

Meopham Monthly

Stories

News

Reviews

Gallery

Books

Pets

Meopham School's Student Magazine
Issue 19: February 2024



Contact us at MSS-magazine@swale.at or come along on a Thursday lunchtime in the Library.

Cover art by
Ellie Stevenson

WELCOME

Hello! Welcome to our January issue of Meopham Monthly. This issue we reviewed 5 star books and Shakespearean performances, as well as featuring extended pieces about teachers travelling and volunteering.

If you would like to submit a short story, article, poem, photos or anything else for our future issues, please contact the team at MSS-magazine@swale.at or come along on a Thursday lunchtime in the Library from 12.50pm.

We hope you enjoy this issue!

Editor: Robyn Fitzpatrick (Yr 13)

Editor's Song of the Month: Daylight

NEWS JUST IN!

World Book Day is on 7th March! All Key Stage 3 students get a £1 voucher to put towards a book or buy a £1 book - ask your English teacher or in the library.



Our 2024 £1/€1.50 books

WORLD BOOK DAY
7 MARCH 2024

ONYEKA AND THE SECRET SUPERHERO
TOLA OKOGWU

ELMER
David Almond

GREG GARGAGE ROLLS
Lorraine Johnson

CHARIE HOGUE
HARRY BECKWITH

MARV
MURRAY CLOSE

STITCHUP CLUB
On the Trail of a Trex
SARAH WATSON

INVEST GATORS
Pete Brown

LEKI
TALES OF A BAD GOD
LUCY STOWELL

THE FRIEND MESSIAH
RUSSELL JONES

Can you GET Jellyfish in SPACE?
SARAH KARAN

DREAM WOOD
CREEPY CREATIONS
THE SCHOOL OF BEASTS

The Doomsday Date
FALDAH ABRAHIM

INIS MARA
PATRICK ROBERTSON

The Curious Case of the Irish Yeti: Molly Malone and Bram Stoker
By Alan Nolan
Cover illustration by Shane Cluskey

Bydd llyfrau £1 yn dod yn fuan
£1 book coming soon

SPONSORED BY NATIONAL BOOK TOKENS

Changing lives through a love of books and shared reading.

World Book Day® is a charity sponsored by National Book Tokens.

ILLUSTRATED BY VIVIAN TRUONG

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

Nshira Ansah (Yr8)	Charlotte Hooker (Yr13)
Miss Biscombe	Ivy May (Yr8)
Sebastian Bundock (Yr8)	Mrs Morgan
Amrik Chohan (Yr10)	Lucy Parker (Yr13)
Mr Dyer	James Sinclair (Yr7)
Mrs Garnett	Ellie Stevenson (Yr10)
Freya Hicks (Yr8)	Mr Vilday
Jack Hollis (Yr8)	Mrs Vince
Casey Homden (Yr8)	Mrs Williamson

DRAMA WORKSHOP

By Mr Dyer and Drama students



This term several pupils took part in a movement and devising workshop in conjunction with the Royal Shakespeare Company.

This was part of the RSC Associate School project and allowed pupils to explore new ways of devising and creative expression. All pupils involved thoroughly enjoyed the experience and it has started the creative process for our performance of several scenes from Hamlet taking place in the Marlowe Theatre in the summer term!



MACBETH PERFORMANCE

Review by Amrik Chohan (Year 10)

What was most interesting about this Macbeth production by Quantum Theatre company was that it was acted by only four actors. We watched it in the assembly hall during period 3-4 on Monday 5th February and year 11 watched it in the afternoon. Some people might have found it boring but personally I found it to be quite entertaining and the sound effects were funny! The play covered all the Acts and stuck to the script. The actors were pretty good and managed to change characters very quickly. My favourite part was the end with the sword fight between Macbeth and Macduff, which most other people also found to be their favourite part. I would like to see the actors in more plays in the future, as they did really well in Macbeth. I think the only reason some people found it boring is because they're used to video games and tiktok and if they reduced their time on it, I believe they could also enjoy the play like me!



MR VILDAY'S VIEW

Views from a latter-day Viking

Mystical Britain

I've talked a lot in these articles about my love of walking and of travelling around this wonderful country we live in.

I also have a love of history, particularly ancient history, and I'm constantly amazed at how many well-preserved relics we have of our ancestors works.

Here's a brief tour of places I've been to that have intrigued and impressed me.



Stonehenge, in Wiltshire. Probably the most famous ancient monument in Britain. No one really knows how the massive rocks were moved into place, especially given the tools that would have been available around 3000 BC. The whole area is littered with ancient archaeology, and it seems to have been an important centre for the people then.

Kit's Coty House – the remains of a long barrow, or burial chamber, built somewhere between 3500 and 2800 BC. This is between Aylesford and Maidstone.

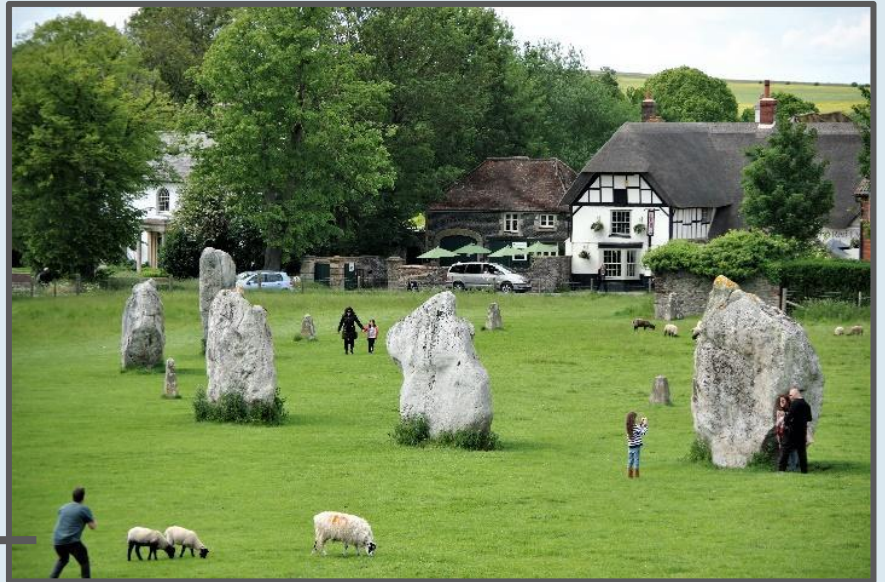


Closer to home, near Trosley Park is the **Coldrum Long Barrow**. This is what is left of a burial chamber, at least 3000 years old.



CONTINUED...

The most impressive of our ancient monuments has to be the **stone circle at Avebury in Wiltshire**. It had almost disappeared until Alexander Keiller organised excavations in and around the village of Avebury in the 1920's. His team unearthed and re-erected many massive stones and the Avebury circle is now around the village itself. It was built almost 5000 years ago.



On my list to visit :

Arbor Lake in the Peak District



**Callanish Stone Circle,
On the Isle of Lewis in Scotland**



Long Meg and her daughter, Perinth



(First 4 photos by AV, last 3 courtesy of Google Images)

WHY I VOLUNTEER

Mrs Vince - Interview by Editorial Team

Q : Which charities do you volunteer for, and what made you choose these charities ?

A : I am the funding and safeguarding officer at Medway Culture Club. I work as a volunteer one Saturday a month along with other teachers, TAs, family and friends from around the Medway area. I chose this Charity because my cousin was involved and she said "just come along and see what you think." I realised in the first session just how important it was. We ensure our young people have a safe space and provide them with a supplementary educational program with a focus on diversity.

Q : What different activities do you do when you volunteer ?

A : I have run a few secondary age sessions and have helped organise sessions too. We have done so much in the last year including celebrating the 75th Anniversary of Windrush. We did an art session looking at a local hero, Asquith Xavier, using clay; we made busts and tiles related to his life. We have done science activities, an Arabian Eats cooking session, we have a carnival every summer which mimics Notting Hill and a musical session for Diwali where our young people learnt about it and how to play the Dhol drums.

Q : Why do you choose to use your free time in this way ?

A : As an educator I have a responsibility to ensure that all children get a well rounded education. Our young people get to experience all sorts of things that they may not get an opportunity to learn at school. It is so good for them to get together and learn about each other and their backgrounds too. We have young people from all sorts of backgrounds from the ages of 5 - 16. I have learnt so much myself, so imagine how lucky those young people are.



CONTINUED...

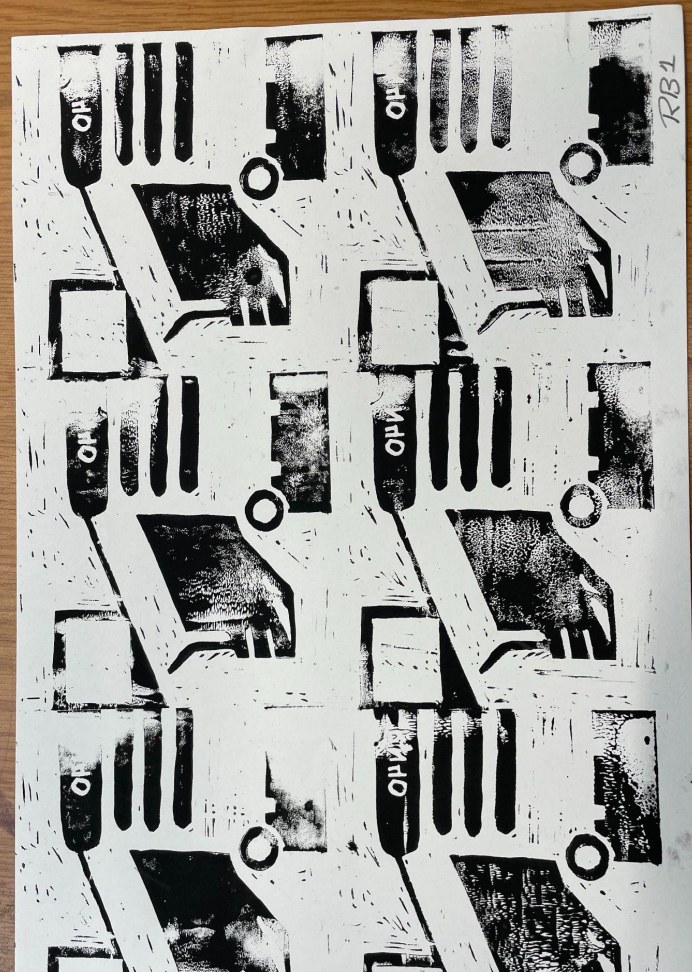
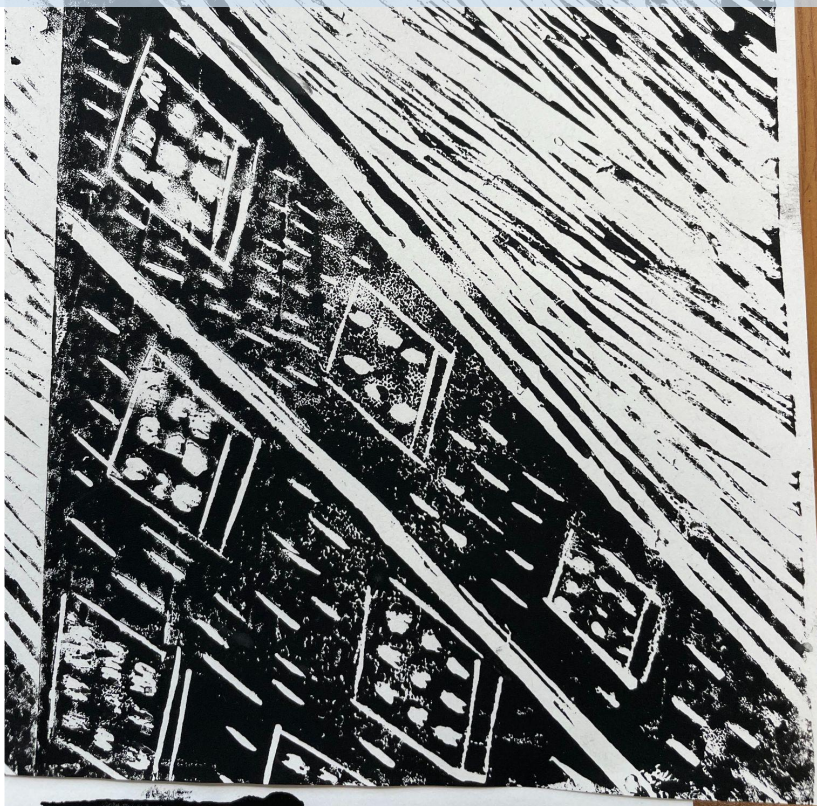
Q : You recently won an award. What was that for and what was the ceremony like ?

A : We have been finalists now for many awards, including our most recent awards ceremony. We were finalists and our chairperson Camealia managed to get to the final 6 for 'Social Compagner of the Year' at 'The Multicultural Business and Community Champions Awards.' This was a black tie, red carpet event and we went to support our leader for her outstanding work at MCC. We met lots of famous people including Jay from the Repair shop, Nigel Benn, Linford Christie and my personal favourite Jason Arday. We hope with more publicity to win awards one day!

Mrs Vince : *"We are always looking for volunteers/apprentices or teachers that can spare time to come and join us. Of course if you are a young person, you too are welcome to join us for an exciting day that includes a cultural lunch from somewhere in the world! If anyone is interested email me at sarahmedwaycultureclub@gmail.com for more information or come to my room and click the QR code on my classroom door."*



THE GALLERY

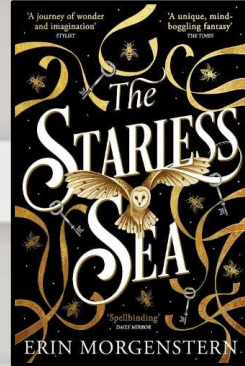
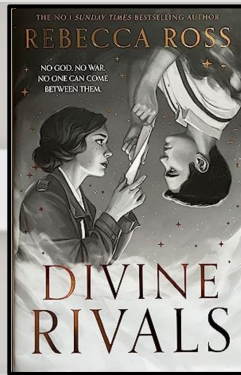
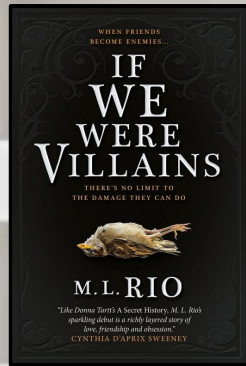


THE GALLERY

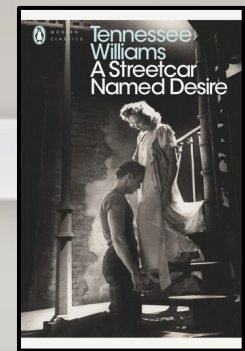
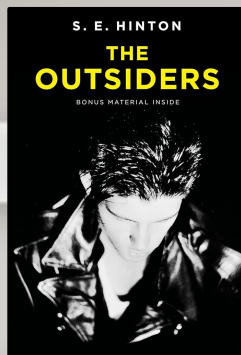
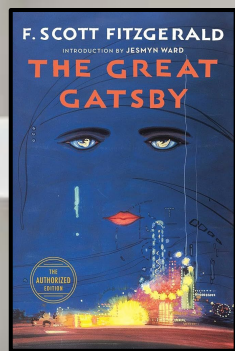


BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

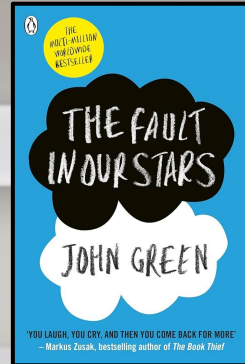
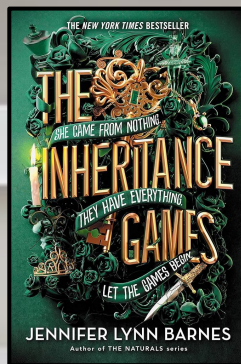
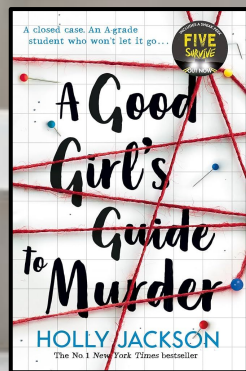
As recommended by A Level Students



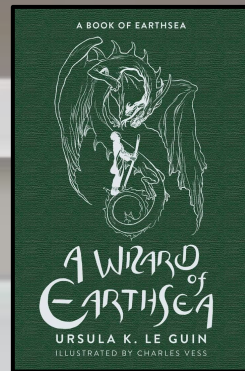
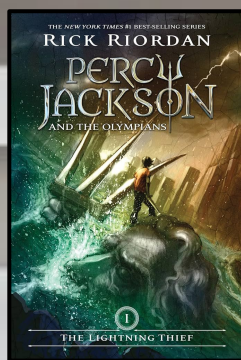
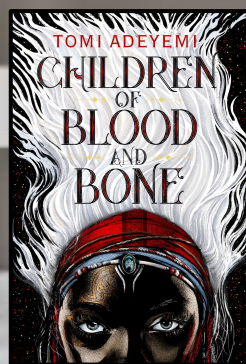
Year
12/13



11



9/10



7/8

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

5 STAR BOOK REVIEWS

Harry Potter series by J.K Rowling

“It’s very adventurous and shows lots of fun and exciting clues for you to think about.”

Ivy May (Yr8)

Children of Blood & Bone by Tomi Adeyemi

“It’s about power and shows that weakness is a sign of healing and strength. I recommend it to Year 7’s and up.”

Nshira Ansah (Yr8)

Nought & Crosses by Malorie Blackman

“It is about lifelong friends struggling to stay friends because of the environment they were in.”

Nshira Ansah (Yr8)

Billionaire Boy by David Walliams

“If you’re looking for a funny and silly book meant for young children, then this is the book for you!”

Jack Hollis (Yr8)

Mike Tyson's Undisputed Truth by Mike Tyson

“It shows the reality of some people's lives and it shows that you can heal.”

Freya Hicks (Yr8)

A Good Girl's Guide to Murder by Holly Jackson

“It is about a girl who goes missing and her boyfriend who is the number one suspect, but a local girl doesn’t believe that the case is solved.”

Casey Homden (Yr8)

WELLBEING CORNER

By Mrs Garnett

This month we are looking at resources from the Young Minds website about dealing with difficult emotions. You can use these strategies to pause and reflect when things get tough.

Mindfulness activity: Hand breathing



When emotions explode

Very Angry

Stay calm.
Stay safe.
Walk away
if possible and
try to wait until
you are both calm

Frustrated, tense, but in control

Offer the young person a space to step out of the situation. Offer to lead them through some breathing exercises, or just give them some space.

Calm

This is the time to ask questions, such as 'what happened there' or 'I noticed you were getting frustrated, what was going on'. Keep listening. You could ask 'how can I help you next time?'

YOUNGMINDS

Mindfulness activity: Grounding techniques



5 things you can see.



4 things you can hear.



3 things you can touch.



2 things you can smell.



1 thing you can taste.



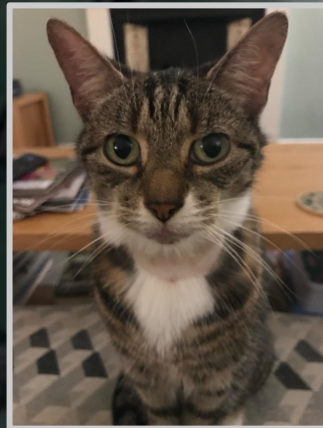
THE MEOPHAM (PET) FAMILY



Lola - Charlotte H



Noodle - Lucy P



Purdie - James S



Tom - Robyn F



Bridgette - Mrs Garnett

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.

February

Poem by Sebastian Bundock (Year 8)

I'll never like February,
A month of cold, hard ice,
Dark mornings and grey sky,
Everything black by 4 o'clock,
It's so cold, you stand there frozen like a rock,
You're always stuck inside,
As the weather circles on, it's topsy turvy ride,
The wind wisps around your face
Leaving it cold and shivering, it's a treacherous place,
Its icy tentacles reach into your ear dying them red,
From there it will only continue to spread,
It will swarm around your fingers,
The ice won't leave, it just lingers
It'll crawl up your sleeves
By now February is has done its job, you'll want to leave.