



THE PRIORY ACADEMY

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History News

Esmæ Elcocks

Roman Coffin found by the road in Peterborough

A team of archaeologists have uncovered a Roman coffin while working on a road upgrade. The casket weighed 118 stone (750kg), and was found during National Highways work of changing a single carriageway to a dual carriageway on the A47 (between Wansford and Sutton) near Peterborough. This artefact has featured on an episode of Digging For Britain and is most likely 1,500 years old. The project manager David Harison said that this was “a fascinating discovery which is unique to this region.”

Over a period of seven months, a team of 52 archaeologists, and twenty civil engineers worked on twelve sites stationed on the A47. They had specialist support from the Museum Of London Archaeology; Chris Griffin, a program leader for National Highways, has said that "While our main focus has been to build a road, to improve journeys for road users, it's been extremely satisfying to play a part in uncovering such an unusual archaeological find." The coffin was found at what would have been the side of an ancient Roman road. Mr. Harrison added that "this coffin is a fascinating discovery which is quite unique to this region; its careful excavation and recording, both in the field and the laboratory, allows us to learn our Roman ancestors' history."

Nature News

Holly Yelland

Red squirrels have been taken over by grey squirrels in most areas of England

It has been noticed in the past few years that the amount of red squirrels is declining and the number of grey squirrels is increasing, which is a problem because the grey squirrels are an intrusive species from North America. These are larger and more aggressive, but the main reason they are intrusive is they carry a pox that doesn't affect them but causes the red squirrels to die a slow and painful death. Volunteers from Red Squirrels Northern England have visited 246 sites for their annual squirrel check, and the results are the following: red squirrels were found in 52% of locations (up from 50% In 2023) and grey squirrels were found in 69.1% of locations (unfortunately up from 62.2% In 2023.)

However, there is hope yet for red squirrels. There is some new innovative technology: feeders that only let red squirrels in, by AI. There is also a possibility for increasing the red squirrel population using things like gene editing, but that would be years away, and the reds don't have that much time left.

Other local nature news

At Yorkshire wildlife park, some parrots had to be moved because someone had taught them to swear! They moved them to another enclosure that had about ten other birds in it, because the birdkeepers thought that the noise from the other birds would drown out the inappropriate words from the guilty parrots.

Education News

Jihanabelle Slavin

The Latin GCSE

Just before Christmas 2024, the Department for Education announced an end to the funding of their Latin Excellence Programme, effective from February this year (2025). The Latin programme, which has been running since 2022, has since aided over eight thousand students across the UK to take their Latin GCSE.

The Latin language, as a taught subject, is very common in privately funded schools, in which roughly fifty percent of pupils take the course; this contrasts drastically to the much smaller 2.7 percent of state schooled pupils doing the same. In addition to this, the hundreds of pupils currently taking their Latin GCSE through the Programme may never be able to complete their course.

So, why is this important?

The collection of subjects we call the Arts and Humanities (Music, Literature, History etc.) are often supported by a strand of Latin education. With fewer and fewer students being given the opportunity to learn the language, this current of further understanding and contextual knowledge is likely to go unexplored - a lens of appreciation abandoned. This, paired with the benefits of learning about ancient cultures, could further the air of elitism surrounding subjects of study which should really be available to everyone, of any age.

Literature Feature

Anusha Senthilkumar

The Enchantment of Fairy tales: Exploring Magical Realms

Fairy tales have captivated audiences for generations with their whimsical characters, enchanted settings, and timeless lessons. These magical stories transport readers to fantastical realms where anything is possible, from talking animals to powerful sorcery. The allure of fairy tales lie in their ability to ignite our imaginations and inspire wonder in both children and adults alike.

Whether it's the classic tales of *Cinderella*, *Snow White*, and *Little Red Riding Hood*, or more contemporary adaptations like *Frozen* or *Shrek*, fairy tales continue to enchant us with their enduring charm. These stories often carry moral messages, teaching us about kindness, bravery, and the triumph of good over evil.

Through the power of storytelling, fairy tales invite us to explore the depths of our imagination and escape into a world where magic and adventure await at every turn. So, let's delve into these enchanting realms and uncover the wonders that lie within the pages of these timeless tales.

Environmental News

Estrela Costa Marcal

The Los Angeles Fires

In the last few weeks, at least 25 people have died during the Los Angeles fires as they continue to burn across the sprawling US city. The wildfires occurred on the 7th January 2025, which created overall destruction and division between the houses, such as the rich vs poor. Many people have been affected: the unplanned, unwanted fire burning in the natural area has caused homes to be destroyed, and famous celebrities such as Paris Hilton and Mel Gibson have lost their homes. Reports show that wildfires can last quite a long time due to the intensity and how quickly they can spread. Many reported that they are devastated by this dilemma and the effect of as many as 12,000 homes being destroyed; this is because of rapid climate change, which is altering background conditions, increasing the likelihood of fires. This demonstrates how our world is being affected by climate change and that everyone is facing new challenges of survival.

Technology News

Emily Dove

The Tik Tok Ban

On the social media platform, TikTok, there is a rumour going around that the app will be banned in the US as concerns over security problems have risen. It is said that the Chinese parent company ByteDance via Tik Tok has had a final plea for the ban to be overturned, but the Supreme Court in the US (the highest court in the country) wants it to be sold to a different company by the 19th of January.

However, the deadline for the app to be sold is also the day before Donald Trump will take the office, which has meant he has asked the Supreme Court to delay it to come up with political solutions.

US officials have accused ByteDance of being linked to the Chinese Government, handing data over from its 170 million US users.

The US Justice Department has said that because of ByteDance and its access to data of its users, TikTok presents a "national security threat of immense depth and scale." However, some of the US public see it as censoring free speech.

Many of the people of the US hope Donald Trump can stop the ban going forward, as much of their favourite content and their creators are on the app. TikTok provides people with a free entertainment source, creating smiles all around the globe. It would not be the same without the US, meaning its ban could lead to many devastating effects to users.