



HALEWOOD
ACADEMY

HUMANITIES HERALD

MAY 3RD 1616

This day may not seem that significant to you but did you know this was the day that the French Civil War ended? Read on to find out what happened on this day in history. Happy birthday Jess Service.

EUROVISION

Due to the conflict in Ukraine, the competition of Eurovision has been passed to the second-place holder, Britain. Here in our very own city, Liverpool is the 2023 venue for this amazing competition.

AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH

It's Autism Acceptance Month!

And to celebrate we see how it affects different individuals and their experiences. On our newspaper team, we pride ourselves on having representation from multiple perspectives and this is why this section has been curated by several of our hardest working members.

OUR CITY

This month, we have decided to showcase the amazing heritage of our very own city. In this section, we will talk about the good and the bad; from the blitz to Eurovision, we are proud to call this city our home.





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OUR CITY

EUROVISION

Eurovision was hosted in Liverpool this year, a city well known for its culture and music history. From ABBA to Celine Dion to Måneskin, the competition has launched the careers of many. On Saturday the 13th of May 2023, Sweden won the 67th annual contest, to much controversy of the public. Though the public wanted Finland's Cha Cha Cha to take first place. Many have responded with accusations of fraud and rigging, due to the 50th anniversary of ABBA winning being next year, with Sweden now hosting. People are also calling out the political votes, from both public and juries, saying why are the juries there if they are going to be biased and political, voting for their allies? Others say they had the best songs in years, but bad voting strategies.

Who will be watching for Sweden 2024?



THE BLITZ

On a cold day in September 1940, the British air raid sirens sounded and German dive bombers (stukas) approached London. This was called the blitzkrieg, which is German for 'lightning war'. It was called that because they wanted to be in and out of Britain like lightning, striking hard but fast. The Germans used bombers called stukas (Junkers ju 87) they had straight wings so if they ran out of fuel they could glide back to France "safely" in Britain, they had sirens on the landing gear which activated at 400 kph+. They were there to strike fear into the hearts of the Brits but in later models it was removed to increase aerodynamics. The British dealt quite well with this; they got people to volunteer to help guide people into the underground railways or shelters, these were called wardens. Some people dug shelters in their gardens. Eventually, the Germans failed and it ended on the 11th May 1941.



A GREAT
PLACE
TO BE A
PART OF





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PARTY TIME!

WESAK

On Friday 5th of May, Buddhists celebrated Vesak. Vesak, also known as Wesak or Buddha Day, is a celebration of Buddha's birthday and, for some, marks the day of his enlightenment. In addition, it's a time of reflection on the Buddha's teachings and what it means to be Buddhist.

Vesak is the most important of the Buddhist festivals, and is celebrated on the full moon in May – this year it was the 5th of May. It is celebrated differently in each culture, for example many Buddhists will have gone to their local temple, some might have even stayed there throughout the day and night of the full moon! On the other hand, many will have done good deeds, taken part in chanting and meditation, reflected on Buddhist teachings, brought offerings to the temple and shared food with people.

In addition, families may decorate their homes with lanterns (in Thailand and Indonesia, there may be special Wesak lanterns made of paper and wood) and take part in processions. In particular, a ceremony called Bathing the Buddha may also be held. This is when water is poured over the shoulders of the Buddha (and by the Buddha, it means a statue of the Buddha) to remind people to clear their minds of negative thoughts like greed and hatred. Another custom in some countries is to release caged birds – this is very popular in places. This is supposed to represent the letting go of troubles and wishing that all beings are well and happy.



From 6-8th May (Last Week), the Coronation of King Charles III took over our screens and over the country. From the main ceremony on Saturday, to the Big Lunches and Concert on Sunday, and then the Big Help Out on Monday, the country was filled with royal events.

The Coronation ceremony happened at Westminster Abbey, and the procession there and back was actually pretty majestic. There was a lot of pageantry going on, with all the soldiers and stuff. I watched the entire ceremony on YouTube (I'm not going to disclose if I did the pledge or not, for obvious reasons) But in many other cities, there were big screenings, as well as on the internet and on the TV.

The Coronation is really historical, as many, if not all of us have never seen a new monarch take the crown since the late Queen Elizabeth II, who was crowned in 1953. The King held the regalia, such as the Sovereign's Orb, the Sovereign's Sceptre with Cross, and the Sovereign's Sceptre with Dove, along with other items. The Queen Consort Camilla was also crowned, although there is some controversy about if people accept her as our queen, as well as if we even want to continue to have a monarchy in the first place. We'll have to wait and see what happens.



PLACES TO GO

Over the Easter holidays, I decided to visit a country I had never been to before. This country was San Marino, a tiny country (1/10th the size of New York City) that is landlocked and bordered on all sides by Italy.

San Marino is the fifth smallest countries in the World. Only Monaco and the Vatican City are smaller in Europe. It is also the world's oldest continuous republic, meaning it has not had a king or queen since it was created in the year 301 (1722 years ago).

To stay as a republic for so long, San Marino needed very good luck to stay out of many of the different wars and conflicts on the Italian peninsula. During the Napoleonic wars, the French Army threatened the independence of San Marino. Napoleon was defeated, however, and San Marino kept its independence. Later in the 1800s, San Marino became a sanctuary for those who opposed being part of Italy. This helped to keep San Marino separate from Italy. Even during WWII, San Marino was neutral, despite being surrounded by Italy, which was heavily involved in the conflict. This allowed the country to provide sanctuary to over 100,000 evacuees coming from the surrounding areas in Italy.

You do not need to show your passport to enter the country, however you can pay five euros to get a stamp to add to your collection. I stayed in a hotel in the capital city, San Marino City which has a population of just 4,000 people (Halewood has 20,000!!!). This meant it was very quiet at night when all the tourists had left, and I had the streets to myself to see some of the sights like the city walls and towers.

Overall, I enjoyed my time in San Marino, and it was much better than its tiny size suggests. I would advise anyone travelling to east Italy to take a day trip to its capital. Mr Cahill.



Hello! I'm here to tell you about my visit to Bletchley Park over the last half term. But first, the best place to begin is explaining what the place is. Bletchley Park was a secret place where the best of Britain's decoders and thinkers started to try and decode the Enigma code, a code that was used by the Germans to try and keep their secret plans hidden from Allied eyes. They did manage to decode it, which decreased the war by 2 years. So, going to this place was quite cool.

I arrived enthusiastic as ever, and this place did not stall to make me feel immersed in the historical influences. They also were aware of my disabilities as an autistic person, and there were warnings for sounds and lights on the map, so huzzah for inclusivity! The artefacts found in the main building, Block C, included a real enigma coding machine. After this, we picked up some good multimedia devices and we headed to the Mansion. I learned that it was originally owned by Herbert Samuel Leon, who made the house a bit topsy turvy, adding rooms in because he had the money to do it. (He had some good taste in stained glass windows)

After a good look around, we learned about the Bombe machine that cracked the enigma code and how it helped to reduce WW2's length by a time of 2 to 4 years. There was also a new exhibit in Block A called the Intelligence Factory, where we learned about how Bletchley Park functioned as an intelligence organisation during the second half of WW2, and how it functioned on an industrial level scale to crack German codes and get more information. There was a part of the exhibit where I was able to wear a RAF Jacket, which was quite cool. It looked great.

Well, I would consider my trip to be amazing, but I may have a little bit of bias as I am a massive fan of history. I suggest you go to see the famous site itself. Out of 10, I would say 9.5, as it was also a lot of walking, so be prepared for that! – C Warrender



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AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH

As an autistic person, I deal with a lot of things that other may not have to worry about. For example, I struggle with loud noises, and sometimes use ear defenders or headphones to protect against this. Furthermore, I often struggle when there’s too much different noise and it all builds up. I also struggle a lot with sudden routine changes – they stress me out! Things people can do to help me is to try not to shout in my general vicinity – even if you don’t think it’s loud doesn’t mean it’s not loud for me. Plus, stand up for us! There’s no room in school for ableism. – L Warrender

As a parent of a child with a recent diagnosis of ASC, it has been a challenge learning about autism and how best I can support my child to find his place in the world, help him to try and fit in and to build his self-worth. It is difficult trying to see the world through the eyes of an autistic person, but try we must, as it should not be upon their shoulders to always have to adapt, but the other way around. There is support out there and here are some useful links to help you find out more.

<https://autism.org.uk/what-we-do/support-in-the-community/family-support>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/autism/autism-and-everyday-life/help-for-families/>



WHAT IS AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH?

Last month, we celebrated Autism Acceptance Month, a month-long event that promotes the inclusion and acceptance of autistic people – diagnosed or self-diagnosed alike. Every year, this celebration aims to break the stigma linked to autism and debunk other myths related to the disorder. It started in 2011, after the United Nations General Assembly announced April 2nd as World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD). Autism activist Paula C. Durbin-Westby founded Autism Awareness Month as a result of the community believing more could be done to break down the stigma in mainstream media. In 2021, the event was renamed Autism Acceptance Month. This year, the theme for WAAD was “Transforming the narrative; Contributions at home, at work, in the arts and in policymaking.”

But what is autism? Autism is a developmental disability. It changes how we understand the world, move, communicate and socialize. Think of it like- a wire board in our heads. Our brains are wired differently – and that’s okay! There’s a medical acronym for it, which is ASD, and it stands for Autism Spectrum Disorder. Autism is different for everyone who is diagnosed/not diagnosed and that’s why it’s a spectrum! It changes how we live our lives, sometimes even making it harder, but there are lots of good things about being autistic. We can be proud of who we are. – L Warrender



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Soo... Autism. Yeah. At first, I had nothing, my mind was a mess, to say the least, because to me (an autistic person), it's hard to explain it without sounding contradictory. The problem of internalised ableism is real, and it's awful when explaining it. So, for my experiences with ASD (autism spectrum disorder) is messy at best. It takes a lot out of me when routines are just dead in the water. I think I just like that sort of structured day, but I think I can work with an unstructured day if given notice beforehand. As well as this, I have sensory issues. My noise sensitivity is a lot less good with loud noises, and it can cause me to breakdown if it's either too loud, or if it's too much altogether. (Imagine everyone speaking full volume about different things at the same time, it's horrible.) I'm very much an artistic kind of person, which I have seen may be something linked to autism, so that's nice...

But also, I struggle a lot with anxiety, and sometimes bottling things up, because I think I focus too much on schoolwork and being a high achiever. On a vaster idea of things: I think the autistic community is quite accepting of each other, and we know good sources of information about the community. For example: Autism Speaks. Please don't get me STARTED on that. A lot of their adverts show autism as more like a disease than a disability. – E Warrender



Autism is a hidden disability. Autistic people are often misunderstood and may require support with things like communication, interactions with others, using their imagination, being flexible and feeling overwhelmed by activity in the world around them. No two autistic people are the same.

