



THE PRIORY ACADEMY

**LSST**

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# International News

Hana King

## International Women's Day

Every year, on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2025, we celebrate International Women's Day. This day marks the strengths, achievements, and contributions made by women throughout history. International Women's day is one of the most important days of the year because it raises awareness, and reminds everyone that women deserve to be spoken for and appreciated for what they've done.

Not only is this a day for celebration, but we should also educate ourselves on the significance of women's contributions to the world. We need to make sure we understand that their efforts have shaped where we are today, and we must acknowledge their impact.

Everyone everywhere can take part in celebrating this event and spread the word that 'gender equality matters'. This day is key because it helps us to fight and stop violence, abuse, and discrimination against women.

By spreading awareness and taking action, we can work towards everyone being treated with fairness and respect.

# International News

Jihanabelle Slavin

## The WOW Festival

The WOW (Women of the World) Festival is an event which takes place every year on and around International Women's Day (8th of March); it was founded by Jude Kelly in 2010, celebrated its fifteenth anniversary this year, and has since involved many wonderful women such as Angela Davis, Annie Lennox, and Sandi Toksvig.

The concert to celebrate the festival this year took place in the Royal Albert Hall in London (which I had the pleasure of attending myself!) and lasted four hours. The musical acts included an intergenerational choir consisting of 150 women, girls, and non-binary people, Anna Lapwood on the Hall's 153 year old pipe-organ, and the fabulous sitarist Anushka Shankar.

The aim of this festival is to shed to light on how so many incredible women and people of ethnic minority throughout history (and those working today) set about bringing the movement of equality into our society, and what we can dare to envisage for the future. It's an event of hope and optimism, of 'conversation, laughter, joy, stories, and music'.

The concert will be back at the same time next year, so if given the chance to go, do! It was a magical experience (and seeing Annie Lennox and Sandi Toksvig sitting side by side is something I will certainly never forget)!

# Local News

Anusha Senthilkumar

## Upcoming Lincoln History Festival: Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May to Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May

An upcoming event, the Lincoln festival of history, is unique and exciting; it invites everyone to experience Lincoln's rich heritage in a new way! This city-wide event invites everyone to step back in time and experience significant moments from Lincoln's past in an immersive way. Throughout the bank holiday weekend, everyone can look forward to a variety of activities which include historic re-enactments, authentic experiences, and themed events. Lincoln Castle will host thrilling activities, while the Museum of Lincolnshire Life will feature captivating stories that bring history to life. Additionally, Lincoln Cathedral will showcase living history displays, creating a dynamic atmosphere that connects everyone with our city's vibrant past. In addition to these main attractions, there will be family-friendly activities like Tudor-themed crafts at Lincoln Cathedral on Saturday. The Travelling Historical Market will be present at St Mary le Wigford Church for all three days of the event, offering a taste of historical trade and commerce. Lincoln University will also be organizing lectures throughout the festival, with locations and dates to be confirmed, providing an educational aspect to the celebration.

Lincoln County Council will contribute to the festivities with displays showcasing the latest research from the archaeological excavations related to the Lincoln Eastern Bypass project. There will also be present objects from the Portable Antiquities Scheme at the Usher Gallery. To top it all off, Lincoln BIG is reducing the cost of Lincoln BIG bus tours by 50% for each day of the event, making it easier for everyone to explore the history of the city.

With so much to see and do, the Lincoln Festival of History is set to be an unforgettable experience that brings history to life and connects the community through its shared heritage. Don't miss out on this opportunity to immerse yourself in Lincoln's fascinating past!

# Nature News

Finley Wilkes

## Major Layoffs at American National Parks – Over One Thousand Employees Fired

America's national parks have always been a beautiful sight, from their towering mountains and gentle rivers to their fresh forests and majestic animals, but they've changed quite significantly in the past month or so. The Trump administration has laid off over a thousand employees of the National Park Service, which means things like longer lines, zero guided tours and more strict opening and closing times for parks all across the US. This could also mean other things for parks – like how with fewer staff, there may be an increase in inappropriate and antisocial behaviour occurring (such as illegal hunting). Maintenance also becomes an issue; with the firings came a loss of a lot of the parks' many cleaning and upkeep employees.

The firings have even led to protest, with thousands of concerned citizens standing at well known parks such as Yellowstone and Yosemite and making their concerns known. Employees at Yosemite National Park even unveiled upside-down American flags across sites such as El Capitan. A group called the 'Resistance Rangers' - made up of over seven hundred off-duty and fired forest rangers - organized these events as a way to stand up against federal funding cuts made towards the National Park Service. The NPS stated that it was working with the protesters to still allow them to exercise their right to protest without raising risk of further defunding.

# Medical News

Estrela Costa Marcal

## Positive News for Cancer Patients

Researchers have developed a revolutionary cancer treatment that trains the body's immune system to target and destroy cancer cells more effectively, offering hope to many patients.

At Yale University, the researchers have developed a personalized vaccination which has shown multiple successes in reversing advanced kidney cancer. In the study, nine patients remained disease free for three years post treatment which highlights the promising cancer treatments that can be created in the upcoming future of 2025.

This breakthrough could revolutionize how we treat various types of cancer, offering a safer, more effective alternative to traditional treatments. Larger trials are now in progress with major companies (such as Merck and Moderna) showing the possible potential for global impact.

# Game Review

By Gregor Wallace

## Subnautica

Have you ever played an open-world survival game, but suddenly wanted to introduce thalassophobia (fear of deep water) into the mix? Well, I have a game for you: Subnautica. It is an open-world survival game based on an alien planet after your ship, The Aurora, has crashed under mysterious circumstances. It is up to you, and only you, to survive on this planet and find out what happened to your ship - and the rest of the crew.

As you explore, you are tasked to find different materials to craft items you have collected blueprints for (found by scanning broken copies of those items). You may encounter different animals, such as the rather annoying crashfish, or the lunatic sandsharks. But, as you get closer to the crashed ship, you may find creatures much more terrifying than what you found in the shallows...

If you are ever stuck: just keep swimming and go deeper. If the cave ends, go back the way you came. If you are encircled by leviathans in your submarine, turn it off and wait.

Personal rating: 9.5/10, good for creative building and survival exploration.

# Seasonal News

Oliver Erskine

## Pancake Day Origins

On Tuesday the 4<sup>th</sup> March it was pancake day, so in this article we will be looking at the origins of pancakes. We have a tradition of making pancakes on Shrove Tuesday as families have to use all of their ingredients ready for Lent. This is because eggs, flour, and milk were very common things people used to give up for Lent. The first mention of pancakes in the past was in 600BC. It was recorded by a Greek poet describing them as soft, fluffy, and warm. However, the people of Britain were said to have changed the recipe and the way they were made, so that is why we have the so called American pancakes which the Greeks made and the nice thin pancakes that Brits are known for.

## Did you know?

Pancakes are actually fairly healthy as they are a good source of riboflavin, calcium, and iron; however they are relatively low in protein and fibre.



# UK News

Emily Dove

## Golden Toilet (Worth £2.8 million) Stolen

A fully-plumbed and functioning toilet made of 18-carat gold was stolen from an art exhibition in the Oxfordshire stately home of Blenheim Palace. It is said to have weighed 98 kilograms, and was insured for six million pounds.

Unfortunately, the solid gold toilet disappeared from the palace in September 2019, and is now most likely broken up.

Michael Jones, 39, from Oxford, denied a charge of burglary in January.

Fred Doe (previously Fredrick Sines), 36, from Windsor, and Bora Guccuk, 41, from West London pleaded not-guilty to conspiring to transfer criminal property.

Prosecutor Julian Christopher KC told the court that two vehicles drove through locked gates of Blenheim Palace in the early hours of the 14th September and a group of five smashed their way into the building with sledgehammers.

The court heard that the sledgehammers were left in the palace.

A fourth man, James Sean, 40, from Wellingborough in Northamptonshire pleaded guilty to burglary.

Mr Christopher told the court the raid took just five minutes.

The trial continues in Oxford crown court.

# Film Review

Holly Yelland and Victoria Griffiths

## 'Wicked' Film Review

Most people have seen, or at least heard of, the movie 'Wicked'; but how good is it really? Most people seem to really love the film as people are always talking about it and online it has a rating of four stars out of five. Reviewers were impressed with the cast's acting and singing, praising their performances as well as casting choices. This film is quite iconic as there are catchy elements such as Cynthia Erivo's ending riff in defying gravity – which has been recreated multiple times by influencers and even famous singers like Sabrina Carpenter.

Personally, we think that the movie was great because it was a good prequel to 'The Wizard of Oz' (a movie that almost everyone has heard of and is held dear to many hearts) and the fact that it has two-parts leaves a large group of people in suspense for the next one to come out; this makes it even more appealing. This excitement has been spoiled for some though as there is a stage show that was made before the film, and it means the show gains more popularity as 'Wicked' movie fans want a sneak peak as to what is next. The casting was also a perfect fit, with Ariana Grande as Glinda, Cynthia Erivo as Elphaba, and Jonathan Bailey as Prince Fiyero.

As an overview, it's overall a good film and, whether you are a 'Wizard of Oz' person or you prefer the new 'Wicked', people of all ages can come together to enjoy this new phenomenon of a film.