bright gleaming light shining through the prison-made rocks. He climbed out by clenching onto a loose set of boulders and winced his eyes upon seeing the glazing sun. Xeras was in a constant state of sunshine with a mild case of burning ground.

He didn't see Rogal around, probably off on another gladiator fight, Zhoron did want to join but Rogal kept on warning him about Dragonborn's "durability" and how it is stronger than Zhoron's elfhood.

He did like the idea of the challenge though. *It's the thought that counts.*

With his weapons perfectly loaded, he set off for this ruin. He didn't actually know where it was, so by instincts he climbed up to a sturdy rock tower for a vantage point. He was genuinely surprised at how the Draconic mother was able to be accurate. He could see the ruined spaceship just across the endless desert land. He wondered, as the heated winds were beating on his bare back, *"How on earth did she know it was this close?"* Something about the Draconic mother seemed off about him. She was a dark elf on a planet filled with Dragonborns. Ok, for him to say that is quite ironic, since he was a High elf, but dark elves, even to regular elves, were rare. Dark elves were almost the stuff of legends. Now to see one, on a foreign planet, filled with Dragon-like humanoids And she even controlled a dragon.

Zhoron couldn't think about that any further however, his mind instead switched to the ruined ship. He climbed down and trekked forward. The ship was buried underneath the rocks of sand, drenching its two wings. The left one was covered and the right was crooked in the air. There were lines, which could have been the energy transfers, that were now just grey, dashed lines. Zhoron didn't know where to start, so he logically went to the back, hopefully a back entrance was there. Usually, a back door to a Keliwan ship was sealed shut, but staying on Xeras for a while did give Zhoron the nice ability of being able to pull it from its sealed socket. He clenched the edges and yanked it down, almost ripping it off its hinges.

It almost felt surreal. A prehistoric looking High Elf with axes and blades in a futuristic hallway with dead computers that probably worked with ecstasy and life. He stumbled, trying not to break anything. It was dark, only sudden glimpses of light that flickered from the broken rows of bulbs in the air.

The further he walked the darker it became and the harder it was to see. So hard that Zhoron didn't notice that he tripped over and landed himself into a room that had a massive blue table in the centre, technological lines flowing straight through, blue like the ocean. He got up and looked around, and a little bit of familiarity came back to him. He tapped on the screen, it worked like clockwork, and a number of screens and buttons presented itself. Zhoron feared he had been on Xeras for so long he forgot how to work this technology. He clicked on the file that said "Aries Division" and an audio recording presented itself.

He clicked play.

"The dark elves had been gone for so many years. Ever since the beginning of the Keliwan empire, dark elves have been presented as god-life figures. But here, on this planet, we found one. We finally found one. Her name is Sharnana. She's-" The audio recording immediately cut off.

"I knew it." Zhoron mumbled to himself.

The Meopham Family

The Meopham Family

We are:

Resilient
Reflective
Resourceful
Responsive



“We are a big family that helps everyone in need! If anyone needs help, they know they can ask anyone else.” *Sophie*

“At Meopham, we allow people to flourish, even under pressure.” *Ashe*

“This school really makes you feel like you’re part of a community.” *Reece*

“Our teachers are so supportive and we are lucky to be given rewards when we do things well.” *Penny*

“Everyone is equal and no matter your age or where you come from, we are all valued” *Laura*

“In our Meopham family, we make sure everyone can learn in a happy environment. It’s a really positive environment.” *Stella*

Run for Refugees

Maisie Davidson, Year 7

On Friday 25th of March 2022, students and staff participated in a sponsored 'run for refugees' in support of the Ukrainians escaping the Russia-Ukraine war. The run was organised by Miss Biscombe who said: "I'm amazed by the number of people who have participated in this event and the amount of money that was raised for the cause: over £1,350. Participants will be running laps of the field each equivalent to half a mile and will get to choose the amount they do."

The laps included running, jogging, and walking around the school field, plus distance rowing, to raise money. Earlier in the day, Mrs Vince's refugee bake sale raised over £250 which was all donated to the same cause. The race began at around 3.30 and the fastest first lap was completed at 3.32. "It's actually quite difficult" said Harry Gower, Year 7, after his first lap.

The run was also completed by various teachers, such as Miss Holmes, who completed the event with Ms Graham. Miss Holmes said: "The PE department are super proud to see so many students taking part in fundraising for such a great cause and it was great to see the rowing machines out in full force". "It's been a long time since we have all come together in such an event; it was amazing to see," said Mrs Vince who catered for the event.

I personally found it so inspiring that many of the runners found the motivation in themselves to run, walk, jog or row and how they pushed themselves to complete more.

The event closed at 4.30pm and the most laps completed was thirteen.

Congratulations to all students and teachers who participated in this event, we are all so proud of you for your efforts :)



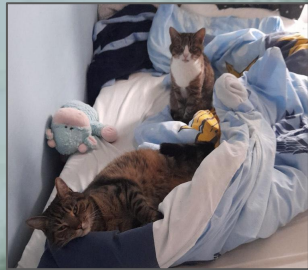
10 TIPS FOR GREENER LIVING

Sophie Chable, Year 8

1. Exchange short car journeys for walking or cycling.
2. Purchase items in paper packages and refill your water bottle, rather than buying more plastic.
3. Use LED light bulbs because they give off less wasteful energy and also don't contain harmful chemicals.
4. Grow your own food and crops where possible: England is a brilliant place to grow lettuce, tomatoes, onions and much more.
5. Plant trees and other greenery for a better environment and to promote absorption of carbon dioxide.
6. Reduce the use of chemicals, for example check the ingredients in your hair products and makeup.
7. Have reusable items, such as a canvas bag for shopping.
8. Turn off lights and power outlets when they aren't being used.
9. Maintain a healthy ecosystem by volunteering to clean up your communities.
10. **AND PICK UP YOUR RUBBISH AROUND SCHOOL!**



THE MEOPHAM (PET) FAMILY



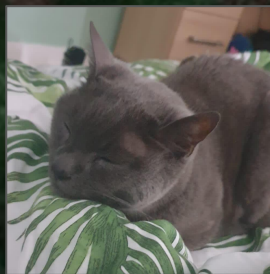
**Amber and Woody
- Zach C**



Pumpkin - Isabella L



**Frankie Froodles -
Isabella R**



Silver - Paige G



Hadley - Jess T



Marley - Grace W



Loki - Ashe R



Molly - Ella M



**Pixie the Third -
Madi N**



Ralph - Florence M

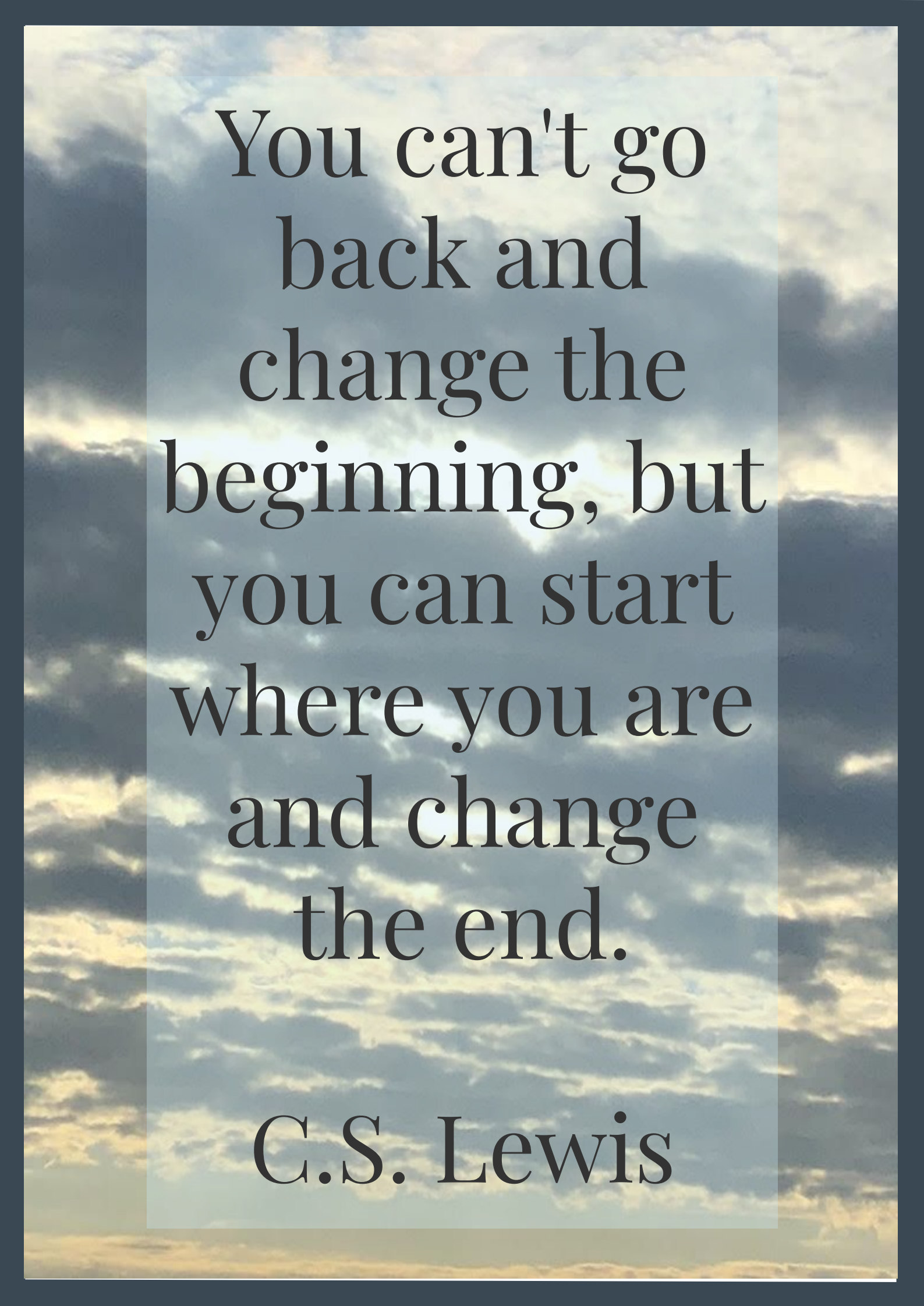


**Simba & Nala -
Sophie C**



Tom - Robyn F

**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.**



You can't go
back and
change the
beginning, but
you can start
where you are
and change
the end.

C.S. Lewis