



# THE BRIDGFORDIAN

**2020: Bursting the Bubble**

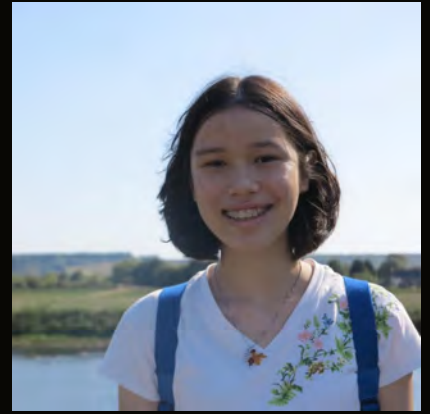
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# Editors note

Dear reader,

2020: what a year to have lived in! Five months on, it still seems surreal: a plague 'pon the world, a market on the brink, a society locked up at home. And, most remarkable of all, the communal spirit with which we bore through these trying times. Solidarity is close to home: we need only turn to one of our correspondent's mum, who composed the revised lyrics for the ICU choir's 'Every Breath You Take', amid the domestic necessity of dinner-making. Or the exclusive interview with Frank Turner, a much-loved rockstar, who wished for music to flourish beyond all physical confinements. Or the increasing communal awareness for young LGBT people, as investigated by another correspondent. Or the quietly extraordinary group of people who, through many frantic emails and poor-quality Teams meetings, have produced the magazine you (virtually) hold in your hands.

All of which is to say that whilst 2020 has had its gloomy moments, it is also a year of profound optimism in the resilience of the young generation – in you, dear reader. So find a cosy spot, grab a pencil for the crossword, and enjoy the fun in the pages to follow.

Warm wishes,  
Chenrui.



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# Vaccine Update

As the Vaccine against COVID-19 is rolled out across the world, here is an update on how it is going.

## Who is doing well?

Most of Europe is set to have vaccinated enough people to be counted as “fully covered” by late 2021, alongside North America. Additionally, in the middle east, countries such as Israel have made extraordinary progress, having vaccinated close to 90% of their population at time of writing.

## How is the UK doing?

Remarkably, the UK has achieved a really successful vaccination programme, having vaccinated over 60% of the adult population. This looks like much less than Israel for example, but the UK population is nearly 7.5 times larger. The UK has now successfully offered a vaccine to everyone over 50. All of this means that the UK is already observing early effects of the vaccination programme in hospitalisations and death rates.

## When is it my turn?

Currently, there are no COVID-19 vaccines that are approved for anyone under the age of 16, and of all those available only Pfizer is considered safe. Additionally, a majority of students do not have conditions that make them more susceptible to COVID-19, which means most will be far down the priority list – some may be offered one by the end of this year but you will have longer to wait if you are fit, healthy and under 16.

By Joseph Shears

# I Wanna Feel Happy Days

*All of our 2020 experiences are guaranteed to vary.*

*Some of us worked on the front lines, some worked in the kitchens; some bonded over zoom, some struggled in solitude; others created small businesses, whilst others lost jobs. But in spite of the diversity of individual experience, one thing we shared was music.*

*Musical artists and ordinary people alike created opportunities for us to bond over music during 2020, from coordinating internet scavenger hunts to aiming for Christmas No.1. This served as a lifeline for many, giving us the key to a land free from isolation, and uniting us regardless of distance, allowing us to 'feel happy days'.*

## One World: Together at Home

This virtual concert, broadcasted live on 18th April 2020, was arguably the most significant music event of the year. With a line-up curated by Lady Gaga and featuring over 100 artists from Billie Eilish to Paul McCartney, One World was watched by more than 20 million people worldwide. If that doesn't show unity, I'm not sure what does. The concert was organised by the Global Citizen movement and the World Health Organisation (WHO), and was dedicated to first responders and medical staff, celebrating their incredible work during the pandemic. All songs were performed at home, creating a cosy, intimate environment, and removing all sense of detachment. £102 million was raised for vaccine development and the Covid-19 Solidarity Response Fund for the WHO. Everybody coming together to honour healthcare workers through music gave people hope, reminding us that the whole world was witnessing the same moment in history, and that it was one which we could overcome through international

support. The magnitude of this truth may be daunting, but people defying tragedy through music is testament to the fortitude of the human spirit.

## Sophie Ellis-Bextor's Kitchen Discos:

For 10 weeks, every Friday starting from the 27th March, Sophie Ellis-Bextor - a British singer-songwriter - hosted and livestreamed a 'Kitchen Disco' on Instagram. The livestreams served as a form of escapism for viewers during early lockdown when 'quarantine' was still a very new concept. People were used to socialising at the weekend, and with the weather getting warmer and restrictions continuing, the public felt boxed in. Ellis-Bextor gave people something to look forward to at the end of each week and promoted positivity and fun by dancing around with her children



and singing both her own songs and covers.

Others also took to livestreams to connect with fans, such as Frank Turner (read more about Turner in our exclusive interview with him on pages 16-17), and Dua Lipa, who hosted a livestream concert. Some even organised Minecraft and Fortnite concerts to add another dimension of interactivity.

## 30-day Song Challenge:

Something that people may have forgotten we all did in 2020 was the '30-Day Song Challenge' - a popular trend on Instagram near the beginning of the first lockdown. The challenge involved people posting a story



## Fan Participation and Home Music Videos:

The lives of musical superstars may seem vastly different to our own due to the money and fame, however, they too had to adapt to the challenges 2020 brought. Big production music videos were obviously not possible, but many artists took this opportunity to include fans in their work in creative ways. Twenty-One Pilots even broke a world record whilst doing so! The duo released the song 'Level of Concern', a song about quarantine, in April 2020. A couple of months later, they released an enigmatic video on their YouTube channel, which was the starting point of a series of clues for fans to follow. Fans from all over the world shared clues and codes, collaborating to reach the finishing line - the chance to submit their own videos to create a never-ending music video for 'Level of Concern'. The video was streamed on YouTube for 177 days, 16 hours, 10 minutes, and 25 seconds, officially becoming the longest music video of all time. The video farcically came to an end when the band's drummer, Josh Dun, chose to light up his Christmas tree rather than keep the stream going.

Artists such as Tove Lo and blink-182 also created fan-submitted videos for their songs – 'Mateo' and 'Happy Days', respectively. Both songs were released in 2019, but the new videos gave the fans and musicians alike a fun project to work on from home, and the results undoubtedly show that music allowed for people to truly let go over lockdown and

template that prompted them to share a different song each day, aligning their choices with a short brief such as 'a song with a colour in the title'. It may have seemed like a small and insignificant activity, but the sheer number of people who participated proved how much of a valuable outlet music could be. Regardless of their music taste, people were sharing songs they never got tired of, songs that reminded them of summertime, songs that made them want to dance. Of course, there were the odd few who considered it 'cringey', but those who took part enjoyed themselves and found new people to enjoy similar music with, sharing an important part of their lives with friends and followers. This challenge gave us an opportunity to connect with others in a time when we all felt so far away.





experience the ‘happy days’ they longed for.

Some songs really resonated with fans, like Yungblud’s ‘Weird!’. The music video, released in April, included clips of him in his house, frolicking in his kitchen and bedroom. The song was not in fact written about quarantine, but the lyrics poignantly echoed the current climate and served to reassure listeners that ‘the sun will shine tomorrow’ and that they would get through this ‘weird time of life’.

### **The ICU Liberty Singers:**

You may have seen some buzz in the run-up to Christmas about The ICU Liberty Singers and their potential Christmas No.1 track, ‘Every Breath You Take (We Watch Over You)’. The song is a cover of the hit by The Police, with the lyrics rewritten by West Bridgford resident, Jackie Shears, to show appreciation for the incredible work of ICU staff during the pandemic, and to encourage people to follow guidelines to lessen the weight on the NHS. The ICU Liberty Singers are made up of NHS Critical Care staff from all over the UK, forming a Zoom choir that is over 100 people strong! The track, which peaked at #4 on the UK charts, is made up of over 200 individual recordings sung by the members from their own homes, which were then combined to produce a ‘virtual choir’. The choir was created by Kari Olsen-

Porthouse (also from West Bridgford), initially to relieve the stress on ICU workers and give them a break away from the intense strain of working on the front lines. It soon became a nationwide project to give thanks to medical staff and raise funds to support the mental health and wellbeing of ICU workers. Many of the choir members have expressed their gratitude for the regular zoom rehearsals, describing them as “a release” and that they bring “a sense of support and togetherness”, much needed in a time of such worry and uncertainty. The positive effect of zoom choirs and orchestras can even be seen aside from the Liberty Singers, providing people with creative outlets and routine during these tough times.

In 2020, music served the same unifying and uplifting purpose for all of us. It was there to for us to confide in, and to remind us that we weren’t alone. It gave us an embrace that made us feel close to each other even if we were on opposite sides of the world. It provided us with hope and happiness even when the insides of our houses seemed dark and dull. It lifted weights off our shoulders so we could dance without worry or stress. As Yungblud comfortingly reminded us, ‘the sun will shine tomorrow’, and music made it seem all the brighter.

By Saphia Essop



# The Cov-Ideas of March

*March 23rd - Much like October 31st or December 25th, it has become a household date (although it hasn't been around for centuries). It was on this day that all our lives suddenly ground to a halt; only days after we were still doubting the pandemic's reality. But was it really such a sudden change, or have we just tried to forget the frantic stress of the months, weeks and days before? What happened in the rest of the world, and how did we really react?*



## Farther away yet further ahead

Despite New Zealand being the furthest country from the UK, its Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has become somewhat of a celebrity here for her highly effective prevention of the spread of COVID-19 – it was such a success that to this date the only measures in place are border controls, not even physical distancing. The threat was promptly recognised, and strict isolation procedures were established and put in law in March. To contrast, self-isolation only became law in the UK in September 2020.

Swiftly, the government managed to establish certain ‘quarantine hotels’, where self-isolation was mandatory and closely monitored. Many of these are still in operation for overseas travellers, and several epidemiologists have attributed New Zealand’s success to these hotels. An alert system was also rapidly established, which inadvertently set out a clear path for a return to normality. As of June 9, normal life inside New Zealand resumed.

The combination of these gave Ardern a very high public opinion, resulting in a landslide victory in the general election in October, having won almost double the seats as the rival


National party. From this and the US election, it could be said that our prime minister is very lucky to have had his election in 2019.

*‘Some countries talked about herd immunity as a strategy. In New Zealand we never ever considered that. Herd immunity would have meant tens of thousands of New Zealanders dying and I simply would not have tolerated that.’* - Jacinda Ardern in a televised interview

## You’re Fired

The USA’s method of dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic has been largely uncoordinated and disorganised. Trump’s twitter tirades about the ‘Chinese virus’, and preposterous claims about Biden and bleach firmly secured his reputation to the world as a politically incompetent leader.

The former POTUS bragged of how he ‘felt it was a pandemic long before it was called a pandemic’, despite his then-recent declarations that the virus was ‘very, very low’ risk. States locked down individually, sometimes delegating restrictions such as those on gatherings to county governors, ultimately dooming states with lesser restrictions to an influx of returning travellers from higher risk areas such as Washington D.C. and New York. The



variation of restrictions and complete inconsistency amplified state to state transmission, leading to a 100,000-death toll by May 28th 2020.

*'I wanted to always play it down. I still like playing it down, because I don't want to create a panic'* - Trump in a private recorded interview with investigative journalist Bob Woodward

Trump repeatedly ignored the advice of scientists, fellow politicians and physicians, dismissing Biden's call for a country-wide mask mandate and Fauci's repeated warnings (the director of the National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases). Although this was unsurprising to anyone who knew the slightest fraction about Mr Trump, who has previously dismissed climate change as a hoax, there had previously been hope that due to the severity of the pandemic (and suffering from the disease himself), he may have acted in a more responsible manner.


Some have claimed Trump's method of dealing with the pandemic led to his loss in the 2020 election to the democrat Joe Biden, in the embarrassingly close election encompassing fraud allegations, demands from Trump to 'find' more votes and the loss of over 300,000 postal

votes (which were expected to be majority democrat).

### Next Slide Please

It's safe to say that at the time, few of us understood the gravity of the situation unfolding. Anyone who says they do is almost certainly lying to themselves, overcome with confusion that many of us blamed on the nature of a world crisis. Although this is understandable, attributing this disarray to a situation that could have been dealt with in a much more efficient way is not where the blame should lie. From the beginning, there was nationwide confusion on the plans for each of the four nations of the UK, and the lack of consistency mimicked that of our neighbours across the pond. Despite not having the level of turbulence as the states of America, contingencies were being thrown together around the country as quick as you can say 'Barnard Castle'. It became evident that some parts of the country had a much weaker grasp of the severity of what was to come.

After one of the most eventful weeks in many of our lives, with school closures and emergency powers granted to one of the UK's most controversial leaders in modern history, we soon realised that this was no short



affair; we were all in this for the long haul. Online lessons, banana bread and Joe Wicks were our new normal. Somehow society accepted the need for a 100-year-old veteran to fund a public service, and were even convinced that instead of what healthcare workers needed (a pay rise), we could reward them with only applause once a week. But it wasn't until months later that the chaos was reborn. The promised 'world beating' track and trace system was in fact beaten by a lack of columns in an excel spreadsheet, which showed the true corruption and utter incompetence within the Conservatives' "coincidental" distribution of key roles to friends and acceptance of outrageous pay rises.

*'I was at a hospital the other night where I think there were a few coronavirus patients and I shook hands with everybody, you will be pleased to know, and I continue to shake hands.'* - Boris Johnson

Perhaps most notably was the blatant ignoring of advice from the Chief Scientific Advisor (as it turns out, advice is actually what he does for a living) to increase restrictions in September 2020, after clear mathematical modelling showed a catastrophic worst-case scenario, which we managed to actually exceed by not implementing a so-called 'circuit breaker' until November.

Luckily, we were allowed to get our last-minute outdoor Halloween parties in before the lockdown (two months too late), and pass COVID-19 to as many people as we could. And if that wasn't enough, we all managed to get our family in on the super-spreading fun at Christmas too.

Heading into the rest of 2021, our situation is largely the same as it was in the beginning. Banana bread is still a household favourite, Joe Wicks is back on This Morning, although he's now competing with 'Buzzin' with Bez' (though we all know who the true winner is - you can't beat Bez) and online lessons are as boring as ever. But just as we got to grips with the initial severity of the pandemic, we are now starting to understand how to cope when isolated, always physically but often socially.

Counterintuitively, I have learned far more social skills in lockdown than in any other part of my life. There are silver linings in every cloud, so long as you wear a mask and wash your hands after finding it.

By Ethan Sosin and Kate Roadknight

# Borrow Now Pay Later

Crisis calls for action, and coronavirus is, of course, no exception. Generous stimulus packages can be implemented by advanced economies, fuelled by access to credit markets. For low-income nations, a G20 initiative has suspended debt service payments during the pandemic. But somewhere in between are a group of nations who have begun on the road to economic prosperity, and now find themselves facing enormous spending requirements, plummeting revenue and severe default risk.

Global debt levels for developing and emerging economies had reached record-highs even before the pandemic. Since 2010, total debt for these nations saw a 60 percentage point rise to reach 170% of GDP in 2019. Unfortunately, this figure can only increase as we head into an unprecedented global recession.

While the economic consequences of the pandemic have been severe in all nations, emerging markets have received particularly bad luck. Extraordinary levels of public expenditure have been required to support health institutions, struggling corporations and individuals in financial difficulty. Stimulus packages have often been limited and monetary measures such as lower interest rates may reduce the currency's value, impacting the nation's ability to meet debt payments.

This need for spending rises has been coupled with reduced income. Governments of emerging markets may find that their tax revenue has fallen as unemployment



reaches record levels. Remittances were projected to fall by over 20% in 2020 and global lockdowns continue to reduce export demand. While some, like Malaysia, have been lucky enough to export high proportions of technology-related goods, many more have not. Recent falls in commodity prices are likely to seriously impact growth for some nations. And then there are the restrictions on international travel that have devastated the tourism sector, an essential component of many emerging economies.

Quick responses from the World Bank, IMF and other multilateral organisations have delivered much needed support for the world's poorest nations. Yet the Debt Service Suspension Initiative is unavailable to the majority of emerging markets. Both the public and private sectors have sought increased debt levels to pay for the crisis. Figures from the IMF show that, during the first half of 2020, \$124 billion in hard currency debt was borrowed by governments of emerging economies — borrowing in foreign currencies presents additional risks of default if exchange rates fall. Paying for the pandemic may prove a significant challenge.

Urgent action is needed to avoid a default crisis. A standstill on debt repayments must be available to all developing and emerging economies facing serious levels of debt, in order to avoid insolvency in the middle of a global pandemic. Debt buybacks by multilateral organisations or debt swaps may allow these institutions to guarantee that any savings are directed to the COVID-19 effort. In the longer term, it is essential that transparency in debt-related data is improved in order to avoid unsustainable levels of global borrowing.

But for now, the current public health emergency calls for action to be taken. The pandemic is far from over globally and governments must be able to prioritise the needs of residents no matter the cost in debt. The international community should expand the support given to both developing and emerging economies during the crisis. But for individual nations, the only solution is to borrow now, and think about paying later.

By Crystal Hardy





# Dance and Disco

As fashion moved from wedge sneakers to skinny jeans to streetwear, so did music from upbeat party tunes to mumble rap to the trends of this year; 2020 has been the year of retro and dance.

The 2010s have been heavily influenced by the technology that made itself apparent in the 80s through excessive auto tune trending at the beginning of the decade and many produced sounds like EDM, Latin Pop and House defining music up until 2020. This year, music took a trip back to where it all began: retro. In late November of 2019, the Weeknd released the synth-pop sensation *Blinging Lights*. As the longest number 1 charting song of 2020, it is safe to say that this electronic-infused single set the precedent for the year and all the 80s inspired beats that were to come.

Since then, many well-known artists such as Dua Lipa, Harry Styles, Doja Cat and Little Mix have given their take on the retro trend, releasing stunning music videos demonstrating the colourful, glittery world that is disco. This frenzy even reached the world of K-Pop, with rising boy group BTS using this trend to launch themselves further into the public eye by releasing their first English single “Dynamite” that dominated the Billboard chart and sits at over 800 million views on Youtube. This was followed by other Korean releases including the glam-inspired “Mago” by Gfriend and the catchy synth-wave track “Ladida” by Everglow.

Not only were a multitude of releases influenced by vintage sounds but their reception was overwhelmingly positive. Perhaps due to the tragic events of 2020, what we all craved was some nostalgia from a better time of most of our lives leading to the immense popularity of this trend which still hasn’t died down even as we come to the end of the year.

Additionally, Tiktok is an app that is so intrinsically linked with music that it has started trends of its own. Tiktok’s primary function is the ability to film a short dancing video to a song of your choice. Naturally the catchiest dances are the ones most repeated and most heard, resulting in the discovery of many underground artists by a mainstream audience.

Tiktok saw its biggest user increase in 2020 which now lands them with a database of over 800 million users, mostly from the younger demographic. Therefore, logically, it makes sense for artists to want the attention of this young, dedicated fanbase already devoted to these catchy dances. In pursuit of this success, a lot of artists such as Jessi, Hyuna and Zico have streamlined the process by creating simple versions of the songs’ choreographies specifically to entice Tiktok users into repeating their dances.

Through this, formerly small artists such as Ashnikko, Blanco Brown and Ambjaay have blown up due to their songs being in the background to some of the catchiest dances of the year. Even artists who already have moderate fame like Doja Cat become household names since their music is discovered through this platform. Her hit “Say So” became one of the most listened songs with over 700 million plays on Spotify. It’s safe to say that the key to the success of the careers of future musicians may be on Tiktok.

In a time of legally enforced distancing and isolation, we seem to find solace in fun-dancing and a nostalgia trip. The turbulence of 2020 has been tempered with the rise of retro and memories of the Golden Age of music. And so the beat goes on.

By Asta Knight

# How Corona Virus Plagued the UK Economy

On the 31st of January 2020, the UK economy left the European Union. This caused the exchange rate to plummet, slowed the UK's GDP growth by 1.4% and sent waves of EU migrants back to their home countries. Little did we know, this would not be the biggest economic shock to hit the UK in 2020, as the spread of the Corona Virus brought about devastating and unexpected consequences for the UK economy.

Its contagiousness and possible fatality forced many workers into their homes and out of their jobs. No industry has been left unaffected. As a result, unemployment rose by 1.2% this year, after 10 years of gradual decrease. Small business owners have been hit the hardest since they heavily rely on consumers' willingness to spend and cannot rely on savings or a loyal consumer base. In a global pandemic, people are avid to save money in case they lose their job too. Small firms are often financially unstable and need a constant flow of revenue to remain afloat. Since this flow has been obstructed, millions have been forced to close. Even household names like Debenhams are set to close, eliminating 12000 jobs.



Retail has been the hardest hit: as non-essential shops were forced to close, over 40,000 jobs were lost. Due to these immense losses, the government has not only had a decrease in income tax revenue but also an increase in the need for unemployment benefits. This has caused the government to borrow so much that its debt is now larger than the size of the UK economy. In order to prevent poverty on a nationwide scale, the government introduced the furlough scheme so that employees would still receive 80% of their current salary up to £2500 per month which meant the government was paying the wages of more than 6.3 million people. All the while, the NHS was in desperate need of extra funding to cope with its current patients as well as the surge of new ones. For a full recovery, what the economy needs is consumer confidence: the cash needs to flow for the market to begin growing again.

The travel and hospitality industries have also been damaged, with Britons stuck at home and flights cancelled. Well-heeled flyers have been prevented from their usual globe-trotting, leading to the bankruptcy of airlines such as Flybe, as well as plane manufacturers and hotels. The UK tourism industry has ground to a halt. These industries' income was already dependent on the seasons but with this instability taken to a new level, many are looking to retrain workers to enter surviving and thriving industries.

To help workers that are looking to develop employable skills, the government launched its National Skills Fund in September with the goal of giving unemployed people the training needed to increase their job prospects. £2.5 billion has already been invested into this project. The programme covers a variety of sectors from accounting to agriculture and technology, the latter being the most employable one considering the sudden increase in internet use.

It could be argued that this simply accelerated a move to life online already in motion. Online



shopping and working (for those that can) has become the new norm in the UK with many brands opting to invest in social media advertising instead of establishing new shops in town. Consumers, for their part, seem to enjoy the convenience of home: firms must learn from these trends to adapt and move online for growth and profit.

Other changes in consumer behaviour have also resulted from the change of familiar environments in our lives which have favoured some sectors and disadvantaged others. Alcohol consumption has increased perhaps due to the higher level of depression. Consumption of cosmetics has decreased as people are less pressured to keep up a pretty face when cooped up alone indoors. Video conferencing applications have become commonplace in order to resume work communication. Gyms may become redundant as people have bought their own home gym equipment. Britons appear to be thinking long-term in choosing what to buy, and their expectations reflect a post-Covid lifestyle not too different to lockdown life. The question remains if these changes will outlive Covid. Employers are optimistic, with many saying that they will consider making working from home a lasting option.

When lockdown was first announced in March, there was an unforeseen frenzy in consumer spending. Buyers anticipated shortages in

production due to their decreased confidence in the economy causing large-scale panic-buying all across the nation. This hysteria is actually what caused supplies to diminish, especially in toiletries: the image of an elderly couple walking out of Asda with a trolley chock-full of Cushelle has undergone meme status. Since these hoarders clearly had the means to hoard, their actions only disadvantaged those already in poverty who couldn't afford to stockpile. Shops were forced to put restrictions on how many of each item could be purchased in one go. As such, spending this year was extremely unreliable with the majority of consumers spending far less than usual, apart from a few buying frenzies when major announcements were publicised.

In short, 2020 has been a year of instability, witnessing a historic upheaval of economic norms and consumer expectations. The government has been attempting to regain this stability throughout the year but its attempts have been expensive and have landed it in enormous amounts of debt. It is still unknown when Corona Virus will no longer be an issue plaguing the UK economy but with the increasing number of vaccinations comes a new found British confidence that the government is trying to instil in the public that the end will be coming soon.

By Asta Knight

# 'Love, Last Minutes and Lost Evenings'

*Frank Turner, a hugely successful British folk-rock artist, has definitely had a very different year to normal, usually spending large amounts of time travelling with the slogan 'Always on Tour'. Having released 8 internationally renowned albums since 2007 and even being among Arctic Monkeys and Paul McCartney in performing at the London 2012 Opening Ceremony with his band The Sleeping Souls, on paper 2020 may seem like a non-event.*

*However, Frank has made the news during lockdown more than ever, raising over £250,000 for independent venues without which 'none of us would have the music we love', performing his 2500th show (albeit via livestream) and being asked by the Government to play the first physical live show after the first lockdown. Here is his take on it all:*

## **How was songwriting different in 2020?**

I suppose it was a more solitary experience, out of necessity, though I should say that I tend to write alone usually anyway. Songwriting (and art more generally) is a reactive process, you try to distil the world around you into something meaningful, so in some ways it's always a context-dependent thing. It's just that the context was very weird this last year.

## **What was it like playing without your band for almost an entire year?**

It was sad, really. I miss the guys a lot. The one positive is that I feel like it's regrounded me in some ways, reminded me of the core of what I do, and indeed reminded me of a lot of songs I'd let slip, playing everything.

## **What inspired you to commit so much time and effort to Independent Venue Love?**

I've been working with the Music Venue Trust and Independent Venue Week for years now anyway (which tells you something about how tough that world is at the best of times). A lot of my friends run venues, and right at the beginning of lockdown we were talking about how tough all this was shaping up to be. I owe a lot of my career to independent venues (and I miss them terribly!). So it seemed obvious to try to do something to help.



Frank Turner playing Independent Venue Love Volume 11 from his home

## **How was playing the first UK live show after lockdown? Does the achievement compare to playing at the London 2012 Olympics Opening Ceremony?**

It was a memorable night, for sure. It was very weird in many ways, but the feeling of being onstage again was redemptive, you can't really know quite how much you miss it until you get another go at it. I'm not sure quite how comparable it is with 2012, but I guess in a way it was more meaningful to me.



Frank Turner playing the first live show after lockdown at Clapham Grand on 28th July

**You also played your 2500th show last year - that's a big number! How was it getting the Sleeping Souls together for an online show?**

It was great to see everyone, first and foremost. And after so long playing on my own it was a massive rush to play with the band again, to remember how much they bring to the table.

**What can people look forward to from you in 2021?**

Well, who knows how this year will play out? I'm keeping busy. Working on shows (livestreams for sure, will play live whenever that's possible). And working on a new album too, we

recorded about 2/3 of it already, hoping to finish it in the next few months.

**Is there one song you would recommend to someone who has never heard of you before? Has that changed in the last year?**

I think that's a question better answered by other people actually!

*Well in that case, stream **The Next Storm** and **Be More Kind** (as well as countless other great songs) on Spotify, Apple or basically anywhere. And huge thanks to the actual Frank Turner for answering our questions!*



Frank Turner and Matt Nasir playing a socially distanced gig at the Nottingham Arboretum, September 2020

“Running a small venue is a business model that runs on small margins, generally from month-to-month or week-to-week and the current closures puts them in very immediate danger – threatening long-term and deeply profound damage to the scene as a whole. Underground music and culture cannot exist unless it has somewhere to exist. There are acts like me, Biffy Clyro, Ed Sheeran and Adele who needed time to incubate, find their voice, develop and grow – and we couldn't have done that without these places existing. But it's not just about incubating future stars, there are tonnes of bands who only exist in small grassroots venues and only ever will. They're still absolutely valid, and if they don't have a place to perform their art then they can't do it. They just won't exist anymore.” Frank Turner tells NME

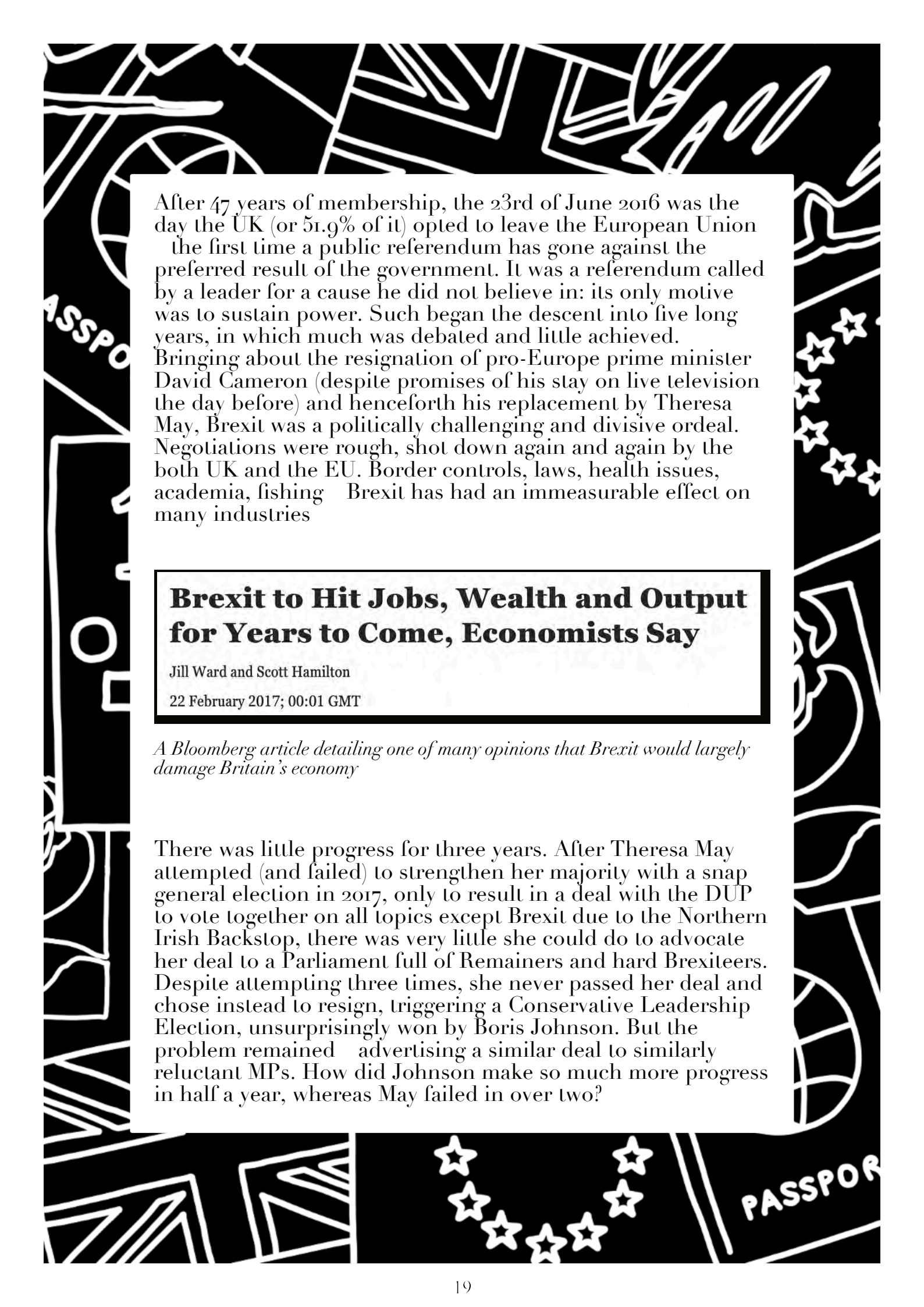
By Ethan Sosin



# **Brexit:**

## **A Series of Firsts and Lasts**

By Ethan Sosin and Kate Roadknight



After 47 years of membership, the 23rd of June 2016 was the day the UK (or 51.9% of it) opted to leave the European Union – the first time a public referendum has gone against the preferred result of the government. It was a referendum called by a leader for a cause he did not believe in: its only motive was to sustain power. Such began the descent into five long years, in which much was debated and little achieved. Bringing about the resignation of pro-Europe prime minister David Cameron (despite promises of his stay on live television the day before) and henceforth his replacement by Theresa May, Brexit was a politically challenging and divisive ordeal. Negotiations were rough, shot down again and again by the both UK and the EU. Border controls, laws, health issues, academia, fishing – Brexit has had an immeasurable effect on many industries

## **Brexit to Hit Jobs, Wealth and Output for Years to Come, Economists Say**

Jill Ward and Scott Hamilton

22 February 2017; 00:01 GMT

*A Bloomberg article detailing one of many opinions that Brexit would largely damage Britain's economy*

There was little progress for three years. After Theresa May attempted (and failed) to strengthen her majority with a snap general election in 2017, only to result in a deal with the DUP to vote together on all topics except Brexit due to the Northern Irish Backstop, there was very little she could do to advocate her deal to a Parliament full of Remainers and hard Brexiteers. Despite attempting three times, she never passed her deal and chose instead to resign, triggering a Conservative Leadership Election, unsurprisingly won by Boris Johnson. But the problem remained – advertising a similar deal to similarly reluctant MPs. How did Johnson make so much more progress in half a year, whereas May failed in over two?



The short answer is: through a Brexiteer majority in the House of Commons. The longer answer is: the ‘by any means necessary’ approach with which he achieved this. Millions of pounds were spent on TV and online government advertising, telling people to “Get ready for Brexit on the 31st of October”, which, of course, did not happen on the 31st of October 2019, as we learned on the 28th of October – cutting it short to say the least. Boris even went as far as to remove the whip from 21 of his own Conservative MPs, including his fellow candidate for Tory leadership Rory Stewart, former Chancellor Phillip Hammond and Rushcliffe’s own Kenneth Clarke, thus losing the coalition's majority.

After much deliberation, Jeremy Corbyn agreed to hold a general election in December 2019 to sort out the mess, giving Parliament the two-thirds majority needed to initiate the election process. This was where Boris managed to capitalise more than any other time. Several of the rebel MPs expelled never regained their whips or were pressured to leave the party. Only four retained their seats, the others

replaced by Brexit-supporting candidates like Ruth Edwards. Employing deceptively simple and irresponsible headlines like ‘Get Brexit Done’, and battling one of the most left-wing oppositions in many years, the Conservatives pulled off a decisive victory, even crumbling the notorious ‘Red Wall’ of typically Labour constituencies in the North.



At last, the majority May had pined for was suddenly a reality, and the Brexit negotiations were presumed to be concluded. But it was never going to be that simple.

Despite formally leaving the EU at 11pm on 31st January 2020, negotiations for the specifics of the trade deal outcomes were left to be discussed in an 11-month Transition Period. Your correspondents sympathise with those who expected Johnson and his team to make full use of the time available and keep the public well-informed, but the outcome was downright irresponsible. Although some will attribute this to the minor inconvenience of dealing with a pandemic, leaving key announcements such as leaving the ERASMUS scheme to be announced until Christmas Eve (a week before they would begin to take effect) was yet another blow to businesses, students, and the rest of the public. As such, we have only managed to cling on to two tangible EU relations from the pre-Brexit era: visa-free travel and tariff-free trade.

And the present day. How much has changed? In regards to the EU, quite a lot, although few of us will see this on a day-to-day basis, which begs the question of whether the public were in the position to have a referendum in the first place. However, it can be argued that the whole Brexit process changed more of our domestic politics than it affected foreign relations. If just 1.9% of Leave voters had changed their minds, where would we be? It is unlikely that David Cameron would have stayed as Prime Minister and Jeremy Corbyn as Leader of the Opposition all the way until 2021, but any change is impossible to speculate on. Perhaps there would have been another political controversy to turn Parliament on its head.

In any case, Brexit was a mess. Any decisions made by a leader in an effort to clutch at the last straws of power are ones to be questioned, and from lies tagged on a bus to repeated resignations, the UK was dragged into a never-ending whirlpool of conflict and contention. Now that we have managed to escape, many of us wonder if we are in fact any better off, or if the whole process was one big campaign.



#### Effects of Brexit:

A number of studies were completed in 2019, detailing the effects of Brexit upon various areas of the UK's economy:

Depletion of the NHS workforce: uncertainties regarding care for British nationals living in the EU, risk of access to vaccines, equipment and medicines, decrease in the number of non-British EU nurses registering with the NHS by approximately 96%.

Challenges to academia and research: loss of research funding from EU sources, reduction in EU students and researchers, British students will find it harder to study abroad.

Concerns of security problems: lack of access to EU databases on individuals crossing the British border

Export of production and labour: 2019 analysis found British firms substantially increased offshoring to the EU after the referendum, whereas European firms reduced investments in the UK.

A supposed benefit of Brexit would be freedom from European law supremacy, a power which Parliament granted to the EU in the European Communities Act 1972. Disagreements against this seemed to be mostly ideological (for example, some politicians disagreed with the Human Rights Act), and mostly a fallacy, as no sanctions have been imposed recently enough to warrant a contemporary issue. We have not yet exercised any law-making that the EU would have disagreed with at the time of writing.

# Industry Review:

**A nuanced, if convoluted Drama.**

By Thomas Robinson.

**Industry (rated 16)** follows five interns in their first 6 months working at Pierpont, a banking firm, before the company decides if they will become permanent hires. They are Hari, a working-class man desperate to prove his worth- his Etonian desk partner Gus, Gus' hedonistic best friend Robert and Yasmin, an upper-class girl in an unfulfilling relationship. Finally, there is Harper, the American protagonist. We watch these characters attempt to impress their bosses, explore romance and struggle with the toxic environment they've entered.


Based on the personal experiences of the creators, Mickey Down and Konrad Kay, who worked for banks in the 2000s and 2010s the stockholder jargon feels remarkably authentic. Additionally, the attitudes and tone of those working there also lie close to reality, with one research analyst claiming that it was "the closest to reality I've seen"-Bilal Hafeez. Which is not to say that the generic traps are avoided, sex and drugs feature prominently throughout, some of it justified, some of it not.



As expected from a BBC drama, the production value is stellar, the music modern and distinct. The main theme captures the feeling of these young graduates, with their sense of soaring ambition and the self-imposed sense of grandeur that makes the song fills the room, and an electronic and 21st century feel – apt for how well this piece roots itself in the late 2010s. The colour palate is filled with cold greys and blues, which only adds to the harsh and unfeeling atmosphere. The acting from everyone is also highly gripping, with special commendation to Ken Leung in his role as Harper's temperamental boss.

When it comes to the story, *Industry* has a lot going on, some would argue too much, from multiple cheating storylines to the multiple investors that enter the story as quickly as they leave it, the show deserves a rewatch solely so that you can fully understand everything that just happened. Naturally, certain storylines are underdeveloped – most egregiously the main twist in the first episode. Furthermore, the show lacks a core message: much as it might try to focus around the concept of meritocracy, many of the major storylines have nothing to do with this. However, this also means that the show never appears condescending or trying to force a message down your throat, everything seems to happen organically, and the show invites you to draw your own conclusions. This method works because the show is often looking into lots of grey areas, like sexuality and workplace diversity. The fact that this show leaves virtually everything ambiguous, deliberate or not, as one of its main strength.

In short, this show is hard to pin down. There is little to like in the characters, but you genuinely feel sorry when bad things happen to them, even the things they themselves set in motion. It shows appalling workplace behaviour but tempers it by showing genuinely uplifting and aspirational moments of success. Where *Industry* stands in its perception, and reception, of the banking sector is uncertain. But in times of constant change, the freedom of ambiguity and to interpret is a welcome respite.



# Why weak links are no longer an excuse

**Supply chain managers must reconsider the trade-off between resilience and cost, inevitably reducing reliance on global factories.**

Breaking with tradition can be difficult, but breaking supply chains is easy. Even as early as February 2020, ripple effects from far-away factory closures spread as quickly as the virus, exposing the network's inherent fragility. Despite frequent warning signals prior to the pandemic, now is as good a time as any to rethink the priorities of the system on which we all rely.

For decades, profit-seeking firms have streamlined supply chain ecosystems in search of cost reduction while neglecting concerns of risk exposure. In ordinary times, the system operates like clockwork, coordinating vast and diverse tiers of suppliers as they each contribute to the final product.

But these are not ordinary times. As we battle through a global pandemic, businesses across the world are being alerted to the cost of this decision. COVID-19 has taught us all a lesson in underestimating the statistically improbable — even an infinitesimally small likelihood is no guarantee of impossibility. We must be weary of future events that could pose far greater challenges.

Coronavirus, however, is not the first to offer this insight. Tsunamis and earthquakes in Japan, flooding in Thailand and Hurricane Harvey in the decade before the pandemic provided early indications of

vulnerability. One McKinsey analysis found that supply chains can expect major disruptions lasting for a month or more every 3.7 years. As climate change risks advance, disruptions due to extreme natural events may become the pattern rather than the exception. Companies will soon be unable to rely on these excuses.

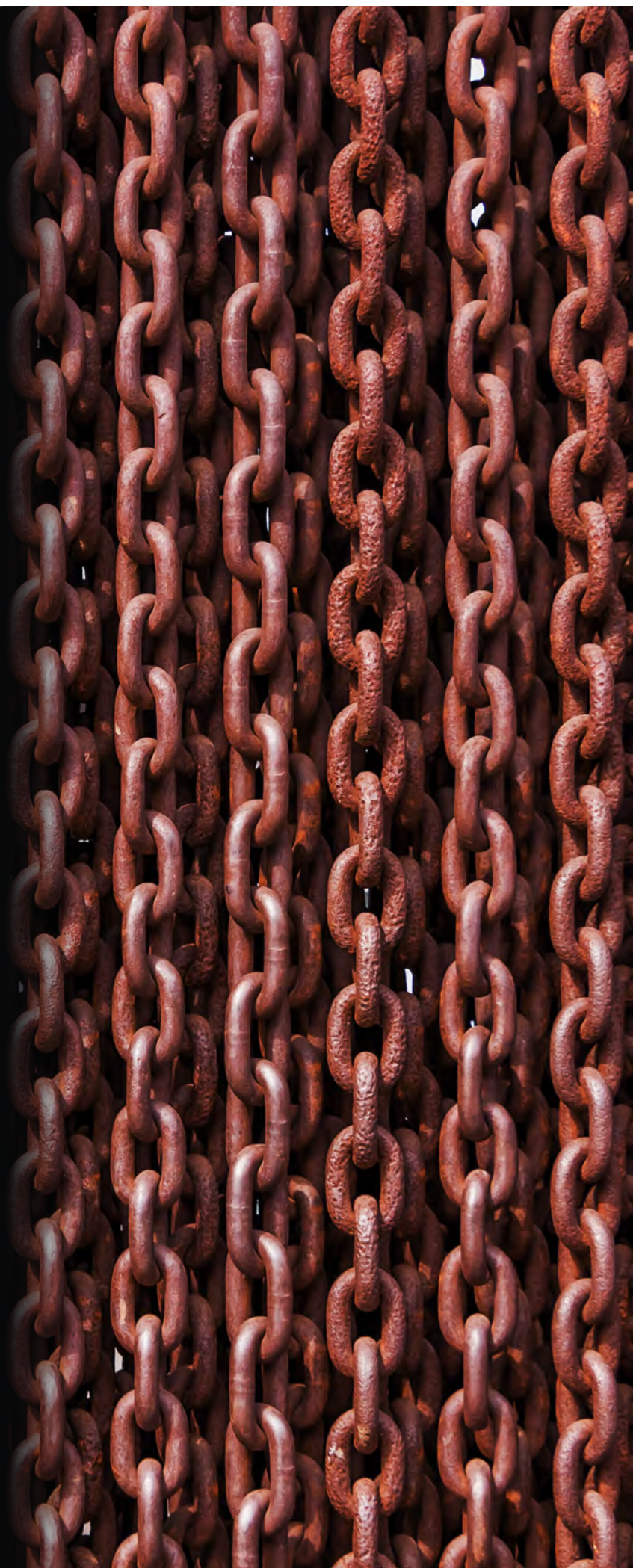
The factory closures of Lunar New Year did, however, provide a final tipping point for many firms, who shifted towards resilience even in the face of added costs. Many supply chains in China, by far the world's largest exporter of goods, are expected to face upheaval as this trend advances. The pandemic would later highlight the importance of supply chain resilience for public health and social welfare — governments are now searching for self-sufficiency in the production of critical medical supplies, food items and pharmaceuticals.

Geographical diversity alone will be too little to address decades of cost reduction and may be impractical due to expensive fixed investments and established human capital. But even in these instances, there are many ways to develop resilience. Companies can raise stock levels and use dual sourcing where possible, which may provide opportunity for developing nations. Businesses such as Proctor & Gamble even use technology to model the likelihood of situations including road delays and weather events, and then to find scenarios resulting in the optimum outcome. Even simple acts like installing air conditioning and elevating machinery can provide greater security in the face of extreme weather.

And as for pandemics, digitalisation may provide a route to overcoming transmission risks. Automated machinery and vehicles can make social distancing easier while improving accuracy and investing in online retailing platforms will be essential as lockdowns continue.

Supply chains have developed remarkable levels of efficiency over the years, but this can no longer be their only concern. In the interests of both business and society, they must now strive to develop resilience. The COVID-19 pandemic provides yet another reminder of the need to adapt — it was not the first, and will not be the last.

By Crystal Hardy



# Student Advice

## University: Spoiled for Choice

### Careers and Post 18

Due to the ongoing Corona crisis, you may not be able to visit any universities you are considering, particularly if they are abroad. However, many are offering online open days, including virtual tours, talks with professors and discussions with current undergraduate students about their experiences. Information about these may be found on the university websites, and other sites such as UCAS.

The universities have been given an opportunity to carefully tailor every part of what you see on the open day, so you need to additionally look elsewhere for information. Rather than exploring for yourself, discovering the local area and seeing every part of the campus, they can show you all the beautiful, perfectly cultivated areas, the new accommodation (which is likely to be the most expensive available). Check student forums online (such as The Student Room), and see if you or a friend knows a current attendee of the university you're looking at and ask for their honest opinion to get some unbiased and unrestricted reviews.

Each university has a unique teaching style, syllabus and combination of courses. Whether you're looking for joint honours, combined degrees or solely one subject, it is important to find the course you feel best captures the aspects you are interested in. For example, if you are a musician with a particular penchant for maths, perhaps consider a BA in Mathematics and Music at the University of Birmingham. Or perhaps you're looking for a more international approach and want to study at multiple universities. Look for courses such as the Double Degree Programme, where you can get a degree from two universities, and spend at least a year at each one (E.g., European Social and Political Studies BA from University College London and Sciences Po, situated in Paris). League tables (such as The Guardian's highly anticipated results), awards and official rankings are a good place to start looking if prestige is your thing, but just as important is student satisfaction. You may also want to consider the services and events unique to that university, what sets them aside from the others? Do they have a specific society you'd be interested in, or certain facilities? Sometimes the decision between two universities can be found in the smaller details.



Another main point to consider, is the area around the university. If you like the course, but hate the city - you won't enjoy your time there as much as you could, particularly because you could be spending three or more years there. Sites such as WhatUni? offer city guides to the areas around the university if you can't visit them in person. Accommodation is another factor. Most unis have a range of prices for various buildings, and usually the newer they are and the more private facilities, the more expensive they get. Some have fully catered halls (useful for if your cooking skills are...limited), and some are self-

catering, with shared kitchens and appliances. Compare and contrast your options, make a spreadsheet or look over them with a friend.

Ultimately, only you will know which university is right for you. Look at all the factors you can find, but the most important? If you're going to enjoy yourself! And if you research, and find it might not be your thing – fear not, other post-18 options are available. Degree level apprenticeships, internships, straight into business, there will be an option that's your perfect fit. Your future is yours alone, and your path is unlike anyone else's.



# There's Nowt So Queer as Gen Z

Acceptance and Support in Day-to-Day Life

by Mollie Hallam

*With the current rise of Gen Z becoming more ambitious to break the taboos and stigmas of many issues in the world, it can be said we're becoming one of the most accepting and open-minded generations compared to those within the past 100-200 years.*

In 1967 (only 54 years ago) the Wolfenden Report was published, meaning male homosexuality was decriminalised in the UK to prevent members of the community being arrested. In 2007 the Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations was passed into law, making it illegal to discriminate against LGBT people "in the provisions of goods, facilities, services, education and public functions". It was then another 6 years later in 2013 when the Marriage (same sex couples) Act was passed and same-sex marriage was legalised in the country. Furthermore, recently in 2017, Turing's Law was introduced in the Police and Crime Act - which posthumously pardons men who were charged for having same sex intimacy prior to 1967 when the offence was no longer criminal.

It is amazing to see these developments as an LG(B)TQ+ person myself and that it's becoming more usual to see within our neighbourhoods, celebrities, role models and education system, that there are higher representations of the Queer community; resulting in record high statistics of more people being comfortable to identify as LGB - in the 2018 study by the Office for National Statistics, roughly 1 in 50 identify as LGB. Despite the fact that more people are coming out now than they did even 20 years ago, recent statistics show that hate crimes against LGB people have risen 25% in the past year alone - and this percentage only increases for the trans community. Being gay myself, I find it incredibly fortunate and relieving I have not

experienced discrimination because of who I love when being open with friends and fellow classmates around sixth form.

Nonetheless being openly part of this community within the world can put LGBT+ people at a disadvantage regarding opportunities. A 2018 report based on LGBT+ people in the work force (conducted by Stonewall), concluded 18% of LGB staff were the target of negative comments or conduct from work colleagues due to their orientation, consequently causing 35% of LGBT staff to have to hide or disguise this at work out of fear of discrimination. Furthermore, being openly gay can lower your chance of receiving a placement of work, as 18% of LGBT people looking for work said they were discriminated against because of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity while trying to get a job in the last year. One in eight black, Asian and minority ethnic LGBT employees (12 per cent) have lost a job in the last year because of being LGBT, compared to four per cent of white LGBT staff. Laura Russel (the director of campaigns, strategy and research at the charity Stonewall) stated that "we still don't live in a society that is safe and equal for LGBT+ people -If we want to live in a world where everyone is accepted without exception, we need every person who believes in equality to stand up and support their LGBT+ friends, family and the wider community"

Whilst personally I feel free to be mostly quite open and happy with my own identity

due to the support I have, for many it is something that they hide out of fear of rejection and lack of clear acceptance from friends, family or peers. This can be a huge factor that can lead to LGBTQ+ peers to suffer with detrimental mental illnesses – however there are ways in which we can help LGBTQ+ people around the school feel safe, and reduce the stigma.

### Start a dialogue

Unfortunately, many people internalise their identity with shame, leading to developing mental health problems such as anxiety or depression. However, studies show that telling people how much we believe in them (even if they don't believe in themselves) can 'reframe' their psychology, as well as the language they use when speaking about themselves to others. It's beneficial to talk about important issues, as this acknowledgement works to de-stigmatise open mental health conversations and minimise isolation.

### Learn to listen

One should note that while everyone's journey is different, hurt and suffering are universal, and no one should go through it alone. Humans are highly sociable beings, so listening as well as speaking is just as important. Understand how to actively listen to any concerns from LGBTQ+ peers, so you can give as much moral support as you can.

### Avoid the use of stigmatising language

Avoid some terms like "phase", "cure" and "blame". Oftentimes, people are unaware of how they will react until facing the situation head on. Henceforth, working on mindfulness of language can help avoid the accidental use of words or actions which may bring more harm than good – even if you didn't intend to do so. It can allow us to reconstruct our questions and responses in a more supportive way, and doing small but important things like referring to the person with their preferred pronouns is extremely helpful to put your LGBTQ+ peers at ease.

### Offer your support!

While love and acceptance is essential for any positive bond, it remains priority when navigating sensitive subjects (such as sexual orientation or gender identity). Members of the LGBTQ+ community often lack support, which can exacerbate vulnerability to mental illness. Support can be shown in many ways; monitoring how they are, verbalising support or even giving them a hug (maybe save that one for when covid clears!). All in all, showing the person you're there for them is often a huge step to feeling safer and less alone.

Whether you identify with the LGBTQ+ community, or are just a straight ally, being there for each other is essential - especially during such difficult times such as our current situation. Remember, there is enough hatred in the world – so choose kindness above anything else.

# Ig Nobel Prize

*In the year of 2020, doom and gloom has been an overarching theme. Mental health, politics, cancellations – it's not good for us! Hence, the Science and Technology team here at The Bridgfordian present to you: 2020's Ig Nobel Prize winners! The satiric awards for the most ridiculous, preposterous, and downright laughable experiments and findings of the year.*

**Acoustics** – You may find yourself wondering, what does an alligator ‘bellow’ sound like? (as one does). Even better, how does it sound in helium? Then, my friend, look no further than the Journal of Experimental Biology (JEB), and the experiment of inducing a female alligator to bellow in an airtight chamber filled with helium enriched air.

*Stephan Reber, Takeshi Nishimura, Judith Janisch, Mark Robertson, and Tecumseh Fitch*

**Psychology** – Narcissists, so self-obsessed! It would be so useful if I knew how to spot them! Thankfully, a method for identifying narcissists has been discovered – particularly distinctive...eyebrows?

*Miranda Giacomini and Nicholas Rule*

**Peace** – Anyone remember knock-a-door-run? Want to continue that wondrous game into adulthood? Become a diplomat! Diplomats from India and Pakistan surreptitiously (amazing word) rang each other's doorbells in the night, and ran away before anyone had a chance to answer.

*The governments of India and Pakistan*

**Physics** – What shape is an earthworm when you vibrate it at a high frequency? Why yes, I've always wanted to know!

*Ivan Maksymov and Andriy Pototsky*

**Economics** – Apparently you can quantify the relationship between different countries' national income inequality and average amount of mouth-to-mouth kissing – looks like the only relationship these researchers may ever find.

*Christopher Watkins, Juan David Leongómez, Jeanne Bovet, Agnieszka Żelaźniewicz, Max Korbmacher, Marco Antônio Corrêa Varela, Ana Maria Fernandez, Danielle Wagstaff, and Samuela Bolgan*

**Management** – Hitman inception: Contractors contracting subcontractors, who in turn subcontracted more subcontractors who...you get the idea (no murders actually committed in the making of this prize).

*Xi Guang-An, Mo Tian-Xiang, Yang Kang-Sheng, Yang Guang-Sheng and Ling Xian-Si*

**Entomology** – Two more legs? How much difference can it make? Evidence that many entomologists (scientists who study insects) are in fact scared of spiders (which are not insects).

*Richard Vetter*

**Medical Education** – To many world leaders (including our very own BoJo), for teaching the world that politicians can have a more immediate effect on life and death than scientists and doctors can.

*Jair Bolsonaro (Brazil), Boris Johnson (UK), Narendra Modi (India), Andrés Manuel López Obrador (Mexico), Alexander Lukashenko (Belarus), Donald Trump (US), Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Turkey), Vladimir Putin (Russia), and Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow (Turkmenistan)*

**Medicine** – Eat your food with your mouth closed! The diagnosis of Misophonia – distress at hearing other people make chewing sounds.

*Nienke Vulink, Damiaan Denys, and Arnoud van Loon*

**Materials Science** – Culinary confusion: Knives manufactured from frozen human faeces do not, in fact, work very well (to everyone's utter surprise).

*Metin Eren, Michelle Bebber, James Norris, Alyssa Perrone, Ashley Rutkoski, Michael Wilson, and Mary Ann Raghanti*

By Kate Roadknight



# Locked Up.

Awake. Again. 8:35, on the dot. Again. The monotone buzz emanating from the tannoy rung through his skull. Again.

As the call to wake subsided, he could hear thrashing on the adjacent wall Number Two had started again. Rising from the threadbare mattress, he scraped a tally onto the stone-cold wall with a soon-to-be extinct line of chalk, marking another digit in the innumerable expanse of his confinement. The speaker took another beating, in the hopes of suppressing its drone, and, for once, it was quiet. The thrashing subsided, and there was silence in the hall. The gate to his cubicle was opened, and, as was customary by now, Number One made the rounds of the enclosed space which had been dubbed his by the Wardens, exerting what little form of control he had left, straightening the hand-crafted shelf, righting the position of the ivory bishop, perched on the window's edge, begging for an opening, anything, to breathe that breeze once more, as a free man. Number One had considered the glass-paned exit as a means of escape numerous times, particularly during the renovations of the prior month, when the contractors had leant a thin scaffold just adjacent to his view, and yet equally out of reach but this consideration, this hope, was, as always but a daydream.

Number One was somewhat fond of dreaming, it had to be said. In his particular case, it was inevitable. There was naught he could accomplish but to dream, to estimate, to plan, for the unknowable day when this detention would be lifted, or if that day would arrive whatsoever. He remembered, in the days before his sentence had been put in place by those above, having

made light of the situation alongside his accomplices, blissfully unaware of the reckoning they were to face in the days ahead. They revelled in each other's company, and to be apart, in a manner enforceable by law, was sickening. His thoughts flew across the city, mingling with the air itself, to the encampments of his peers, in much the same situation as himself, he assumed, imprisoned without the human decency of company. He drew a breath, expecting to cough the cold, iron-tinted oxygen immediately out, but was instead filled with a nauseatingly sweet scent, jolting Number One from his melancholy.

Now standing beside Number Two in the narrow hallway, Number One was feeling the full blast of the Wardens' hot air – meaningless, and yet somehow very threatening – for a late arrival. Both parties were



supposedly in the same position here, as the reminder that both inmates were a burden to their Wardens, that the two Numbers were keeping the Wardens here as much as the inverse, and that he should “share some empathy” for the situation that they “most certainly weren’t helping”, flew akin to a zephyr, freely soaring above and beyond Number One’s point of paying attention. The sweet scent from earlier had captivated him once more, drawing his eyes from across the hall to the kitchen door, hanging alone, morbidly ajar. Something escaping from that mysterious carapace had the tint of the saccharine, a fragrance defying the senselessly deprived interior of the prison, the aroma of the outside world. It captivated him to a point of obsession, in that moment forgetting all else, becoming oblivious to the stare of the Warden three millimetres from his nose, staring past Number Two blankly, as if they didn’t exist, because for him they were irrelevant, a second thought, a blip in his life to be lived exactly as he intended. Before he knew it he was off the ground, ducking past the Warden, weaving through the other, and he was away, free at last, glancing left and right at doors which led to everywhere and nowhere. His prize was just ahead, the perfume of delusion after an eternity of stale air, having been told that he was safer in here than free, that his freedom would be nothing but harmful, and he had finally reached his eureka, his great discovery, his ah.

Number One recalled what had felt like hours frozen, standing in front of that worktop which held the origin of his misconception. How had he been so foolish, so incomprehensibly inhumane, to have believed that any scent could keep him sane during his stay? As he reached that marble-glazed table, apprehensive of the wonders it could hold, he’d imagined colours indescribable, sculpture undefined, majesties of a forgotten realm. And yet, what stood before him on that day shook him to his core. It was a loaf of bread. Fragrant, fruity bread, perhaps, but nothing more than the everyday sustenance, if you could call it that, which had been forced down his throat during the stay. The aroma of banana would haunt him forever now, a reminder of what had seemed like a freedom, what masqueraded as a door out, but merely reflected the desolation of the indoor world. He had since migrated to the library, the name he had given to the pathetically arranged bookshelves draped from the walls of the room. Each book, each video, each tiny piece of media had been pored through thrice-over, -- he could almost recite *The Monarch Tigris* word-for-word, accusation for accusation-- but that was in the past now. It was time to take part in the reformation, the rebuilding of the very thing he had cursed for his punishment.

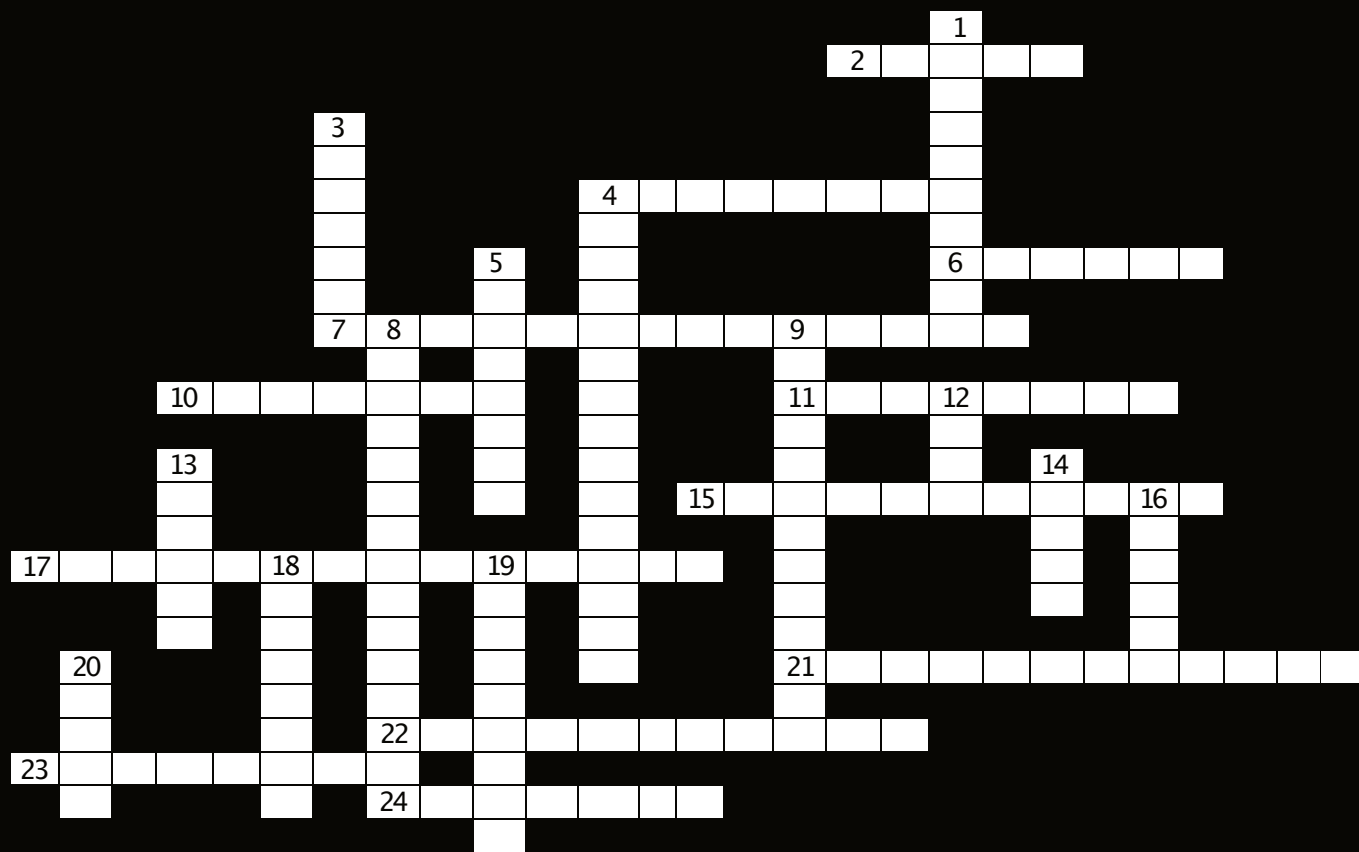
He was to rejoin society, at least to a certain degree, after so long away. Could he succeed, could he even attempt? Pulling over the battered laptop, his fingers danced across the keys, as though reminiscing, remembering a time of less rules, less regulations, when he was free to do as he fancied, facing front to a new dawn. Typing in the address provided, he wondered one last time what the past year could have been if life had gone differently, if their mistakes hadn’t been made. The people he could have met, the things he could have done, the challenges he could have faced. But none of that mattered now. This was the path out. He could finally look forward, in a time not too distant, in a place not too far, to a state not too dissimilar to what went before. Donning the lightweight headphones, a spacebar was pressed, and he was back to where he belonged.

“Class 12F, can everyone hear me? Is everyone in the lesson? Is my mic working properly?”

By Toby Johnston

# 2020 Crossword

Please leave a box where there would be a space between 2 words



## Across

2. City where Covid outbreak originated (5)
4. Oscar winner of Best Picture 2020 (8)
6. Forename of Vice President of the USA (6)
7. Partner of Boris Johnson (6,7)
10. Singer who performed with Jennifer Lopez at the 2020 Superbowl (7)
11. Surname of driver who crashed at 2020 Bahrain Grand Prix (8)
15. Second word of the Star Wars TV show created by Jon Favreau (11)
17. Full name of man whose statue was toppled in Bristol (6,7)
21. Leader of the Labour party, elected in 2020 (4,7)
22. Process that occurred prior to potential conviction of Donald Trump (11)
23. Surname of BBC Sports Personality of the Year (8)
24. Last US state to confirm election results (7)

## Down

1. Singer of Blinding Lights (3,6)
3. Forename of former government advisor who visited Barnard castle (7)
4. Name of first company to develop Covid vaccine (6,8)
5. Forename of female lead of normal people (8)
8. Game franchise with latest instalment entitled "\_\_\_: new horizons" (6,8)
9. Full name of woman who left the Royal family (6,6)
12. Animated Pixar movie about jazz (4)
13. Song with lyric "classy, bougie, ratchet" (6)
14. Surname of British bowler who took their 500<sup>th</sup> wicket this year (5)
16. Group that Donald trump attempted to declare a terrorist group (7)
18. First Kpop song to be nominated at the Grammys (8)
19. City of the football club that topped the 2020 Premier League (9)
20. Film released on 4<sup>th</sup> September on Disney Plus (5)

# Image and Illustration credits

Page no.	Description	Credits
1	Front Cover	Rowan Lang
4	Vaccine	Spencerbdavis, pixabay
5-7	Pink Background	Rowan Lang
5	Girl with headphones	whoalice-moore, pixabay
6	Youtube on phone	StockSnap, pixabay
6	Concert	ktphotography, pixabay
7	Guitar player	Firmbee, pixabay
8-11	Covid Background Illustration	Rowan Lang
12	£20 notes	PublicDomainPictures, pixabay
12	£1 coins	PublicDomainPictures, pixabay
13	People at concert	Free-Photos, pixabay
14	Man carrying Toilet Roll	Jewishisperer, pixabay
15	Seats	Juno1412
16	Frank Turner playing from his home	Frank Turner's Youtube Channel
16	Frank Turner playing after lockdown	@capturedbycorrine, Instagram
17	Frank Turner in Nottingham	@LauraFreshPhoto, Twitter
18-22	Brexit Background Illustration	Rowan Lang
23-24	Industry Background Illustration	Rowan Lang
25-26	Chains	holdosi, pixabay
27	University	sativis, pixabay
27	Student Studying	Sasint, pixabay
28-29	Rainbow Background	Rowan Lang
31	Nobel Peace Prize	fill, pixabay
32	Man looking through window	Rowan Lang



Mental Health  
Foundation



# Mental Health Awareness Week

10-16 May 2021

# NATURE

#ConnectWithNature

#MentalHealthAwarenessWeek



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