

November 2013



Dear Readers,

Welcome to The King's School's third edition of *The Archive*, a student-run magazine which invites historians of all ages to write about any historical subject that fascinates them! We invite you to enjoy some of the finest historical accounts and interpretations of our current students on some of the most controversial events of the past. There is an article on Princess Diana, another on the history of the modern Olympics and thoughts about the pursuit of the women's vote amongst much else. In this edition, with help from the Politics department, we have also brought a sharp focus on the political world (both past and present).

We would also like to say a special thank you to Mr P.G. Neal and Miss Titmuss for making this all possible.

Enjoy!

The Editorial Team

Kinmel Camp Riots

Those of you who have travelled Llandudno way or along the North Wales coast will have almost certainly passed the Marble Church, opposite Bodelwyddan Castle. However, I doubt many of you have stopped or even thought that it may have a historical tale that has been kept hushed for almost a hundred years.

This church, like many other churches, is home to hundreds of stories; however one stands out from the rest.



In 1919 in Kinmel camp just a short walk from the church, almost 15,000 soldiers were being held waiting to go home to Canada, after their service to the British Empire in the Great War.

Conditions for the troops were far from ideal: the men were on half rations due to strikes that had held up the delivery of food and supplies; some soldiers had not even been paid for over a month! Huts slept 42 men but were designed for 30 at a push, so they had to take it in turns to sleep on the floor. With no fuel for a source of heat they were left with only one thin blanket to keep them from the winter cold! Despite complaints, nothing was done to improve the conditions. The camp was undermanned and also those in charge were inexperienced in doing so - some of the camp commanders had received only 3 months of training!

The troops grew more and more restless and aggravated, especially when it became common knowledge that ships supposed to take the Canadians home had been reallocated to the American troops, who hadn't been overseas for as long as the Canadians. As a last straw, at the beginning of March, General Sir Arthur Currie made a decision to transport the 3rd Infantry as a whole back to Canada, instead of the troops waiting at Kinmel Park, who were originally scheduled for these ships. The men were outraged for being pushed once again down the list for repatriation.



At 9:00 pm on the evening of 4th March, nerves had been so strained that something had to be done. At the sound of "Come on the Bolsheviks", around 1,000 troops rebelled and began a riot. Local profiteers were targeted first and all were

looted, leading to full scale mutiny with rifle shots being exchanged.

The overall damage was calculated to be in the thousands of dollars, with stolen or destroyed clothes, food, alcohol, cigarettes and tobacco and equipment. Riots continued into the next day, and this led to 5 men being killed and 28 wounded.

Rumours suggest 83 Canadians were punished and sentenced to death following the riots; this is unlikely to be correct, what is more likely is that the soldiers died from the pneumonia and the influenza epidemic that was rampant around Europe, and is known to have been virulent in Kinnel Camp.

208 Canadian soldiers are buried at the Marble Church, including those who died at Kinnel camp, and legend states that on some nights you can hear the soldiers marching through the town, but if you look none can be seen.

Whilst a small part of the camp still remains and is used for cadets and Territorial Army training, the majority of the site is a bland industrial state, which is split by the A55 expressway. The only hint of the previous military presence is the road names on the industrial estate, for example, Royal Welch Avenue.

Although the means did not justify the end, the result of the mutiny was that troops stationed at Kinnel Camp were given priority for returning to Canada, and by March 25th approximately 15,000 soldiers had been redeployed to Canada. This is said to be one of the most misunderstood and undocumented parts of the Canadian effort in the First World War.

Eleri Reece-Jones 4DL



"Tin Town" after the rioting, March 5th, 1919



"Tin Town" after the rioting, March 5th, 1919

Is History “But a Set of Fables”?

Napoleon Bonaparte once stated that, “History is but a set of fables upon which people have agreed”. In doing so, he compared historical knowledge to “a short story which tells a general truth or is only partly based on fact”¹, threatening the validity and foundation of historical knowledge as we know it. Can a widely acknowledged historical event such as the fall of the Berlin Wall be considered similar, or even comparable, to Aesop’s famous fable, ‘The Shepherd’s Boy and the Wolf’? This depends upon conformity to the two most distinguishing features of a fable: an obvious, underlying moral of the story; and only partial basis in factual detail.

Ranke’s famously propagated agenda for the historian “simply to show how it really was” places heavy emphasis upon the role of facts in history. Consistent with the common conception of the nature of history, this paramount importance of factual detail is something which seems to rest upon a notion of objectivity. Yet all experience is interpreted, indeed moulded, by a myriad of temporal and societal influences. Napoleon himself, upon making this comparison, is highly likely to have been influenced by his contemporary intellectual environment, guided by the Enlightenment motto of ‘sapere aude’, or ‘dare to know’. Perhaps then, history can never be entirely truthful and representative, much like fables. However, there is one crucial difference.

Where facts pervade the author of fables, literary invention supersedes: a shepherd’s boy did not literally cry “wolf!” as a means of placating his boredom, rather this narrative developed from Aesop’s imagination. However, were any historians to posit that the Berlin Wall was torn apart by wolves after a young boy had tempted fate, they would undoubtedly be discredited; the facts clearly demonstrate otherwise. History, unlike fables, requires logical progressions from the facts. Therefore, partial basis in factual detail, one of the distinguishing features of a fable, does not apply to history. This leaves only the other key feature, ‘general truths’, for comparison. Fables invariably seek to impart a ‘moral of the story’, using one specific occurrence in order to establish a general principle. The terrible fate of the boy who cried wolf prompted Aesop to profess that, “there is no believing a liar, even when he speaks the truth”². However, utilising precedent in such a way presents huge problems for the historian. Historical context continuously evolves such that certain influences, upon repetition, cannot produce the same outcome. Under the rule of the GDR, conspiring to escape could result in arbitrary arrest. Yet in modern-day, liberal Germany, the same actions could never warrant similar punishment. Along with the entirely unpredictable occurrence of accident in history (which never enters into deliberately constructed fables), it becomes hugely difficult to establish precedent in history. Without precedent, there is limited ground for prediction. Whilst historians can impart useful generalisations regarding the future, the messages to be discovered in history are far less prescriptive than is the case with fables. The fable dictates where history advises, and so it seems that the two are dissimilar in this sense also.

The surest contradiction of all made by Napoleon, however, is the addition of “upon which people have agreed”. Interpretation is an inseparable counterpart of history. Yet this rarely features any degree of consistency. Whilst some are driven to argue that the Berlin Wall fell primarily due to the withdrawal of Russian support, others will assign primacy to economic incompetence. The desire to establish a hierarchy of causation in this way perpetuates continual argument in history, while the events of a fable, fixed by the author, cannot attract the same level of intense debate.

There are certainly some superficial similarities between history and fables. However, the immense disparities render these negligible. History, unlike fable, is not consigned to legend and folktale, but an ongoing process. Napoleon’s statement trivialises the complexity of history, overlooking its immense breadth, depth and diversity, whilst disregarding the most evident principle of the field: disagreement.

By Jess Guest

1 <http://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/british/fable?q=fable>

2 <http://www.aesopfables.com/cgi/aesop1.cgi?sel&TheShepherdsBoyandtheWolf>).

Houses of Parliament



The original Houses of Parliament were built in the 11th century. It was, and still is, positioned alongside the River Thames on the Middlesex Bank in London. Up until 1512, it had been used as a Royal Palace. In 1834, Parliament burnt down. This was due to the tally sticks which were stored in Parliament's cellars. The tally sticks were used to count how much money a person had borrowed. The tally sticks were then given back to Parliament once the person had paid the money back. One day, a man had an idea to dispose of the returned tally sticks. Parliament could burn them. So they planned to have a big bonfire. But in the end, they decided to use them as wood for Parliament's fires. They overloaded the fires and thus, once the wood was lit, the chimneys also caught fire. The fire spread and most of Parliament burned down. The only part that was saved was the Westminster Hall.

The House of Lords was built again, and was completed in 1847, and the House of Commons was completed in 1852. The neoclassical style was very popular at the time, but the commission said that the building had to be either Gothic or Elizabethan. The commissioners also changed the layout of the building as well. A public competition was held and the best entry was chosen and built. The winning competitor, Charles Barry, was knighted after the completion of the build.

Having visited Parliament this half term, I found the whole experience to be amazing. We had a personalized tour of the buildings, before being allowed to watch from the member's gallery of both the House of Commons, and the House of Lords during their daily sittings. They discussed policies and bills. One that we witnessed was their "heated" debate on the Police Grant Report. The Speaker was Mr. John Bercow. This motion was proposed to be approved (Result-Ayes 288 Noes 212). The interesting part is when the bell rings; this warns all the MP's that they have 8 minutes to "run" to an area on either side of the house, to cast their individual votes. One side is for "Ayes" and the other for "Noes". Hopefully they arrive at the correct destination, and support their political party; or be "whipped!"

Arran Fearn



The Pursuit for Women's vote

In February 1918 the Representation of the People Act was passed. It entitled all women over the age of 30 who were occupiers of property or married to occupiers, to the vote. The Act was a massive step forward in achieving equality for women in Britain, however the road towards the enfranchisement of women was not an easy one. Many believed women did not need the vote because their husbands would take responsibility in politics and furthermore, women were incapable of comprehending politics. In this article, I am going to look at the journey of how women achieved the vote and the factors that brought it about.

Despite campaigns for women's vote occurring in the mid 19th century, the movement wasn't centralised until 1897. Millicent Fawcett set up the National Union of Women's Suffrage in the attempt to gain middle class women the vote. Millicent believed in peaceful protest and thought that any violence would persuade men that women could not be trusted with the vote. The campaign argued that because women had to pay taxes like men, they should have the same rights. However progress was slow and most men stood firm against female enfranchisement. It was accepted that a woman's place was in the home, and should not take part in parliament or the electoral process as they would not understand how it worked.

In 1903 Emmeline Pankhurst set up the Women's Social and Political Union with her daughters Christabel and Sylvia. They had grown impatient with the middle class gradualist tactics, and believed an active organisation with young working class women was needed. The tactics certainly followed their motto "deeds not words". Protests started off peacefully, but became increasingly violent. Their first significant protest happened in 1905, when Christabel Pankhurst and Annie Kenny interrupted a political meeting in Manchester to ask if two Liberal politicians believed women should have the vote. The men did not reply so they took out a banner saying "votes for women". As a result Christabel and Annie were thrown out of the meeting, and arrested. They refused to pay the fine, and instead choose to go to prison to highlight the injustice of the system. From then on protests became increasingly violent.

The campaigning in the suffragette movement took many radical forms. Women burned down churches that believed women should not have the vote, and chained themselves to the gates of Buckingham palace where the monarchs were believed to have similar ideas. They vandalised Oxford Street, smashing windows and refused to pay tax. Another method of protest was to rent out boats on the Thames and campaign from there with banners and megaphones. There were also cases of extreme violence where politicians were attacked on their way to work. As a result the government and police took harsher and harsher stances against the movement, with many women ending up in prison; this leading to the infamous "Cat and Mouse Act".

Most suffragettes were happy to go to prison for their cause, and many chose to go on a hunger strike whilst there. Initially the government were worried the women may die and hence create martyrs for the suffragette movement, so force feeding was ordered. However this caused a public outcry and actually gained the movement more support. This was when the Cat and Mouse Act was introduced. Hunger strikes were allowed and women were left to grow weak. However when they were very weak they were released from prison, so if they died outside it was no embarrassment for the government. Furthermore the women would be so weak that they would not be able to take part in the suffragette movement. Once



they'd regained their strength they would be arrested again for the most trivial of reasons and placed back in prison, hence why the government believed this was an effective method. It certainly did help to limit the growth of the movement. However over time the suffragettes were rallying more and more support and rough treatment gained them sympathy. Progress was marked with a number of significant events.

By 1908, Emmeline Pankhurst was continuing to accelerate the radical movement. In that year a massive protest in Hyde Park was held where 250'000 people shouted "votes for women!". Also in 1909, the WSPU published a newspaper called "Votes for Women" which sold 20'000 copies a week. Perhaps the most significant event was in June 1913 at the Derby. Emily Wilding Davison threw herself under the King's horse and was killed. She was the first and last suffragette to die for the cause and as a result became a martyr for the movement. In some way these radical actions did more bad than good. It allowed opposition to question that if educated women were carrying out these actions, then should they be trusted with the vote?

Yet the suffragette movement was not the only cause for female enfranchisement in 1918; World War 1 was in some ways equally important. When war broke out in 1914 Emmeline Pankhurst called for the movement to stop, and support the government in the war effort. With men being sent to war and, later, conscription, women took over the men's jobs on the home front. They broke the stereotype and did hard manual labour, previously perceived as "men's jobs", such as working in factories and on farms. They were vital to the war effort and proved themselves, "the weaker sex", as equal to men. It was because of this that when war ceased the government were obliged to pass the Representation of People Act to enfranchise some women. Despite it seeming that the war alone gained women the vote, earlier campaigning and the suffragette movement was vital to gaining awareness and raising the question as to whether women should have the vote in the first place.



Trends towards democratic reform also contributed to women achieving the vote. Not all politicians were against female enfranchisement. Since the 19th century political parties such as the Liberals and Labour favoured extending the franchise and before the war there was growing support for granting women the vote. However, government was still slow to pass the act and this was due to a number of reasons. Firstly at the height of the suffragette movement the government had other problems to deal with such as: social reform, the naval arms race with Germany and the increasing likelihood of war. Furthermore, WSPU received negative publicity due to their tactics; Churchill was famous for saying "their cause has marched backwards". This meant the government were less likely to pass the act. Yet after the war the issue could no longer be ignored. In a sense the war was a catalyst to the enfranchisement of women.

Overall, I believe the suffragette movement and the results of World War 1 have equal importance in bringing about the Representation of People Act 1918. The movement raised the question of the possibility of female enfranchisement; however the effects of the war were essentially the final act which would bring it about. It should be borne in mind though that even after the act of 1918 the struggle for total female enfranchisement was not over. It was not until 1928 that the Equal Franchise Bill was passed where all adults regardless of their gender were granted the vote.

Alice Carr

9/11- The day that changed the world forever



9/11 is a very memorable day a day which changed the lives of many and the world as we know it. No one could have predicted the events that would happen on the Tuesday morning of the 11th of September 2001, where rubble came crashing down upon the streets of New York, Washington D.C and Pennsylvania. The events were televised to millions all over the world, bringing surprise and devastation to many who watched on helplessly and fearfully at the events that played out in front of them. On Tuesday morning September 11th 2001 devastation played out before the eyes of many as an American Airline Boeing 767 plane crashed into the side of the North tower of New York's world trade centre causing instant catastrophe. At 8:46am the plane created a gaping hole in the side of the World Trade Centre near the 80th floor of the one hundred ten floor skyscraper that created part of New York's iconic skyline. The collision instantly killed many. Not only the 87 passengers on board flight 11 and the many trapped on the floors above the collision, but also those who filled the streets below during prime rush hour in one of the world's busiest and most watched capital cities. Flight 11 was carrying 20,000 gallons of jet fuel before it was hijacked by 5 of 19 militants associated with the Islamic extremist group Al-Qaeda. The supply of such a highly flammable substance merely acted as a catalyst for an already highly dangerous suicide attack on an iconic capital. The event was vastly televised to many countries around the world capturing the hearts of many, a day that has been named both 'America's Darkest Day' and 'America's Nightmare', names which both fail to scratch the surface of the real devastation that was brought to America, on a day that really did shape the world forever.

Only a mere 15 minutes later the sequel was about to hit a nation already on its knees. At 9:01am the Southern tower of the World Trade Centre was hit by flight 175 which had left Logan airport at 8:14am. The Boeing 767 United Airlines flight plunged into the 60th floor of the tower, instantly killing many and trapping many more. The timing could not have been worse for a nation curled over in pain, as the 15 minute time slot had been long enough for hundreds of paramedics and fire fighters, police and many other fast response teams to reach the scene, in which they were about to be engulfed in a worse one. The Southern tower had been so structurally damaged that it collapsed and by 10:30am so had the Northern tower, causing chaos and mayhem for those who lined the streets to either watch the events unfold, or help those who were stranded amongst

the vast rubble and dust that was blackening the streets and blocks of New York. Of the 3000 lives stolen by this tragedy, 343 were fire fighters and paramedics, literally putting their lives on the line to help others, and 23 New York police officers and 37 Port Authority police officers. At this point it was clear that the events that had taken place were evidently not a coincidence and to many there were fears of war.

However, the pain did not stop here. At 8:20am flight 77 left Washington Dulles international airport in Virginia and headed for Washington. The plane circled downtown Washington D.C. and at 9:45am hit the west side of the Pentagon military headquarters. The plane was a Boeing 757 plane and also carried vast amounts of jet fuel, causing an inferno, which led to structural strains and the collapse of the Pentagon. Another significant bloodshed of innocent civilians was the result of this event, killing 125 military personnel and then an additional 65 people aboard flight 77.

The fourth and final attack on the United States of America on the 11th of September 2001 and one that I feel was, although maybe not in terms of bloodshed, but in my eyes the worst, was the event in Pennsylvania from flight 93 that left Newark International Airport, en route to San Francisco at 8:42am, with 33 passengers and 7 crew onboard. The passengers had learnt about the events that had happened in both New York and Washington D.C., and after a 40 minute delay found out they would not be landing safely on ground. The people aboard United Flight 93 knew they were going to die, but were determined to save the lives of many others by preventing the plans of the five hijackers in the cockpit of flight 93 from running smoothly. One of the passengers, Thomas Barrett Jr. managed to call his wife and tell her 'I know we're all going to die, there are three of us and we're going to do something about it. I love you honey'. The men or 'the three' killed the hijackers with fire extinguishers in the cockpit, leaving the plane to plummet to the ground at upwards of 500 mph. The plane crashed in a rural field in Pennsylvania, far from the bustling streets of New York or Washington D.C.. The exact destination of flight 93 will forever be unknown; destinations such as the White House have been predicted.

America's darkest day has been a day that has well and truly changed the world, in terms of airport travel and security as a whole, but there are still many conspiracies. For example 15% in a global poll thought the U.S. government has something to do with the 9/11 attacks. It will be hard to come to a conclusion of certainty over the 9/11 attacks, but its impacts upon modern day life are clear.



By Sian Davies

Why do we Ridicule the Royals?

The Royal family is the heart and face of British society; it's the most important component in making our nation what it is today. After the death of Lady Diana, we realised the nightmare that we were putting them through and the consequences of obsessive behaviour such as that of the paparazzi. Yet only 15 years following the tragic event, we are guilty of precisely the same fixation on Diana's own children.

Diana was a figure cherished across Britain; she represented bravery, beauty and benevolence to thousands of people. In the 1980s the AIDS epidemic had hit the world: people believed just simply touching someone with the disease could pass it. Diana showed the world that this was a false belief by visiting AIDS sufferers in order to raise awareness, which was broadcast nationally. This helped the whole world to see AIDS carriers in a different light, and to give them support. In January 1997, Lady Diana visited Angola, where millions of land mines had been left behind from a devastating civil war. In protest, Diana was photographed walking across the mine sites; this illustrated the sacrifice she was ready to make for those in need.



Yet Diana was not rewarded for all this with a long and happy life. Instead, she came to an unexpected death in France in 1997. Naturally the blame was put onto the press for the loss of the Princess; critics called them "legalized stalkers" and "assassins" that played a huge role in the sheer speed at which the car was travelling which, in the end, killed her. News of her impulsive, irrational death stunned the world and thousands turned out to pay their tribute to the "Queen of Hearts". When our own Queen learned of what reporters had done to Diana, she called it "the blackest day in the history of British journalism." We finally had a glimpse at what devastation we had been causing the family.

Nevertheless, despite all this we have proceeded to ridicule and embarrass Diana's own children.

Surely after having to grieve the death of their own mother, in the close watch of the public eye, we owe them some privacy to live close to normal life? At the end of last year, we followed Prince Harry into Vegas, where nude photos were broadcast worldwide within one night. Not long after Harry's scandal, our new Duchess, Princess Katherine, was photographed topless on holiday in France. Magazines writing about Katherine's photos said she was "the latest to join the cursed club" after giving a detailed report on Harry's exposure. I think it would get very tiring having people constantly obsess over what you wear, your relationships, where you live and where you work. Yes, the Royal family are role models to the general public, and are expected to act in a certain way, but surely this isn't at the expense of actually having a life? I think the Royal family, as the face of our country, deserve a break from our obsession with their every move.

Ellie Robson

THE WATERGATE SCANDAL: THE COLLAPSE OF AMERICA'S MOST NOTORIOUS PRESIDENT

Richard Nixon; a man tainted in controversy throughout his political career went on to become the 37th President of the United States of America on 20th January 1969. Yet, only 5 years later this man became the only President in American history to resign from office. Why? The answer to that question lies solely on the evidence presented through the longevity of the Watergate Scandal that came to a head as of 17th June 1972 when 5 men were arrested for breaking and entering into the Democratic National Committee headquarters at the Watergate complex.



Nixon first came to American prominence in 1952 during his bid to become Vice-President under Eisenhower's leadership. Controversy initially surrounded him through the 18,000 dollar "political

expense" funding he received from supporters. Nixon overcame the ordeal with his famous "Checkers" speech in which he won over the hearts of the public with his genuine account of events: he had used the money but only for political purposes, which he believed to be acceptable. Nixon attempted to use this same policy of oratory authenticity during the course of the Watergate affair, but even his honesty would be questioned during such a controversy. Sweaty, nervous and awkward were but a few adjectives to describe Nixon whilst he tussled the smooth, unnerving Democrat, John Fitzgerald Kennedy in the race to win the 1960 Presidential election. His 5 o'clock shadow characterised his image as a dodgy rogue, something that would later be addressed in his much ridiculed 1973 speech where he angrily cried, "I'm not a crook". After losing out on a narrow election, Nixon was sent into the wilderness. Although nothing had been set in stone, there were early signs that he was a fraudulent politician.

The Watergate Affair came to public attention in 1972 in the midst of campaigning for the Presidential election. Those who were charged for the break-in were on the Committee for the Re-election of the President, and their purpose was to photograph Democratic documents and install listening devices in the Democratic headquarters. In the short term, the incident and its importance had not been fully considered by the press or the public. Nixon went on to win the 1972 election with one of the largest landslides in American history. However, in 1973, the significance of the event came to a head when one of the burglars admitted he had been acting under perjury. It was then

later revealed that 7 White House officials were involved in a money trail cover up to ensure all individuals involved remained silent. Then, later on in 1973, the plot thickened; it came to attention through the media that there were taped recordings of Nixon stating his involvement with associates on the White House recording systems. Nixon's legal team struggled to decide which tapes to use and in this time, an 18 and a half minute recording was "accidentally deleted" on 5 systems by Nixon's personal secretary. The tapes were finally released and showed Nixon using bad language and displaying disloyalty, thereby proving that Nixon had been deceiving the public for over 2 years. One statement clearly shows Nixon revealing corrupt activity as early as 1972 when he instructs, "well...they have to be paid" in relation to perjury. As the months went by more and more was released in the media (much of which was myth) to the extent that public and Senate opinion were against him so greatly that it seemed his fall was imminent. President Nixon officially resigned on 9th August 1974. His successor, Gerald Ford, contentiously pardoned Nixon from any previous legal charges that may have come into effect as a result of his participation in the Watergate Scandal, and once again questions can be raised about any secret deals that may have occurred for this political anomaly to have taken place.

Yet, to conclude, one must assess the nature of Nixon's entire Presidency rather than the disastrous outcome of political intrigue. Many historians have come to agree that Nixon's first term was, in fact, successful. He particularly excelled in the field of foreign policy with many achievements such as détente with Soviet Russia, forming of relationships with Communist China and the withdrawal of troops from Vietnam. His domestic policies were not as successful, but still permissible. However, the turning point was the Watergate Scandal. It was not the breaking-in of the Democratic Headquarters that Nixon was condemned for. It was his blatant lying and dishonesty to the media about his involvement in such events that triggered public loathing. How could they trust a liar and criminal to govern their country? Perhaps the media deliberately heightened the significance of the event out of sheer dislike for the policies he brought in to restrict corporations and protect the American people. Hence, the media portrayed him as a slimy figure, which could not be trusted, in charge of America. Undeniably, the affair was a total abuse of power and should be viewed as one of the worst actions to have ever been committed by a President. However, it should be borne in mind that Nixon's significance lies in the fact that he saved the world from nuclear war, perhaps justifying the rest of his Presidency and leaving certain supports to overlook the scandal.



PETER BAYLISS



The Prague Spring

The "Prague Spring" is a term used to describe the brief period of time in the 1960s when the government of Czechoslovakia, led by Alexander Dubcek, pushed to democratize the nation as a whole and consequently lessen the stranglehold of Moscow over it.

In the 1960s, Czechoslovakia was a Soviet satellite state, which meant that it was overpowered by the Communist rule of the USSR, who had complete political and economic influence over the whole nation. Before Dubcek came into power in 1968, Czechoslovakia was still run by the secret police, who forcefully took out any political opposition. An extremely weak economy exacerbated the situation, meaning living standards were very low, and the people of Czechoslovakia suffered huge inequality. As a result the Communist Party leader, Antonin Novotny, was extremely unpopular. Alexander Dubcek rose to power in 1968.

During what became known as the Prague Spring, Dubcek began to introduce a series of reforms to Czechoslovakia, stepping toward a more democratic system that allowed the people more freedom and independence. By March 1968, people could speak freely about politics and censorship was abolished, meaning the media had a strong influence over the whole of society. Democratic elections were put in place that would give the people of Czechoslovakia more say in how the country was run. Travel restrictions were also abolished and, in addition, the secret police had reduced power, meaning arrest without a trial was much less common.

However, as people began to debate about communism, opposition arose. They called for more radical change in the country, more parties formed, including Social Democrats who rivalled the Communists.

But as the country rapidly became more democratic, the Soviet Union was very concerned. The reforms, especially the lowering of Communist authority and power over Czechoslovakia, were received badly by the Soviets. They deeply feared that Czechoslovakia would turn to the western ways and pull out of the Warsaw Pact, turning into a democracy. Czechoslovakia was a critical country in the Warsaw Pact; it was centrally placed and had an extremely strong industry, so the Soviets were anxious about the idea of losing it. The Soviets were also fearful of the spread of Dubcek's ideas over the East; for these reasons, Brezhnev the Soviet leader, shared his concerns with Dubcek who was warned of the potential danger he had put himself and Czechoslovakia in. But tension did not ease and Brezhnev seemed to have no other option than to invade Czechoslovakia, taking out the government and regaining control over the people.

On the 20th – 21st August 1968 thousands of Soviet troops and tanks, backed by countries from the Warsaw Pact, invaded Czechoslovakia. Within hours, buildings were set on fire, people lined the streets, many throwing petrol bombs at the tanks. Jan Palach a student from Czechoslovakia even set himself on fire in protest, but nothing stopped the Soviets. Dubcek was forced to resign and consequently the country went back to strict Communist rule under Gustav Husak.

The Prague Spring proved the Soviets were not willing to allow any country to leave the Warsaw Pact and demonstrated their dominance and power to the rest of the world.

Kate Robson



Studying History at York?

I imagine most of you will be thinking about either where to apply to university, or - if you're a bit further on - which to choose from. Well, placed in the same situation 3 years ago, I chose to study History at the University of York. Regarding the academics of studying history at university, the first thing to understand is that the approach is much more independent. You will typically have between 6 and 8 contact hours per week at York. This time will be spent either in one-hour lectures, generally for the entire subject year group, or in one/two-hour seminars in groups of 15-20. The rest of the time is entirely self-directed with you free to read and research whatever and as much as you please, and is certainly something I found rather challenging. However, this kind of academic study is very flexible, and means you can plan your study patterns around the other things you enjoy doing (i.e. clubbing, sleeping, sports, visiting places), and work when you personally operate best, whether in 9am-5pm shifts in the library, or, like many, after dark until the early hours.

I would say it is one of those things in life where what you get out is what you put in; seminars, led by tutors who ensure you cover and understand all the important points directs class discussion. These are very much built around student discussion, so the more you read beforehand, the more ideas or perspectives you will be able to mention and talk about and the more useful you will find the seminar, differing from lectures which are purely oratory. The amount to read varies between modules but is typically made up of individual articles or relevant book chapters selected by the professor running the course, so it is very wide-ranging. It's exciting because you are working with the views and ideas of many different historians on a particular topic - transforming and crafting your own argument out of the available material is part of the fun after all. To name a few topics: Rebellion in Medieval Europe, Reformation-era Germany, The Politics and Empire of Charlemagne, Victorian social relations and Utopias, and I know people who have studied The British Empire in Africa, Population and economic change in South-East Asia, the History of Medicine and Telescopes, and the Russian Revolution. The degree of choice available is extraordinary and you examine how to consider and integrate the approaches of other disciplines into your study, get involved in comparative history detecting themes in society across time and space, and learn the range of methods and approaches that historians actually use to get sources. There are also core modules advising on what to bear in mind when interrogating primary materials in-depth and, of course, the dissertation: the centre-piece of your degree (I'm doing mine on a parish church in York's City Centre in the early 16th century just if you wanted to know...). As for the assessment itself, you'll have a combination of closed exams and coursework, but also open exams - basically, you collect the questions from the History office, take them home and then 8 hours/a day/3 days later you return your answers to the office.

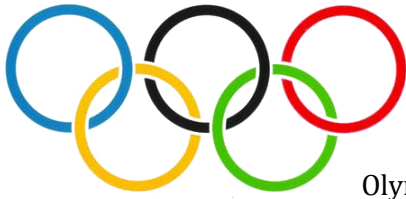
As for what living as a student in York is like, the university is based in the village of Heslington, about 10 minutes by bus from the city of York itself, in the countryside. There are two campuses, the main central one designed when the university was founded in 1963, and the new expansion (opened in 2010) - known as Heslington East. The campus is based around a landscaped man-made lake, with lots of trees, plants and wildlife around it, so it's rather pretty and is populated by an unseemly number of ducks (if any student kills and consumes a campus duck, they are expelled from the university - this is actually in the constitution...). The fact that the university is so close to town but

has a separate site is a big advantage because you have the best of both worlds in being able to experience both kinds of environment and scene.

The university itself is divided into 8 colleges, but students aren't contained within them throughout their whole degree – you would typically live in accommodation provided by a college in first-year, and then move out into the private sector and rent property. The different departments are based in specific colleges, that of History being located in Vanbrugh College - yes, interestingly it is named after the same chap who the King's theatre is named. Besides the university, York itself is a wonderful place to live and visit as a student in its own right. It is probably the best-preserved medieval city in the country with a medieval street pattern (heard of the Shambles? – or as some medievalists call it, the medieval butcher's street!), tens of ancient churches and historic buildings like the Merchant Adventurer's Hall and surrounding city walls which you can walk along. York is dominated by the enormous Gothic-style Minster, and, beyond is located the rural countryside with woodland, moor and river walks never more than 25 minutes away, and additionally within range of the Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors further out. The city is also particularly well known for its range of pubs (supposedly having one for every day of the year), some dating back to before the 17th century Civil War. Also, it has 8 clubs and 5 or so dance bars, so a highly varied nightlife. Having mentioned where to go in town, campus has various bars and social/common rooms, either run by the Student's Union or the colleges, and the Charles XII and Deramore pubs in Heslington Village are just round the corner, so you won't be lacking for places to go and spend time around there either.

The Careers Service is also excellent in providing opportunities and information to help students investigate and decide what they pursue as a career after leaving York. A History degree can be applied in many different ways and demonstrates you have acquired many 'transferable skills', and so there are a vast range of possibilities when it comes to considering careers afterwards: teaching, law, accountancy, banking and journalism to name a few professions, not forgetting further academic study at university level. Finally, there are the university societies, which History students are particularly well-placed to take advantage of. I would say getting involved with other students through the societies is a central part of the student lifestyle for most because it is simply so enjoyable and diverse. York has around 160 different organisations - the most per student among universities nationally last year - so there is an extremely wide range of options: all sports, 10 or so performance societies, such as DramaSoc, but also more niche interests like the Harry Potter/Quidditch Society, Book Group and MovieSoc. Personally, the societies I have got most involved with over my time at York have probably been the History Society and the TheatreGoing Society. We've been to Prague, Krakow, and Edinburgh, and seen the likes of Hamlet, Bloodbrothers, Dr. Faustus, History Boys, My Fair Lady and Woman in Black respectively – and it's been great. As I hope is evident in this piece, I've really enjoyed studying History and living in York and being at the university there!

James Carr, student at King's 2003–2010



The Olympic Movement

The modern Olympic movement was founded on 23rd June, 1894 by Pierre de Coubertin. He was inspired by the ancient Olympic games, originating in ancient Greece, in which athletes from the different city states of Greece came together to compete in a variety of sports. Coubertin wanted sport to unite the world again and become an important aspect in everybody's daily life. He later gave a public speech on what his vision was. He said "*The important thing in life is not the triumph, but the fight; the essential thing is not to have won, but to have fought well.*" Even today this remains the ethos of the Olympic games.

Shortly afterwards, it was decided that it would be fitting for the first modern Olympic games to be held in Athens in 1896. Also, it was decided that Paris would host the second Olympic games in 1900. French and English became the official languages of the Olympic movement. And so the Olympic movement began.

The governance of the Olympic movement has gradually developed and the three main constituents are the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the International Sports Federations (IFs), and the National Olympic Committees (NOCs). The Olympic movement also encompasses the Organising Committees of the Olympic Games (OCOGs), the National Associations, clubs and persons belonging to the IFs and NOCs, particularly the athletes but also including the judges, referees, coaches, other sports officials and technicians. It also includes other organisations and institutions recognised by the IOC.

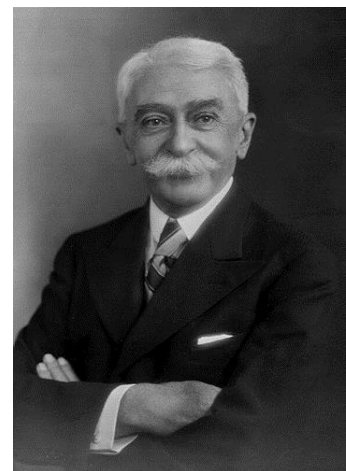
The IOC makes the important executive decisions (including decisions on awarding the games). The IFs are non-governmental organisations that are responsible for the integrity of their sports at the international level. The mission of the NOCs is to promote, develop and protect the Olympic movement in their respective countries.

The opening and closing ceremonies had been part of the ancient Olympics since 776BC and this tradition was continued in the Olympics of the modern era. However, the ceremonies have evolved during the modern era from that during the ancient Olympic games, which had mainly involved singing, dancing and merry making. Nowadays these ceremonies concentrate on showcasing the culture and traditions of the host country.

As time went by, more and more traditions were added to the Olympics. The now famous Olympic flag with its five intertwined rings made its debut at the 1920 Antwerp games. The 5 rings represent the 5 continents: *Blue=Europe, Black=Africa, Red=America, Yellow=Asia and Green=Oceania.*

In 1924 Coubertin put forward a motto. It was '*Citius, Altius, Fortius*' meaning '*Higher, Faster, Stronger*'. Coubertin said it was the perfect motto as it was the three things a true - athlete should aim for.

In the 1936 Berlin games, the torch relay was introduced. The flame would be lit at Olympia in Greece using a parabolic reflector (to concentrate the sun's rays). The torch would then be taken back to the host country. Once there it would go around the country in a torch relay culminating in the lighting of the cauldron at the opening ceremony.



Mascots were first seen at the 1968 Grenoble Winter Olympics where the Olympic mascot was a skier. However, the first major Olympic mascot was Misha (a bear) at the 1980 Moscow Olympic games.

Women athletes first participated in the Olympics in the Paris 1900 Olympic games. However, the London 2012 Olympic games were the first games to have women athletes in every participating team, including those from the orthodox countries of the Middle-East.

As the years went by, more and more nations were competing in the Games and the Olympics became symbolic of world class athletic excellence.

However, despite its important role in promoting sporting excellence, the Olympics has had its share of problems, scandals and controversies.

The 1940s games were meant to be held in Tokyo, Japan, but the outbreak of the second Sino-Japanese war forced the IOC to strip Tokyo of its host status and award it to the runner-up in the bid, Helsinki, Finland. But when world war II broke out in 1939 the IOC cancelled the Games until 1948 when the Olympic games were held in London. Since then the Olympics have never been cancelled.

The Olympics have also been dogged by doping scandals amongst athletes. One of the most infamous incidents involved Ben Johnson, the winner of the 100m final in the 1988 Seoul Olympics, who was later stripped of the gold medal due to evidence of doping.

There have also been numerous allegations of fraud and bribery. In 1998 during the bid for the 2002 Winter Olympics, it was announced by the Swiss IOC member, Mark Hodler, that several of



the IOC members had taken bribes from other countries. Before investigations could start Welch and Johnson (two members of the IOC) resigned. Many others followed. Fifteen charges of fraud and bribery were brought against IOC members. Ten members of the IOC were expelled and ten more were sanctioned. So, the Olympic Committee introduced stricter rules for the bidding, as well as including fifteen new members who were former Olympic athletes. In 2006 Beijing attempted to win the bids by, what was called, "an illegitimate and excessive level of hospitality". However, despite the criticism of Beijing's tactics, the IOC went ahead with its decision to award the games to Beijing.

However, despite all the problems, with each successive game, Coubertin's dream of a world, united through sports, comes closer to achieving reality. The games have inspired many people around the globe to be a part of the Olympics, with more and more people (men and women) participating. The media coverage has broadened the worldwide awareness of all events during the Olympics. The games have shown what the world can do when brought together and the future of the Olympics has never been brighter.

Ananda Chatterjee, 3HB



The Real Great Escape

In the spring of 1943, Roger Bushell, a squadron leader in the RAF, conceived of a plan to escape from the prisoner of war camp, Stalag Luft III. The prisoner of war camp is now in Zagan, Poland, although in the time of use it was in Germany in Lower Silesia.

The “Great Escape” happened on the 24th-25th March 1944. Bushell was held in the North Compound, where all other British airmen were being housed.

Three tunnels were built to try and escape, called Tom, Dick and Harry. The theory behind building three tunnels was that if one was discovered, the guards wouldn’t think that there would be two other tunnels under construction. The three tunnels were all cleverly hidden from the guards. “Tom” started in a dark corner in a building; “Dick’s” entrance was hidden in a drain sump in a washroom; and “Harry” was hidden under a stove.

Each tunnel was very deep, at about 9m under the surface (although the tunnels themselves were actually only 0.1 metres square). The walls of the tunnels were held up by shores of wood mainly from the men’s beds: at the beginning of the construction, each prisoner had 20 boards supporting their beds; at the end, each prisoner only had 8 boards.

As with all big ideas, there were big problems. For example, the person digging may not have had enough air to breath so they created a pump to insert fresh air into the tunnels. Then there was the problem of dealing with all the sand they found when digging; at first they would take the sand from the tunnel and scatter it outside, but this idea had to be scrapped as guards were becoming suspicious of the prisoners. After that they started disposing of the sand in vegetable patches, however, this plan failed as well, so after the tunnel “Dick’s” exit had been blocked off by a camp expansion, they started putting sand and other objects in there.

Finally, in March 1944, the tunnel Harry was completed. By this time another compound had been built for American airmen, meaning that no Americans took place in the escape (unlike in the film). Now “Harry” was complete, they had to choose the people who were to escape; out of the 600 people who built the tunnel, only 200 had been selected to escape. The prisoners were separated into groups of 100. One group was called “Serial Offenders”, full of prisoners with histories of escapes and who could speak German etc. This group had a better chance of escaping than the other, called “Hard Arses”, which would have travelled at night as they could not speak German well and had the most basic fake papers and equipment.

On Friday 24th of March they decided to try and escape. There were many problems that night, one being that the hatch they had built was frozen over. Then there was an air raid, meaning that the power was cut for the tunnel. Despite these problems, 76 men crawled through to initial freedom. At 4:55 am, the 77th prisoner was seen coming from the hatch. Those waiting in the trees started to run, while Leonard Henry Trent surrendered.

After the initial escape, only 73 out of the 76 evaded capture. Initially Hitler wanted to execute the guards on duty, all the escaping prisoners and the architect who designed the camp. However, after being persuaded by his generals, he only executed 50 prisoners, including Bushell.



By Barnaby Jones

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