

The W.A.T.C.H Word



Friday 8th November, 2024

Elizabeth Bird: Chief Editor Alice Fuller: Lead Journalist Sophie Sysum: Social Editor

Rosie Guy: Chosen Hill Events Correspondent Joe Cox: Media Correspondent



The Voice Behind the Silence

Alice Fuller, this month's Lead Journalist, explores the explosive debate around alternative Fireworks displays

As most people are aware, the month of November in the UK is home to Bonfire night. This is observed annually on the 5th of November and is a celebration of the failed assassination of King James the first in 1605. Somewhat ironically, we mark this near miss by sending bright and colourful fireworks into the sky creating a fabulous display.

Now these captivating displays have their flaws. For a start, they are quite loud. This can be quite terrifying for people who have PTSD from the terrors associated with loud noises and explosions; not to mention our poor pets,

as they tend to have heightened hearing and that amplifies the noise for them.

To help combat these issues, some explosive research has been going on driving the popularity of noiseless fireworks. These fireworks typically tend to be fountain fireworks and can be found in your run in the mill firework box that



London's New Year's Fireworks display

you can pick up from the supermarket.

Another option that many display companies

have been investing in has been drone shows. These are an eco-friendly way to combat the problem, as they



Armistice Drone display above Portsmouth (2024)

make no noise and are reusable compared to the traditional single-use fireworks. However, drones can be quite expensive. Initially as you need several drones and the average price for a drone of this use is around £250. This is why most places that use drones tend to charge slightly more than show that use actual fireworks.

Drone shows and noiseless fireworks seem to be the way forward in combating the problems associated with traditional fireworks; with drone shows seeming to be the end goal. With new-year's Eve fast approaching, these issues might be worth keeping in mind when picking what your displays in the future.

However, from all of us at The WATCH Word, we hope you had a very enjoyable bonfire night.



Corgis steal the show at the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

House Standings



32'116 PTS



28'194 PTS



25'448 PTS



29'799 PTS

Well done Carne, leading the way!

We're looking forward to seeing how the points from house music do to the competition next month! Stay tuned!

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Chosen Hill News

House Remembrance Day Parade

By Sophie Sysum: Social Editor



Every year, the month of November marks a season of remembrance. For many years, Chosen Hill has had a proud tradition of marking the occasion with a parade. This year was no different.

Joined by members of the military community, The students paraded in front of the flagpoles, marking the moment with a two minute silence.



Students in uniform parade for remembrance.

Remembrance day started as an official way to mark the end of the First World War, spending a moment to pause and remember those who lost their lives in service of their country.

Since then, it has evolved into a time when we all take a moment to remember all service men and women who have made the ultimate



Students lay poppies at the flagpole.

Chosen Hill Sports

By Rosie Guy: Sports Correspondent



It's been a busy month for Chosen Hill's sports teams.

The month got off to a cracking start a nail-biting game four our 1st XV Rugby team in the National Cup, who came back from 19-0 down to an inspiring 22-19 lead. However it wasn't to be as, in the final play of the game, the opposition fought back to end the game a heart-breaking 24-22.

But all was not lost. The U16 Girls Footballers scored an excellent result, coming 2nd place after travelling all the way to Tewkesbury

For the District U16's Football tournament.

Similarly, the Year 8 Girls team put in an impressive 3rd place in their District Footballing tournament.



Sixth Form Girls after their win over Churchdown

Finally this month, the Sixth Form Girls Netball team wrapped a snowy week with a stunning win against local rivals, Churchdown.

December's Announcements

- A massive thank you to all of the students who submitted their articles as part of our Environment challenge! The winners have been chosen, so stay tuned to next month's to see the winning articles, as well as a couple of honourable mentions!
- On the 3rd of December, Year 7 launch their Christmas fair in support of *The Superhero Foundation*. This is a **cash only** event so don't forget to bring some cash!
- Christmas is on its way! The newest house event is a Christmas tree decorating contest. This is a great way to get involved with supporting your house and to start the Christmas celebrations.
- Also, the houses will soon begin their food bank collection for Christmas. This is where you try and bring in as much food for the food banks as you can. The house who gets the most donations wins. This is an amazing way to support your house and the local food banks
- Year 11 Parents Evening on the **16th December**, don't forget to get booked on!
- Come as you like day is Friday 20th December! Don't forget to get your costumes organised!!





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By Rosie Guy: Sports Correspondent

Book of the Month

Private Peaceful

- by Michael Morpurgo

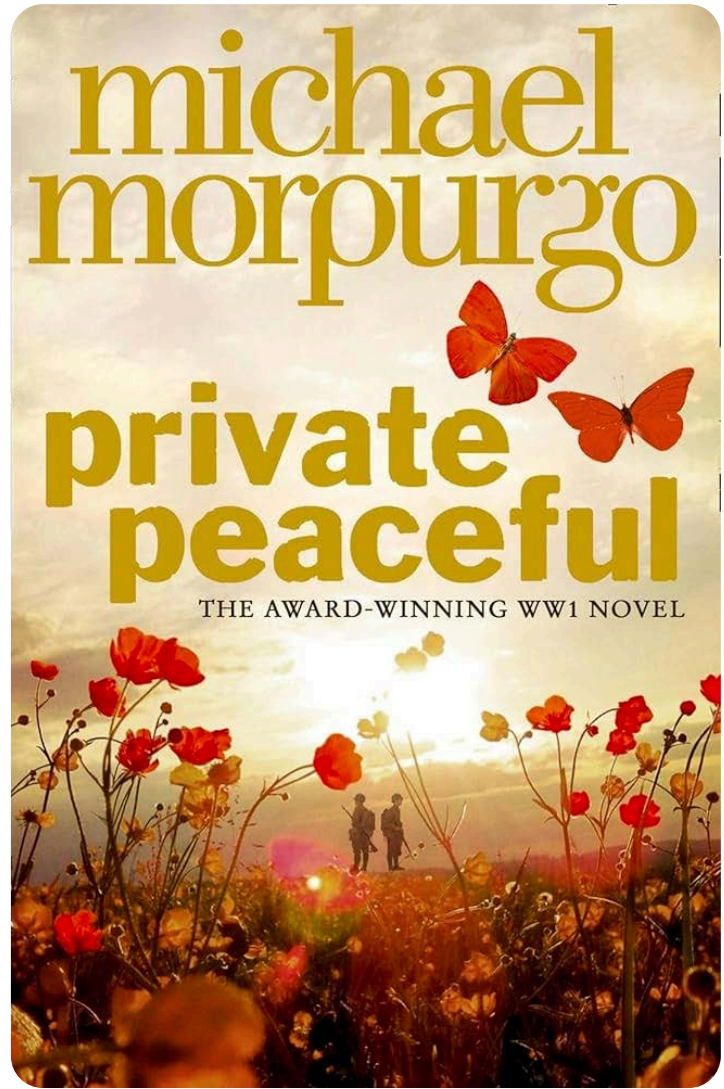
Private Peaceful by Michael Morpurgo is a deeply moving novel set in the years preceding and during World War One. consequences of Charlie's actions culminating in a powerful and tragic climax.

The story is narrated by Tommo Peaceful, a young soldier looking back on his childhood as he faces the harsh realities of the war. I absolutely loved this book! It beautifully portrays the courage and strength of the human spirit, even in the darkest times.

Through his reflections, we learn about life in rural England, his close bond with his older brother, Charlie, and the deep impact the war had on their lives. Michael Morpurgo's storytelling is compelling, and the emotional depth of *Private Peaceful* stays with you long after the final page. It's a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made during war and the bond of brotherhood.

The novel alternates between Tommo's present experiences in the trenches and his childhood memories. The relationship between the brothers, the love Tommo has for a girl named Molly, and the horrors of war are explored with sensitivity and tenderness. As the story unfolds, readers are drawn into the heart-breaking

Review: 5*****



Do you love reading?

The English Department at Chosen Hill are extremely excited to announce the Return of Their Book Clubs! Over the course of the year, we aim to read, meet and discuss new and more established novels. Once every half term, each Book Club will meet with an enthusiastic English teacher at a lunchtime where they will enjoy cake, hot chocolate and, of course, a good book. We would like to ask a small donation of £15 towards If you would like to join your year's Book Club then please ask your parents to sign you up on School Gateway by **Wednesday 4th December** as there are only 20 places available per year group.





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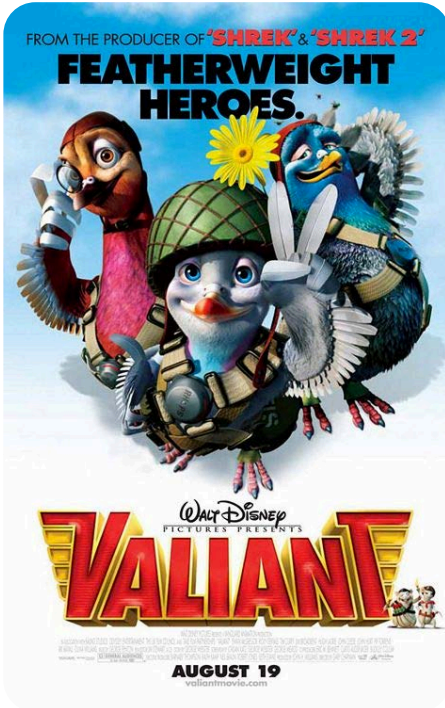
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Media Corner

Film of the Month: Valiant



By Joe Cox: Media Correspondent



Made in 2005, this hilarious, feathery film will truly make you laugh. The W.A.T.C.H Word has acknowledged this hidden gem of a movie. However, can Valiant still soar high in the skies of heroism?

Valiant, the main character, is a puny pigeon who wants to help the allies plan the D-Day invasion. Due to the lack of staff at the Royal Homing Pigeon Corps, they reluctantly accept his

hand-written application and he's trained as a Homing Pigeon. The Pigeon Corps send Valiant, on a deadly operation, where failure is not an option ...

In my opinion, this hysterical, historical movie is severely underrated and definitely worth the watch! Every character has a unique, funny or dark tone that adds so much depth to this creative idea. Even if the graphics are

slightly out-dated, this movie is so outlandish it should push those worries aside.

It's heart-breaking that this movie has flown under the radar for nearly twenty years, because it's absolutely spectacular!

Rated: 5*****

Video Game of the Month: Splatoon 3

As always, the Nintendo team has created a super interactive, extremely replayable games that keeps you hooked. Splatoon 3 is no exception, so, is it the ultimate Ink-Splattering Showdown? Let's see!

Upon arrival, you can customise your character, to make them just perfect for you. After you finish the quick and easy tutorial, the game will throw you into the open world, ready to explore!

Throughout the first minute, you can access battles, the main plot of the story or visit the plethora of shops around. A battle is normally a turf war, where you get assigned to a team, and try to cover the most land in your team's colour. You can unlock a multitude of different weapons, maps and fun, silly cosmetics and collectables.

In my opinion, the game will paint a whole new world of excitement

and endless fun. The vibrant colours are truly ink-tastic, characters are clean, and the graphics are immaculate. It encourages you to become the best at the game that you can.

The fun of finding a favourite class of weapon, and testing others really outshines mildly expensive price of £49.99. However, in my opinion, it's absolutely worth every penny.



Rated: 5*****

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Meet the Teacher



By Sophie Sysum: Social Editor

Mr Lister

What is your role in school?

I am the Deputy Premises Manager

What do you enjoy doing at the weekends?

I enjoy playing golf, going out with friends and mainly relaxing and watching a good box set.

What is your least favorite food?

There's not a lot a don't eat to be fair, I would have to say, probably cauliflower is my least favourite.

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go?

This is quite a tough decision for me as I love the mountains and the sea, Maybe Hawaii would be a good place to have the best of both worlds.

o you have a secret talent? If so, what is it?

It's not much of a talent but I can swallow a creme caramel in one go.

If you didn't work in a school, what job would you want to do?

Good question, maybe something in marine conservation.

If you could ask any celebrity to dinner, who would it be?

Ricky Gervais would probably be a good laugh to have round. If he wasn't available, I wouldn't mind sharing a bolognese with Emma Willis.

What sport would you add to the Olympic games?

I think nearly every sport is in the Olympic these days, maybe wakeboarding, or free running could be a fun watch.

What item on your bucket list are you most looking forward to doing?

I've never had a bucket list, as I've never liked the idea of thinking I must do something. Although skydiving looks like it could be a bit of fun.

Meet the Pet

Dixie, sent in by Holly

Dixie is a black cat who is 4 years old and loves her food. Even though she may look friendly, she doesn't like meeting new people and prefers to stick with the people who give her food.

She loves to play with her toys and lounge about in all the unexpected places. She will go out and try to hunt, however she never really succeeded in getting birds, she tends to bring home moths. She is a very happy cat who will put a smile on your face.

If you would like your pet featured in next month's The WATCH Word send a short description, and your cutest picture, of your pet to TA@chosen-hill.gloucs.sch.uk.



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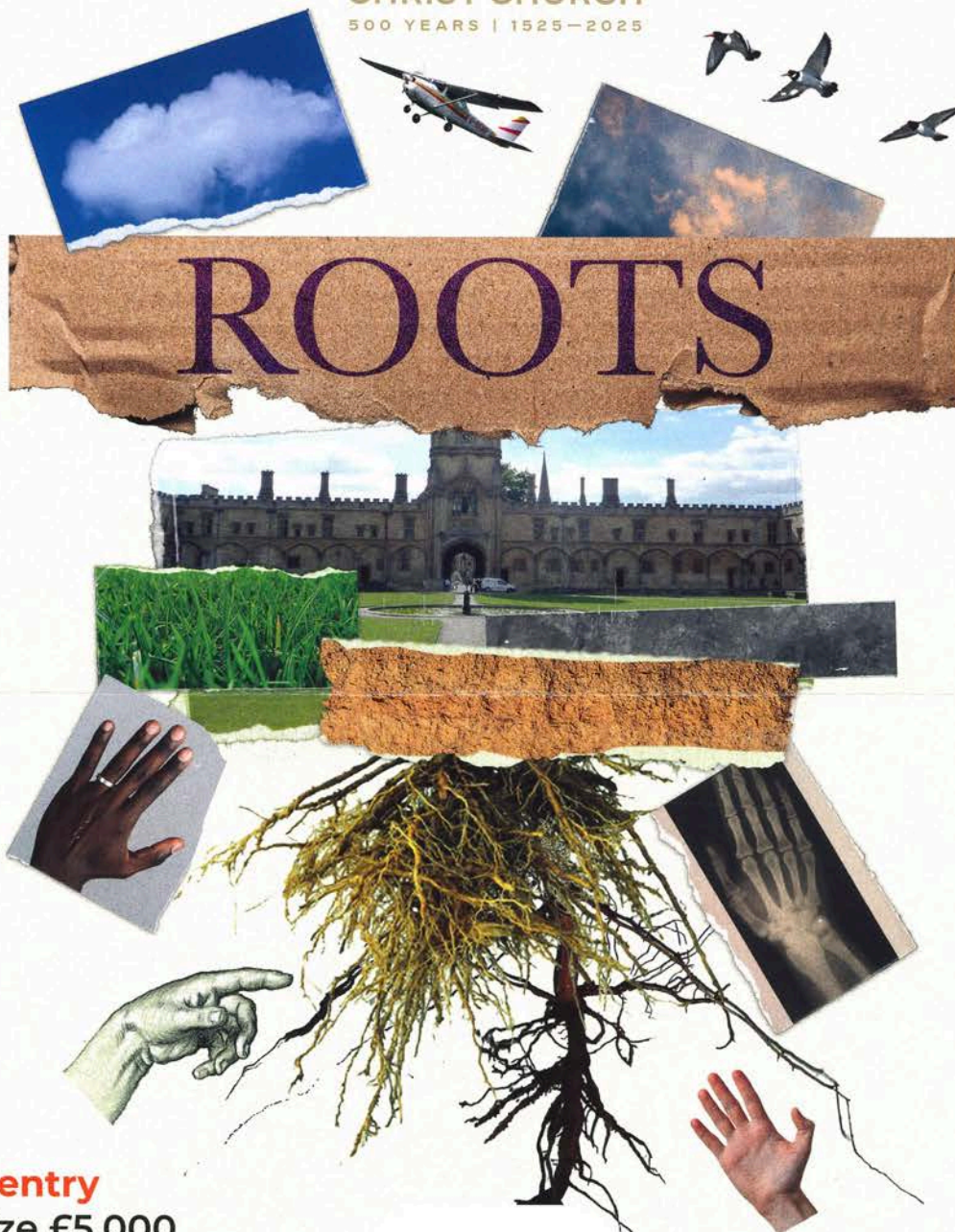
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TOWER
Poetry



CHRIST CHURCH
500 YEARS | 1525-2025

The Christopher
Tower Poetry
Competition
2025



Free entry

1st prize £5,000

2nd prize £3,000

3rd prize £1,500

**Write a poem on
the theme of Roots**



Open to UK
16-18 year olds

Competition closes:
Noon, 20 February 2025

www.chch.ox.ac.uk/towerpoetry-enter