

BALERNO COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

BALERNO TIMES

**BEST CELEBRITY
HALLOWEEN COSTUMES**



HALLOWEEN CRIME

**BLACK HISTORY
MONTH**

- *The history of slavery in Edinburgh*
- *Britain's first black queen*

REVIEWS:

- *Food*
- *TV*
- *Film*
- *Books*

HOW TO: CARVE A PUMPKIN

Litter at Balerno

- *featuring an interview with Mr Ferguson*

B:M
CELEBRATING OUR SISTERS & THE MATRARCHES OF MOVEMENTS



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by Hans Crawshaw

Editor's Note

Welcome to the Balerno Times' Halloween Edition.

This jam-packed issue marks a full year since we launched the school magazine, written and edited by pupils, and what a year it's been! We have seen the team grow to twenty regular contributors, with more behind the scenes helping edit articles and arrange the layout.

This term's issue includes articles celebrating Black History Month, as well as a wonderful listicle on things to do in Edinburgh this Autumn. There's lots to peak your interest: from tips and tricks for carving pumpkins, to recipes and reviews. There is something for everyone at Balerno to enjoy.

We would like to thank and congratulate all of our contributors for their hard work in helping to put together this issue, and all their efforts over the last year.

However you are spending the holidays, we hope you stay safe, relax and have fun. Happy reading!

The Balerno Times Team





1

YEAR

WEAR

RED

SHOW
RACISM
THE
RED
CARD

DAY 23

Remember to wear red Friday 13th October and donate
via cash or ParentPay!

QUEERIES

Thank you for all the questions popped into the GSA question box! We have chosen a selection to answer this month, but don't worry if your question isn't answered here- we will continue to answer your Queeries every month.

If you'd like to submit a Queerie you can do so [here](#):

The GSA meets every Wednesday lunchtime in **M1** - all LGBTQ+ people and allies are welcome!

You can find information and support at the [LGBT Youth Scotland website](#).

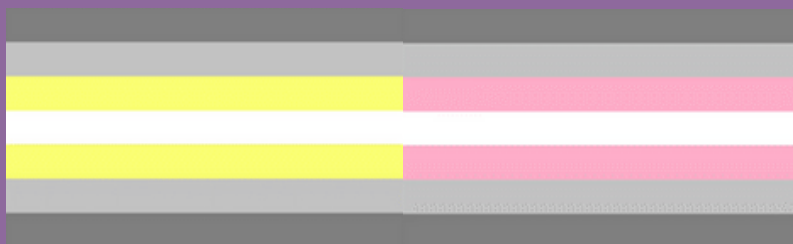


Q: What is demi girl/boy?

A. Feeling demigender e.g. demigirl or demiboy means you feel a partial but not full connection to that gender identity. These identities are both part of the nonbinary umbrella which includes people whose gender identity does not fall under the accepted gender binary of male and female.

Q: What if I don't know what my sexuality or gender identity is?

A. There are so many terms and labels now for people who express their sexuality and gender in different ways that it can be easy to fall into the trap of feeling like you have to label yourself. Sexuality and gender identity are not fixed- they grow and develop as you and your personality does. We aren't the same as we were when we were 6 - and thank goodness for that! So don't worry if you don't know. There's no need to put yourself into a box.



Demigender

Demigirl



Demiboy

Duke of Edinburgh Reporters

Katie Morris and Maddie Rennie take us through their qualifier expedition.



Day 1

After sorting out all of our kit at the school and making sure we were all organised, we set off in mini busses and were driven up to the Trossachs where our expedition would begin. Once we arrived at the car park our assessors gave us a brief talk about our route for the day and made sure we were clear on our final destination.

We set off with high spirits and confidence. Whilst we were walking, we played games such as truth or dare, eye spy and never have I ever which kept us entertained for a while. However, after we stopped for lunch and had set off again our spirits were dropping a little. So, we played some music on one of our phones to keep spirits up for the remainder of the day. Unfortunately, there was a bit of a downpour towards the end of our walk but we made it to the campsite eventually and managed to get our tent up in the few minutes of sunshine before the rain started again.

The remainder of day one was pretty relaxed as we were all rather tired.

We had our dinner, got settled and enjoyed a game of cards in our tents before heading to sleep.

Day 2

After a rough and rather cold night's sleep, we got up and ready to head out for day two of our expedition. Once we had dismantled our tents and distributed the shared kit we set off group by group. We walked to Aberfoyle where we met with our assessors and filled up on water before beginning our journey. Day two was the longest day and at some parts tensions were definitely running high! After a few wrong turns and somehow ending up at the visitor centre of go ape we managed to correct ourselves and got on the right path. Although day two was definitely the hardest day, the beautiful scenery we saw made up for it and we enjoyed stopping, taking it in and taking pictures. After what felt like a long, long time we made it to the campsite and were rewarded with a beautiful view of Loch Katrina as we were camping right next to it.

SILVER

Plus an extra **6** months in the Volunteering, or the longer of the Physical or Skills sections if you haven't got Bronze.

Volunteering 6 months

Physical one section for 6 months, the other for 3 months

Skills other for 3 months

Expedition 3 days 2 nights

Day 3

By day 3 we were all tired but also keen and excited to get on with our final adventure of the weekend. The walk was relatively shorter and flatter than the previous days. We took in the lovely views of the loch and the forrest. With only 8k to walk everyone was feeling very positive. On the final stretch we played some more music and found a new energy as we neared the end of our adventure. It was the best feeling when we saw the van in the car park and got the celebrate our achievement of finishing out DofE silver award with the other groups.



LITTER AT BALERNO

By Joshua McLauchlan

Litter. This is a rising problem around the high school.

Litter is dangerous for animals to eat. People have even seen birds try to eat the litter after lunch and some students have seen others just throwing litter around, not bothering to put it in the bin.

At Balerno High School we try to be the best possible people we can be, but pupils are not living up to this expectation.

Mr Ferguson and other members of staff are appalled by the amount of litter around the high school.

Mr Ferguson, Deputy Head at Balerno stated: "Now that we are a rights respecting school, we should be taking more responsibility."

Did you know that it takes one month for a paper bag to biodegrade, or that a banana peel takes two years to biodegrade? Glass bottles never biodegrade!

Earth has a goal to become as environmentally friendly as possible. Let's all stand together, and even though we are just one school, we should lead by example. Just think, if every school does this, we can start to change the world. All it takes is one person.



- **94% of people are annoyed at others for dropping litter even though they do it themselves.**
- **48% of people admit to dropping litter.**
- **Also, 95% of UK vets say they have treated animals injured by litter!**



Black History Month

Black represents resilience, red denotes the blood spilt during the slave trade, yellow is optimism and justice, and green symbolises the rich greenery of Africa.

Edinburgh's Role in the Slavery Era

by Georgina Graham

The time of slavery was a very unhappy time for everyone who was affected by it. Families were torn apart, people were worked and worked and worked, getting nothing in return, not even life itself. Yes, they survived... for an average of four years after being introduced to slavery, but from that point forward, they weren't living. There was no quality of life. The only thing that kept some of them going was the hope that one day, they could be reunited by their long-lost relatives. However, as each day grew more and more difficult, the ability to retain that hope became inevitably less and less possible to achieve. Although they persevered and tried their absolute best, they were fighting a losing battle. The living conditions – or might I say, the surviving conditions – were horrendous. Can you imagine sleeping, crammed in with lots of individuals all in the same boat as you, chained up, on the concrete, wearing the same clothes you were in when you were snatched. The list goes on about these torturous conditions. The point is that you can't imagine it. You may be able to try to guess what it was like, but whatever you are thinking the worst that could happen is, the reality was ten times more horrible. It's impossible for people like us who have live in the 21st century to actually understand and appreciate what actually happened but we can make sure such atrocities never happens again by spreading awareness about it. Some of the people who were behind all of this were, in fact from Edinburgh. They played a large role in how Edinburgh is today, economy and appearance wise.

The towering statue of Henry Dundas, 1st Viscount Melville, stands proudly in St. Andrew Square. As you look at it, you'll notice buildings that were once owned by Scots who amassed wealth through the transatlantic slave trade. Dundas, with his immense power, used his influence to delay the abolition of the slave trade until 1807. While chattel slavery was abolished in most British colonies in 1834, it came at a cost and the formerly enslaved were subjected to an unpaid apprenticeship program. On the 19th of September 2023, the update was announced that the plaque was removed after a campaign of relatives of Dundas. They said that he was "instrumental in deferring the abolition of the Atlantic slave trade". Sir Geoff Palmer claimed that the writing on the plaque was "inappropriate and does not provide a factual description" which made the Black Lives Matter movement decide to remove it.



Henry Dundas' statue

Dundas House, the magnificent headquarters of the Royal Bank of Scotland, was once the residence of Lawrence Dundas, cousin of Henry Dundas. Lawrence Dundas owned plantations in Grenada and Dominica. The bronze statue outside the bank immortalises the 4th Earl of Hopetoun, brother of Henry Dundas' second wife and vice governor of the bank. He played a role in ending the two-year slave revolution led by Julien Fedon in Grenada. The suppression of this revolution prolonged slavery in Grenada for nearly 40 years.

Frederick Douglass was born into slavery in Maryland in 1818 and escaped to New York in 1838. He became a powerful speaker and fought for freedom alongside his family. During his visit to Edinburgh in 1846-7, he gave a famous speech at the Assembly Rooms, sharing the story of Madison Washington, an enslaved man fighting for freedom. Douglass also pressured the Free Church to return funds raised from slave states. He lived at 33 Gilmore Place and his efforts raised awareness for the abolitionist cause.

Bute House, the official residence of the First Minister of Scotland, has historical ties to the slave trade. It was one of the grand houses in Charlotte Square and was once home to John Innes Crawford, who inherited his father's plantation and enslaved people in Jamaica. Sir John Sinclair of Ulster also resided there and claimed compensation for enslaved people on his estates in St. Vincent. Charles Oman, who later owned the property, had connections to Jamaica as well.

In 1740, there was a servant named Oronoco who lived in the Writer's Museum with Lady Stair. African men and women also held high positions at the Scottish Royal Court in the 16th century before racial slavery created the

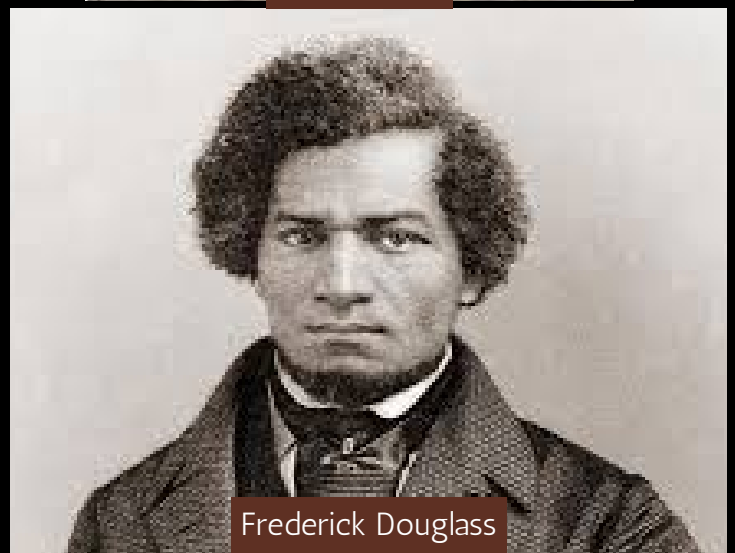
concept of 'race'. From the late 17th to early 19th century, many people of African or Indian descent lived in Edinburgh, often serving as 'exotic' servants for the wealthy. Jock's Lodge was a gathering place for African/Caribbean people, and there are records of an African man being baptised in the Canongate in the 1680s. Malvina Wells, who was born enslaved, worked as a 'lady's maid' in Edinburgh.

Even though the Tumbling Lassie case in 1687 declared slavery illegal in Scotland, it was still considered legal on Scottish soil.

Advertisements appeared in newspapers for the sale of enslaved people and rewards for capturing runaway slaves. An advert from the Edinburgh Evening Courant on February 13, 1727, described a runaway named Ann, a 18-year-old black woman, wearing a green gown and a brass collar engraved with "Gustavus Brown in Dalkieth his Negro, 1726." The reward for apprehending her was two guineas and necessary charges.



Bute House



Frederick Douglass

Three significant cases were heard at the Court of Session involving runaway slaves seeking freedom. *Montgomery v Sheddan* (1756), *Spens v Dalrymple* (1768), and *Knight v. Wedderburn* (1778). James Montgomery, also known as 'Shanker,' escaped to Edinburgh but unfortunately passed away before his case was decided. David Spens, known as 'Black Tom,' sued his 'owner' Dr. David Dalrymple for wrongful arrest and became free when Dalrymple died. Joseph Knight, influenced by the *Somerset v. Stewart* case, successfully argued against the status of slavery in Scotland.

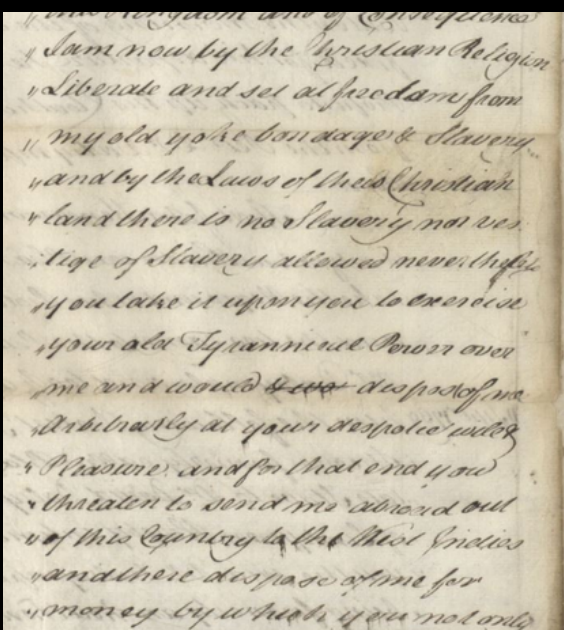
In 1780, Charles Edmonstone, a Scotsman, traveled to Demerara (Guyana) and married Helen Reid, also known as Princess Minda. It was common for Amerindians and African people to work together and have families. Charles utilised his forest tracking skills learned from his Amerindian heritage to search for runaway slaves. In 1817, Charles brought his family back to Scotland, but their marriage faced challenges when Minda/Helen refused to free one of Charles' favoured female slaves. The specifics of their relationship and the issue it caused are



John Edmonstone

uncertain. Minda/Helen later struggled with opium addiction and lived in seclusion. John Edmonstone, an enslaved man from Guyana, joined Charles in Scotland in 1817. He taught taxidermy at Edinburgh University and even taught Charles Darwin. Darwin learned about South American flora and fauna from Edmonstone, which influenced his Theory of Evolution. While their friendship was positive, Darwin's later work propagated racist beliefs. A plaque honouring Edmonstone was created in 2009 in the style of anti-slavery porcelain brooches and placed at Boteco do Brasil.

In conclusion, the history of slavery in Scotland is a complex and often overlooked aspect of the country's past. The story of John Edmonstone highlights the contributions of enslaved individuals and their influence on scientific and intellectual development. While his friendship with Charles Darwin was positive, it is important to acknowledge that even influential figures like Darwin propagated racist beliefs in their later work. The commemorative plaque glorifying Edmonstone serves as a reminder of the need to confront and learn from the dark chapters of history.



Records from the Spens vs Darympole case

BRITAIN'S FIRST BLACK QUEEN

by Aimee Robertson

Queen Charlotte is believed by historians to be the first mixed-race Queen of Britain.

Queen Charlotte, the German royal who married King George III, is believed by many historians to have been of African descent. Even though she was German it is believed that she is descended from a black branch of the Portuguese Royal Family.

Queen Charlotte was intelligent leader, she spoke multiple languages – including German, English and French. She was also a gifted musician.

She was known for her love of giving Kangaroos to close friends, as well as her un-normally fast engagement to King George III. She met and then married him after only six hours!

Queen Charlotte is well known for her establishment of several orphanages and hospitals. She was also a strong advocate for women's rights and education.

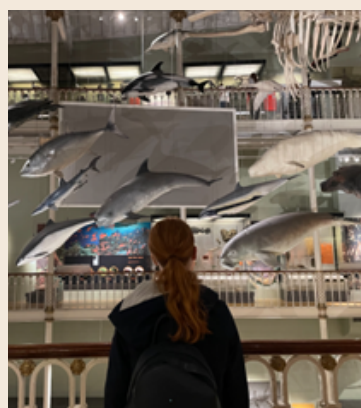


TOP TEN THINGS TO DO IN EDINBURGH THIS AUTUMN

By Top-Ten Seasonal Recommendations

📷ALL IMAGES BELONG TO BETHANY BEWS, TESSA RAMSAY AND ERIN CAMPBELL 📷

Wondering what to do this spooky season? We've ranked the top ten things to do in the city centre this autumn. From ghost hunting in the old town to sipping soup in Greyfriars Kirk yard this list has all you need to make the most of this autumn in Edinburgh.



10. National Museum of Scotland

The national museum of Scotland has thousands of collections from historic Scotland to ancient Egypt. As well as famous fashion pieces from designers such as Vivienne Westwood, Alexander McQueen and Zandra Rhodes. The museum is also home to the first cloned animal Dolly the sheep.



Admission is free, making it a great place to spend time away from the autumn weather. The current exhibition is Beyond the Black Dress, on display until the 29th of October, under 16s go free.

9. Dean Village

The dean village is one of Scotland's oldest villages and was originally used for water mills. It was built in 1200s and the mills were active up until the late nineteenth century, the remains of the mills can still be seen between the buildings.



Now the village has many cafes and shops to visit, as well as the modern art gallery being a short walk away which has free entry for the public.

8. The Marshmallow Lady

The marshmallow lady is the world's best marshmallow shop since 2010. It is a café that sells hundreds of different flavours of marshmallows every year and hot chocolate. Each day there is five different marshmallows flavours which can be added to a hot chocolate.



A marshmallow and hot chocolate drink costs £6 and they also sell donuts, coffee as well as milkshakes. There is seating inside making it a great place to meet friends for an afternoon snack. They also offer free marshmallow tasters and the owner's dog Pepe can be seen around the café.

7. Botanic Gardens

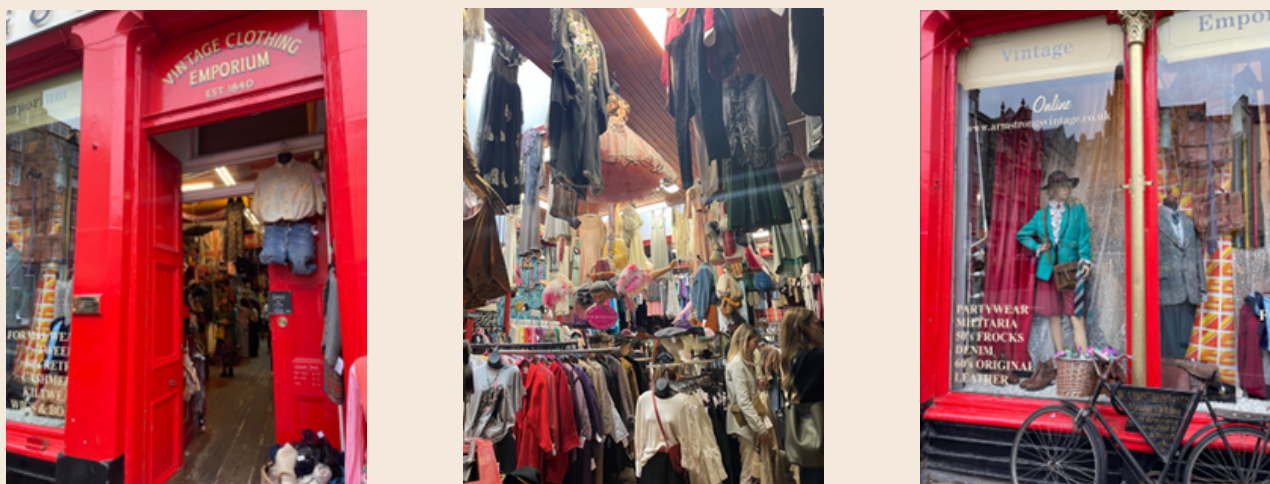
The Royal Botanic Gardens are 72 acres of land filled with over 10,000 plants, and several glass houses. The gardens were founded in 1640 and they are the best place to see the changing leaves of the season.



Admission to the gardens is free but access to the greenhouse costs £4, under 16s go free.

6. Armstrong & Son Vintage Clothing Emporium

Established in 1840 Armstrong & son vintage sells quality second-hand vintage clothes from the 1960s to the early 2000s. Located on the Grassmarket, Teviot Place, Clerk Street, and on Cockburn Street.



The Grassmarket shop features many vintage items such as signs, statues and even an Egyptian mummy case. Images taken in the Grassmarket shop.

5. National Gallery of Scotland and Portrait Gallery

The Portrait Gallery is located on Queen Street, and it features many portraits of Scots by various artists. Opened in 1889 the Gallery is free to enter and is a great place to spend an afternoon. Images on the left taken in the portrait gallery.



The National Gallery of Scotland is located on the mound, the gallery holds Scotland's national collection of art containing Scottish and international art from the beginning of the renaissance to the start of the 20th century. Images on the right are taken in National Gallery with its iconic red walls.

4. Union of Genius

Union of genius is a soup café where the menu changes daily. The menu consists of 6 soup choices and 2 choices of salad.



They have over 100 recipes for soups and baking which many are gluten free and also offer vegan options.

3. Pumpkin spice at Starbucks on Princes Street for views of the castle

What's more autumnal than a pumpkin spice latte? Starbucks on Princes Street has some of the best views of the castle making it a great place to meet friends or study as Wi-Fi is free.



This year's autumn menu features the classic pumpkin spice in latte, Frappuccino, cold brew and iced latte. The autumn menu also includes salted maple & caramel in cold brew and iced latte as well as seasonal flavoured baking.

2. Armchair Books

Armchair books is a family run second-hand book shop located on West Port. The books are organized alphabetically and the further in the book shop you go the older the books become with the oldest books from the 18th century.



The shop itself is a labyrinth with narrow corridors so it may be hard to move around when busy making not as accessible to people with mobility conditions, but the shop is able to accommodate if you send them an email.

1. Ghost Bus tour

The Ghost bus tour is comedy-horror tour. The bus explores the city's horrific history as well as some ghost stories along the way. The haunting history of Edinburgh's old town and the possibility of encounter a ghost makes the bus tour the perfect Halloween activity for this spooky season.



The tour last 1 hour and 15 minutes, tours start at 6, 7:30 and 9. Tickets cost £15 for under 15s and adult cost £21.



THE HISTORY OF HALLOWEEN

By Sophie Fotheringham

Halloween originated around 2000 years ago, when Celtic people in Europe celebrated the end of harvest and the start of a new year in a festival called Samhain.

The festival also signalled the beginning of winter which the Celts associated with death.

During Samhain lots of sacrifices were made. Crops and animals were burned in bonfires so people would be protected from evil. Offerings were also left out for mischievous spirits that had come to visit.

In the 1700s and 1800s, unmarried women performed rituals on Halloween in hopes of finding a husband. The women looking for husbands used to throw apple peels over their shoulders in hopes of seeing their future husband's initials in the shapes the peels made when they fell. The women also participated in competitions of apple bobbing; they thought whoever won would be married first.

When religion changed in Old England and Ireland the people continued to associate the end of October with the dead coming back. They set out gifts and food to please hungry spirits and, as the tradition got older, people started dressing in creepy costumes

to go out and beg for treats. They called this "mumming" and it was very similar to the trick-or-treating we do today.

trick or treating became extremely popular by 1950, which was when Halloween became a national event. Over 179 million Americans celebrate the holiday and spend over \$9.1 billion each year on the event. Lots of people spend their money on costumes, decorations and sweets.



CRIME ON HALLOWEEN

By Gracie Hurst

On the spooky and exciting night of October 31st, children and families go out scavenging for sugary bliss; but do they know what is lurking in the shadows?

On a night when the majority of people are out in the streets, one of the most dangerous criminal offences is reckless driving. Halloween parties involving alcohol and dancing can lead to driving home in the pitch black, not fully sober, and with mobs of people on the streets. It's a disaster waiting to happen.

In the UK, overall crime rates go up to 40-50% on Halloween and recently there has been an increase in property damage. According to 'Aviva', malicious damage claims increased by 21% near the end of October and start of November. This is partly due to misfits and hooligans finding it hilarious to TP (toilet paper) a house or throw eggs at the neighbours whose dog barks far too much.

However, another one of these more serious crimes is breaking and entering. When parents take their children out to 'trick-or-treat' they turn the lights off, go to lock the doors, but the children run off, so they end up forgetting and run after them. The house is now empty. On a normal day this would maybe be ok but on this particular night, this house is now easy prey for a thief.

As Halloween is fast approaching, be careful out on the streets, make sure the doors are locked if you leave the house for any reason, and if you don't participate in the celebrations of Halloween but end up being out on the streets be vigilant and wary of drivers. You never know what is lurking in the shadows.



The Night of Halloween

by Campbell Menzies

Once upon a time, in the old haunted house on Elm Street, a group of high school friends decided to have a Halloween party. Little did they know, the house was cursed!

As the night went on, strange things started happening. Objects moved on their own, eerie whispers filled the air, and shadows danced in the corners. The friends soon realized they were not alone. They had stumbled upon a portal to the spirit world.

They had to work together to find a way to close the portal before it unleashed the spirits into the world. With bravery and quick thinking, they managed to seal the portal and save themselves from the ghostly realm.

From that day on, the old haunted house on Elm Street remained quiet, but the friends would always remember the spine-chilling to Halloween night they spent together.

The end!



DIFFERENT
RELAXED
STRONG
FIERCE
OPTIMISTIC
PASSIONATE
ANXIOUS

FUN
LONELY
POSITIVE
ADVENTUROUS
YAPPY

THIS IS ME

POETRY COMPETITION FOR 11-18 YEAR-OLDS

EXTROVERTED
FEARLESS
LOYAL
MISUNDERSTOOD
GRATEFUL
STRONG

OK
FINE
TOUGH
DURE
SAD
WISE
CHILL
BRAVE
KIND

STRESSED
AMBITIOUS
ANGRY
PROUD
INTROVERTED

Hand your entry in by: 20th October

For more info see: Ms Brown (F32)

- YOU COULD BE PUBLISHED IN A REAL BOOK
- £50 AND A TROPHY FOR THE TOP 5 POETS
- POEMS CAN BE IN ANY STYLE NO LINE LIMIT

CELEBRITY HALLOWEEN OUTFITS

With the spooky season approaching the celebs are planning their looks for various party's and events, these are some of the outfits from past years.



Last year at the Casamigos party in LA Paris Hilton dressed in her iconic outfit of Sailor Moon. The red, white, and sparkling look made her outfit stand out from the crowd.



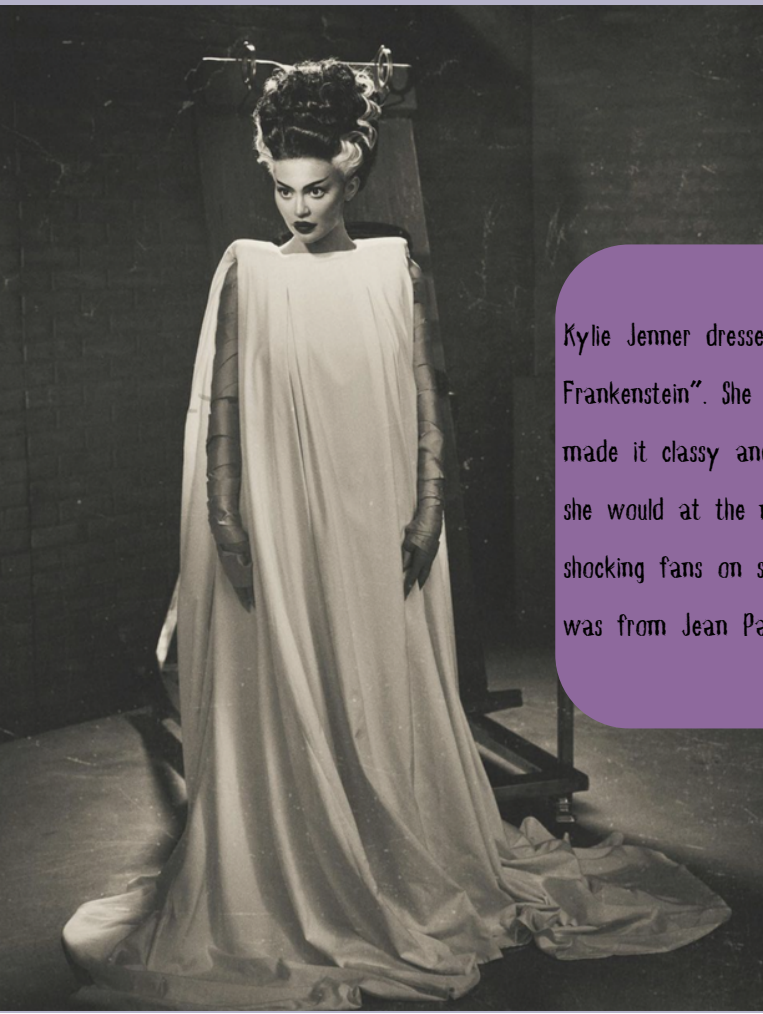
Last year Lizzo chose Marge Simpson as her Halloween outfit, her huge hair and sparky dress sparked a TikTok frenzy people following and dressing as a Simpson.



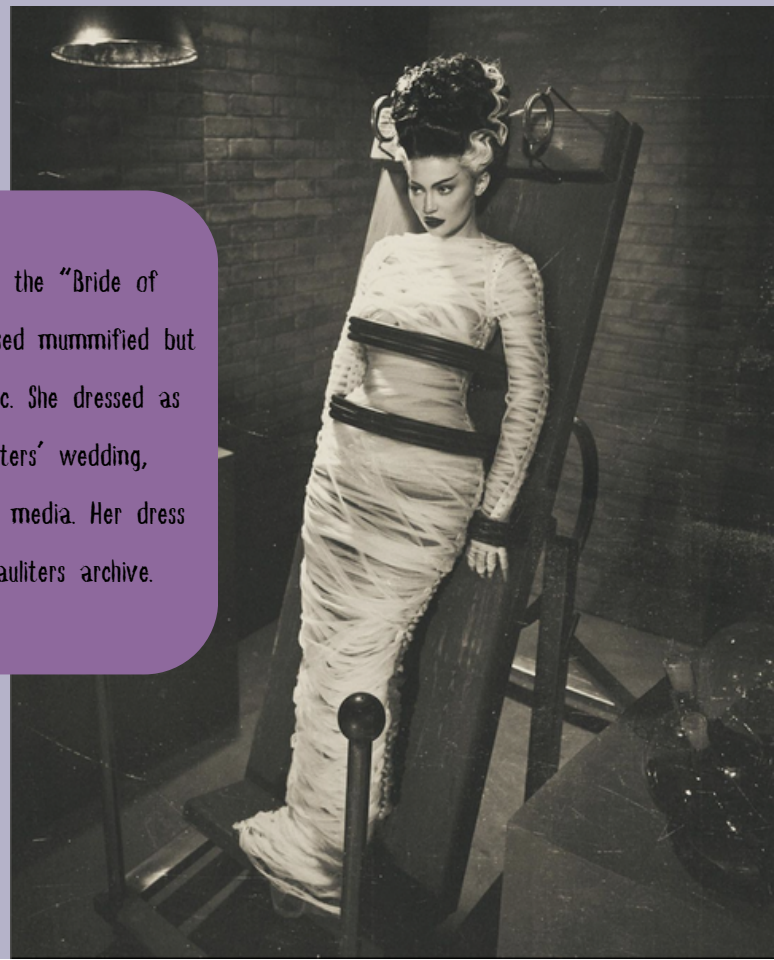
In 2021, Lizzo again shocked many fans due to her Star Wars inspired costume of Baby Yoda. However she out did herself that year as she made 4 different costumes for 1 weekend. Such as dressing as a character from the series Squid Games.



Harrison Ford can always be relied upon to dress up. The actor has gone trick or treating as a pod of peas, a nun and a glam rocker!



Kylie Jenner dressed as the "Bride of Frankenstein". She dressed mummified but made it classy and chic. She dressed as she would at the monsters' wedding, shocking fans on social media. Her dress was from Jean Paul gaultiers archive.



Reviews

Book of the Month

by Morven Cooper



Title: The Brothers Hawthorne.
Author: Jennifer Lynn Barnes.
Rating: 4/5

Review

This book is the spin-off of the bestselling Inheritance Games trilogy - which was also fantastic - so when this book came out in August I was really excited. This book is told in the perspective of Jameson Hawthorn and Grayson Hawthorn, both completely different storylines just happening at the same time, but both were definitely as intriguing as each other. This book had a cosy mystery feel which I think makes it a perfect Autumn 2023 read. I highly recommend this book; I thoroughly enjoyed it and was a fantastic addition to the Inheritance Games universe.



HALLOWEEN TV SPECIALS YOU SHOULD WATCH THIS SPOOKY SEASON

By Lewis Gunn

**“Epidemiology” Community
Season 2 Episode 6
Available on Netflix
Qualitometer 9/10
Spookometer 5/10**



This spooky episode of one of my favourite shows has a very unique element. It involves supernatural elements whilst still being completely canon (in the main continuity) with zombies, ABBA songs and funny moments.

This is a great spooky episode for Halloween.

**Any Brooklyn 99 Halloween
Heist Episode
Available on Netflix
Qualitometer 10/10
Spookometer 3/10**



These charming episodes have loads to love about them from a stellar cast to the Ocean's Eleven style montages.

With many iterations of the heist and many winners over the years, it may not be the scariest of specials but the Halloween spirit is definitely there.

Andy Samberg heads this complete package of Halloween festivity with pee-yourself-laughing comedy.



The Simpsons Treehouse of Horror 5
Season 6 Episode 6
Available on Disney+
Qualitometer 9/10
Spookometer 8/10



This very spooky episode of The Simpsons parodies “The Shining” in a very spooky segment of The Simpsons normal Halloween hijinks with some honestly scary and creepy moments.

The middle segment is not nearly as scary; but the last segment of this spooky trio is downright disturbing with Bart and Lisa finding out the school is killing kids and eating them.

With some spookily great visuals, this episode is extremely enjoyable and infinitely rewatchable with all three segments being spooky fun.

It’s The Great Pumpkin Charlie Brown
Available on Apple TV
Qualitometer 7/10
Spookometer 1/10



This extremely charming TV special holds up very well compared to its 1966 release date. It isn’t spooky or scary in the slightest but is full of that childlike wonder of trick or treating with plenty of meme moments you won’t get from most kids shows nowadays. This is a definite watch if you have younger siblings. Highly recommend.

Toy Story of Terror
Available on Disney+
Qualitometer 7/10
Spookometer 7/10



This Toy Story toon is classified as a genuine thriller. It is very unique in how the first half keeps you on your toes with what seems to be genuine horror and thriller aspects like an honest to god jumpscare IN A KIDS HALLOWEEN SPECIAL. There is a lot of mete humour with one or two very funny moments.

If you are a fan of Toy Story or nostalgic Halloween specials this is great for you.

Movie of the Month

The People Under the Stairs

Certificate 18

Directed by Wes Craven

"The People Under the Stairs" directed by Wes Craven is a particularly heightened fairy tale following a young boy from LA trying to make money in the 90's which results in him being stuck in a creepy old house with crazy latex suit wearing adults after he tries to rob it.

Wes Craven crafts suspense like few others: the eerie wide shots, the odd stilted angles, the directional mood lighting, and of course the house itself which his camera vividly explores every nook and cranny of; the cobwebs, crumbling brick, dusty surfaces, splintered wood and so on and so forth.

Theo Crane



Is “The Nightmare Before Christmas” a Christmas or Halloween movie?

by Gracie Hurst

A heavily debated topic in the film industry over the years has been “is Die Hard a Christmas movie?” Yet the answer is still up in the air as Steven E. de Souza -the writer of Die Hard- declared that Die Hard definitely is a Christmas movie. However the leading man Bruce Willis, stated at a Comedy Central event: “Die Hard is not a Christmas movie.” So how can such a popular movie not have a definitive setting? Well, another famous movie experiences the same controversy except there is a definite answer.

“The Nightmare Before Christmas” was released in 1993 and tells the story of Jack Skellington, “King of Halloweentown” accidentally discovering “Christmastown” then plotting to overthrow Santa and claim Christmas as his. He ends up kidnapping Santa and all things seem perfect, but all his plans go wrong in a sequence of events (that I won’t spoil any further). However, as stated by the movie’s

director, Henry Selick, this movie is clearly a Halloween movie, an opinion that is supported by the original cast and crew.

Some may argue that it is Christmas movie as the setting is based around Christmas time and lots of Christmas themed events are taking place, but the plot’s main focus is Halloweentown going awry.

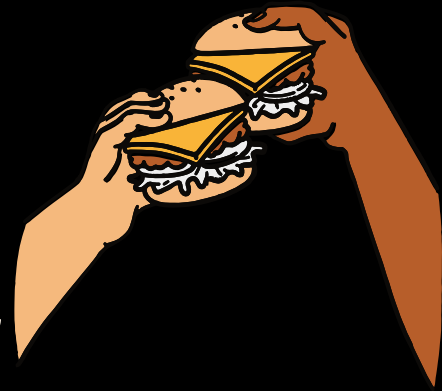
Although others could argue it is a movie to watch in November, as it is in-between Halloween and Christmas, it is definitely and entirely a Halloween movie that will define Tim Burton’s name for years to come. It is, after all,

“Tim Burton’s The Nightmare Before Christmas” .



Food Review

Buck's Bar



By Freya Seaton, Katie Morris and Eva Glen

Hello and welcome back to another food review, the only reviews around that are totally honest, and share an unnecessary amount of detail, to help you find your new favourite food spot.

We had the pleasure of visiting Buck's Bar located on Grindley Street in Edinburgh. This was one of the best bucking restaurants we have been to. There is something for absolutely anyone at this place (assuming you like chicken, which you probably do) and their way of perfecting the golden brown chicken burger is one to admire. They have a large menu of various dishes, including chicken and waffles, the buck mac burger, and Nashville hot chicken tenders (which we will be reviewing). As well as the 10/10 food options, the atmosphere of the place is also top notch, with walls covered in bands and singers, and banging playlists - it's a new favourite destination of ours.

Chicken and waffles:

If you're a fan of the sweeter stuff in life, then this is the dish for you. With this dish you will get a massive amount of chicken that is cooked to perfection, the chicken is placed on top of a perfectly cooked waffle that is light and fluffy. With this meal you get the option to add maple syrup or gravy, personally I chose neither as kept it plain (which is the best way in my opinion) but it's really up to you and how you like things. All in all I would 100% order this again and there is no way you can go through life without it.

The buck mac:

They don't make bread big enough to fit the extraordinary amount of chicken that was stuffed into this burger (obviously not complaining). As well as the crispy iceberg lettuce, cheese, and Buc Mac sauce, the restaurant's classic did not disappoint. Clearly plates are overrated, so the burger came in a large tray, with more skinny fries than ever recorded. The dish was more than enough, so pro tip, come in with an appetite. Overall, would definitely order again, you can't go wrong with the Buck Mac.

Nashville hot style chicken:

this was a dish containing 3 larger than average succulent chicken tenders soaked in a spicy Nashville inspired sauce on a piece of soft white bread, topped with 2.5 (thick) crinkled cut pickles. This dish was bold, I went for the hot (mildest of the 3) and it was spicy- perfect for anyone with a big ego. The pickles added a much-needed tangy element but didn't take away from the dish, and the bread was nice as it soaked up the sauce. You should order this if you like a challenge, but if not, go home. I couldn't really see much through my watery eyes, but I would say the restaurant looks quite nice. I would like to add an honourable mention to the salt and chili chips, this meal was a continental excursion that you can only get in Edinburgh!

Score:

Food 9/10

Atmosphere 7/10 (don't take your grandparents here!)

Price 5/10

Service 8/10

TOP TIPS FOR PUMPKIN CARVING

1. Always remember to wipe down your pumpkin, aka your canvas before carving, and lay out old newspapers below to try and not make a mess
2. Start with cutting open the top of the pumpkin (If using a very sharp knife suggest parents help, so no fingers go missing), the top should be now lid like
3. Take off the cut out top and start to scrape away the inside of the pumpkin till it's all gone! Recommend using a wooden spoon as it easier to get the guts out
4. When your canvas (pumpkin) is prepped to go, get a marker pen that is able to get wiped away, and start to sketch out your design! You could do a scary face, a cat, a ghost and loads more
5. Once your sketch is done start to cut it out! Be careful with the knife!
6. When finished cutting clean away the pen
7. And the final step is to put your pumpkin on your doorstep with a lighted candle placed inside to add to your Halloween décor, always remember to close the lid!
8. Also if you don't know what to do with the pumpkin insides you could make; [Homemade Pumpkin Puree](#), [The Perfect Roasted Pumpkin Seeds](#) and [Pumpkin Cinnamon Rolls With Maple Cream Cheese Frosting](#). Always remember to recycle!

Happy Halloween!

By Maggie Browne





Banana Blueberry & Chocolate Chip Bread Recipe

By Iona Houston

Ingredients:

125g butter
75g caster sugar
75g brown sugar
1 tsp vanilla extract
2 mashed bananas
1 egg
190g self-raising flour
60ml milk
150g chocolate chips
½ punnet of blueberries

Useful Equipment:

Loaf tin



Method

1. Line your loaf tin
2. Melt the butter, sugar and vanilla extract in a large saucepan.
3. Once melted take off the heat and mix in the mashed bananas.
4. Add the egg into the pan and mix well.
5. Gently mix in the flour and add the milk, beat well.
6. Gently mix in the chocolate chips and blueberries
7. Pour into your tin.
8. Bake for 45 minutes or until a skewer comes out clean.
9. Let it cool and cut up into slices to enjoy!
(Should serve ten)

Word of the Month

by Hans Crawshaw

Try using this in your writing, conversations or classwork this month!

UNPRECEDENTED: NEVER KNOWN OR DONE BEFORE.

FIRST RECORDED AS BEING USED IN A 1641 SPEECH BY JOHN FINCH, SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS AND A SUPPORTER OF KING CHARLES I.

EXAMPLE: THE COVID PANDEMIC HAD AN UNPRECEDENTED RESPONSE IN BRITAIN.

Mr Hamilton's Joke of the Month

I swapped our bed for a trampoline...

My wife hit the roof!



Have your say!

What would you like to see in the school magazine? Answer the survey to have your suggestions considered.



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RESPECT FOR
CHILDREN'S VIEWS



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SHARING
THOUGHTS FREELY



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FREEDOM OF
THOUGHT AND
RELIGION