



Coventry and Warwickshire Humanists Newsletter June 2024

Dear Fellow Humanists

Welcome to the June edition of the Coventry & Warwickshire Newsletter. Thankfully, the weather is beginning to look a bit like Summer now. Hopefully, you are able to get out and enjoy the glorious weather. Even if you stay indoors and watch TV, it is a busy time – the General Election and various Party-Political Broadcasts, the football with the European Championships, for music fans, it is Glastonbury and Wimbledon is just around the corner. Busy times indeed.

A reminder that the AGM will upon us in September, please consider in putting yourselves forward for any of the posts. It is imperative that we continue to get more people involved in the running of our group.

Thank you

Brian Goredema-Braid

Chair of Coventry & Warwickshire Humanists

Meetings:

Thursday 20th June: We did not have a formal meeting on this date, instead for International Humanists Day, we had an entertaining tour of Stratford-upon-Avon with no less than William Shakespeare himself. More about the tour later. We completed the day with an excellent dinner at Le Bistrot Pierre restaurant.

Thursday 18th July: This will be a formal meeting and get-together! The agenda will include a report back from the Humanist Convention in Cardiff 14th-16th June 2024. It is also anticipated that we will continue our discussion on events in Gaza.

August 2024: As usual we will not be having a meeting in August

September 2024: This is the month that we have our AGM. It has been suggested that we incorporate the AGM with our regular Autumn Social Event. We have yet to confirm the date which will be either the evening of Thursday 19th September or in the afternoon of either Saturday 21st September or Saturday 28th September? We will be able to confirm which of these dates in the next Newsletter.

Future Meetings:

One of the benefits of attending the annual Humanist Convention is that you get the opportunity to meet some very interesting Humanists. Quite a number of these interesting people have agreed to visit us over the forthcoming year:

Ann O'Connell a Humanists UK Trustee who is based in Leicester

Nick Baldwin Co-ordinator of LGBT Humanists

Madeline Goodall the Humanists UK Heritage Co-ordinator – hopefully to help us to explore the historical background of Humanism in Coventry and Warwickshire

A spokesperson from Humanist Climate Action

Terri O'Sullivan the Apostate Services Development Officer for Faith to Faithless – this will be interesting on two accounts, as Terri was bought up in a strict Jehovah Witness household and her home town is in Coventry.

Despite the difficulties of technology at the May meeting, I also managed to meet with Clare Elcombe Walker the Head of Humanist Care. We have agreed to re-run this meeting about Humanist Pastoral Care at one of our regular online Zoom meetings in January or February. Hopefully we will have some very interesting meetings over the next 12 months.

A Tour of Stratford-upon-Avon with William Shakespeare:



On Thursday 20th June, to celebrate **International Humanist Day**, a group of 16 of us assembled outside the Tudor World Museum in Stratford-upon-Avon, excitedly anticipating a character to emerge.

We were not disappointed: **William Shakespeare** appeared (AKA *Brian*) fully dressed in authentic Tudor attire who guided us round his busy town to tell us all about his life from beginning to end. We were given a vivid, professional (and sordid) description of his family, his upbringing, the state of the streets, his behaviour – good and bad – and many, many facts. (Maybe the subject of a future quiz??).

Afterwards, we then repaired to Bistro Pierre for an unhurried, quiet – except for us - meal away from noisy football fans to end a very pleasant, sunny June day.

Andrew Ireland, Social Secretary

The Bard outside Halls Croft



The group meet William Shakespeare before the tour of Stratford-upon-Avon

A Doorstep guide: questions to ask your Prospective Parliamentary Candidates

With the General Election imminent, Humanists UK have produced a list of suggested questions to ask prospective candidates. This includes some details to help you to do so. You could ask these questions at hustings, on the doorstep, or by writing to your candidates directly. Please find a guide for how to raise issues locally after the questions. I am aware that Andrew Ireland has also sent this information to many of you. You may also have received the email direct from Humanists UK. But it does not hurt to remind ourselves.

Do you support immediately legally recognising humanist marriages in England and Wales?

● The Government has stalled in giving legal recognition to humanist marriages, despite being given the power to do so by the Marriage (Same-Sex Couples) Act 2013. ● 90% of responses to a consultation on the matter supported a change in the law. ● We ask MPs to give non-religious couples in England and Wales the same right to get married in line with their beliefs as religious couples, as they can in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Do you support a compassionate assisted dying law for adults who are of sound mind but are terminally ill or incurably suffering?

● The Assisted Dying bill in Scotland and Isle of Man will enter the first stage in 2024 and in Jersey, the States Assembly has already voted the bill through. ● Polls show that the majority of the British public believe that any adult of sound mind who is intolerably suffering from an incurable, physical condition and has a clear and settled wish to die should have the option of an assisted death. ● We ask MPs to support an Assisted Dying Bill for England and Wales.

Do you support changing the law so school assemblies are fully inclusive of all pupils, rather than being acts of 'collective worship'?

● The law requires 'broadly Christian' daily Doorstep guide: questions to ask your Prospective Parliamentary Candidates

Here are some suggested questions for you to ask your local candidates, along with some details to help you to do so. You could ask these questions at hustings, on the doorstep, or by writing to your candidates directly. Please find a guide for how to raise issues locally after the questions.

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Do you support changing the law so school assemblies are fully inclusive of all pupils, rather than being acts of

"collective worship"?

● The law requires 'broadly Christian' daily worship in schools which discriminates against non-Christian pupils, parents, and staff. Inclusive school assemblies would be a more effective way of building shared values, and forwarding the spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development of all pupils.

● We are asking MPs to act on this to make assemblies suitable for all children.

Do you support fully inclusive school admissions with no discrimination based on religion?

● Prioritising children based on faith in school admissions discriminates against children of the 'wrong' or no faith, reduces the access of local parents to local schools, and leads to communities that are divided along lines of religion, race, and family income.

● We urge MPs to make admissions fair for all children and provide fully inclusive schools.

Do you support legislation to close loopholes and enhance government powers to shut down unregistered religious schools?

● The education provided in many unregistered religious schools for at least 6,000 children is

known to be narrow, predominantly scriptural in its content, deeply intolerant, and extreme while safeguarding risks remain rife.

- MPs should continue the work to set up home school registers and give powers to Ofsted to shut down unregistered schools.

Do you support removing automatic places for 26 bishops in the House of Lords?

- The UK is the only democratic sovereign state that grants legislative seats to religious representatives by right, a discriminatory and undemocratic practice that unjustly privileges one denomination in an increasingly diverse and non-religious society.
- Any reform of the House of Lords needs to remove this right.

Do you support decriminalising abortion?

- Decriminalising abortion is based around compassion for the very small minority of desperate women who do carry out their own abortion, who may be facing coercive circumstances, decriminalising would move this from criminal law to healthcare regulation.
- We are asking MPs to take abortion out of the criminal code so that women are treated with respect and compassion, and this becomes a healthcare rather than legal issue. Worship in schools, which discriminates against non-Christian pupils, parents, and staff; Inclusive school assemblies would be a more effective way of building shared values, and forwarding the spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development of all pupils.
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Humanist Convention – Cardiff 14th to 16th June:

A 2-hour rail journey to Cardiff on a sunny Friday afternoon. Checked in the hotel and the rain poured down – literally!! And that was the tone for the weekend the extremities of hot sun followed by torrential rain – monsoon conditions. Thankfully, I was indoors for most of the weekend – but being careful on the way back to the hotel to take my anorak. The conference centre was at the Cardiff Students Union. The biggest disappointment for me was the steps! Flights and flights of steps. The conference arena was on the 2nd floor – registration, refreshments, fringe stalls, bookshop etc. were on the 3rd floor. Yes, there were lifts and also many people with walking sticks and mobility

scooters who needed priority for the lifts. So many steps. The rest of the Convention however was excellent and the best that I have attended

Friday Night: It was the usual comedy spot. This year we were treated to a philosophical perspective on magic and conjuring from Callum Weaver a professional magician ably supported by philosopher and Humanist patron Julian Baggini. This was a fascinating session even if your knowledge of magic is from the Tommy Cooper school. Jacob Hawley was the comedy compere was very confident and casual. He introduced two young comedians Dani Johns described as a rising female comedian with a quick wit and Tadia Mahlunge who was born in Zimbabwe but lives in London. Compared to last year's comedy slot, these comedians had taken the time to find out about Humanism and Humanists and that we are not their usual comedy club audience. This enabled their comedy to flow more easily with the audience and received deserved applause



Julian Baggini

Jason Hughes and the humanist tradition in Wales (More courage is required to be a Freethinker in Bangor than in London) – led by Madeline Goodall: Madeline as Humanist Heritage Co-ordinator had investigated the life of Welsh tradesman and author Josiah Hughes who had a reputation of having an 'intense sympathy for all things human and natural' A freethinker in 'emphatically orthodox Bangor'. Hughes had been praised for his bravery and 'sturdy self-reliance.' An interesting study for any historians.



Madeline Goodall

Mystery Keynote Guest Speaker: There was a lot of speculation of who was this mystery guest speaker. Several names were bandied about – Stephen Fry? Salman Rushdie? Some even suggested Nigel Farage??? (well he is talking to everyone else at present!)



Mark Drakeford

All was revealed when **Andrew Copson interviewed Mark Drakeford the former leader of the Welsh Parliament.** The reason for the 'mystery' was that an independent organisation could not advertise a 'political' person during the run-up to a General Election – even though Mark Drakeford had resigned from his previous post. It was an interesting discussion and Mark obviously showed that he had similar approach to life as most Humanists. It was also apparent that the Welsh Assembly had a magnanimous approach to running the Principality as Baggini would have said – 'with harmony over individual liberty'. A very interesting session.

Humanist Values in Our Politics: Again, Andrew Copson chaired an open session with Humanist representatives from the main political parties – all except the Conservative? (Apparently he pulled out for ‘urgent business’?) The panel included Baroness Burt from the Liberal Democrats, Julie Morgan of the Welsh Senedd and former leader of Plaid Cymru, Leanne Wood. It was an interesting debate, with the non-Welsh representatives in awe of the achievements of the Welsh Senedd.

Blasphemy, ‘apostasy’ and asylum in the UK: An interesting discussion those who are fighting campaigns for those people who have had difficulties from their families in wishing to leave the family religion. Apostasy and blasphemy are illegal in many countries, and those who reject their religion often face persecution and prosecution that prompts them to seek asylum in the UK. Evidencing the risk, they face depends on being able to evidence their lack of belief, which is often difficult to demonstrate.

Heresy: Jesus Christ and other sons of god – Catherine

Nixey: You may recall that I reviewed this excellent book in the May Newsletter. For me, this was by far the highlight of the whole convention. Catherine was being interviewed by Andrew Copson. ‘In the beginning was the Word’ After the death of Jesus, there was not just one word, nor any consensus as to who he was or why he had mattered. There are many Jesuses, among them the aggressive Jesus who scorned parents and crippled those who opposed him; the Jesus who sold his twin into slavery, and the Jesus who had someone crucified in his stead. Moreover, in the early years of the first millennium, there were many other saviours, many sons of gods who healed the sick and cured the lame. A fascinating discussion, and it is no wonder that all of Catherine Nixey’s books sold out during the Convention.



Catherine Nixey



Brian Klaas

Chance, Chaos and why everything we do matters – Brian Klaas:

This was another excellent session. Our world is defined by chance encounters, random fluctuations, and chaos theory. Brian Klaas explained why the world is governed by chaos theory. But rather than destroying our sense of purpose, it is the bedrock of how we can make sense of the vast improbability of our existence and the awe of the world around us. Drawing on science and rationality to understand that we control nothing, but influence everything – and that amidst chance, randomness and uncertainty, everything we do matters

The Gala Dinner: Always a highlight of the Convention. The success of the dinner for me is the randomness of who you are sharing a table with. But, you cannot go far wrong with a tableful of Humanists! Participants with a little cajoling from Andrew Copson managed to raise £16,000 towards helping those apostates recovering from religious trauma.



Jim Al-Khalili

Sunday: The first session was – **The Story of Time from Jim Al-Khalili** – Humanist Vice President and broadcaster, Jim Al-Khalili provided some of the answers to some of the biggest questions about the nature of time and time’s arrow. Does it flow like a river, or does it flow past us? Can time be stretched or squeezed, or even reversed? Why does it point towards the future and not the past? A very enthralling discussion that even made a non-scientist such as me sit up!

Humanist campaigning from education to assisted dying: This session was led by two Humanist UK staff members; Lewis Young the Education Campaigns manager and Nathan Stilwell the Assisted

Dying Campaigner. They both gave outlines of the progress of the depth of the campaigns that they are both leading on.

DNA vs. hip hop – Adam Rutherford: Everyone knows what a great entertaining speaker the Humanists UK President Adam Rutherford is. Perhaps that is why he was the last speaker of the Convention. He gave an overview of how evolution relies upon genetic engineering and how to make these important endeavour's less boring. Adam Rutherford did attempt to draw out the shocking similarities between evolution and music and between genetic engineering and hip hop.



Adam Rutherford

He described it as the most Gen X, Convention hangover-nurturing talk imaginable. He further warned that he would feature Led Zeppelin, The Beatles and 2Pac. However, I did however feel that he had 'lifted' some of these concepts from his talk at last year's Convention? Nevertheless, it was entertaining and informative.

Conclusion: The trudge to Cardiff Station was followed by a nice comfortable 2-hour ride back to Birmingham to get my connection to Tile Hill. However, the rail companies had decided to conduct some major maintenance on the line from Birmingham to Rugby. The train only went as far as Birmingham International and I had to get a 'rail replacement bus'. Well, it was a shambles, no-one seemed to know what was going on – a typical example of chaos theory, plenty of blasphemy, all sorts of fake Jesuses, futile attempts to stretch or squeeze time, oodles of self-interest and very little harmony!! Eventually, I did find where the replacement buses were supposed to be. The people running the service were in fact very capable and competent – no chaos, very little blasphemy, genuine saviours and a good sprinkling of harmony with efficient timing. (See, I had been paying attention!), I got home just in time to watch the England vs. Serbia match. (Why did I bother?)

Reviews:

A Glorious Production! – Jacquie Campbell:

Some of you know that I'm very involved in The Bear Pit Theatre at Stratford upon Avon, and our last play was 'Glorious - the True Story of Florence Foster Jenkins, the Worst Singer in the World'. Anyone who has seen the film 'Florence Foster Jenkins', starring Meryl Streep and Hugh Grant, will be familiar with this story, a very heart-warming and hilarious true-life tale of the eccentric Florence, who delighted audiences and packed out the Carnegie Hall with her concerts. Florence was an appalling singer, but she loved music and believed in herself, and, incredibly kind and warm, she was beloved of her friends and admirers.

The production was beautifully staged and performed at The Bear Pit, with a simple set and an army of stage hands filling the stage with flowers. Every performance was fantastic, but Angela Minto, as Florence was superb - it's not as easy as it sounds to sing badly but Angela, a wonderful singer herself, rose to the challenge magnificently, bringing the house down with her extraordinary dreadful renditions of opera classics. On more than one night she received a standing ovation. You might be thinking it's a shame to be hearing about this wonderful and funny play after the event. However, you have a chance to see it - our friends at The Loft Theatre in Leamington are staging it from 27 November to 7 December and their standards are very high, so I have no doubt they'll do a terrific job.

Truly, I can't encourage you enough to go and see this play. Every single audience member at The Bear Pit loved it. It's not just very funny, it's touching and inspiring, with a strong message about following your dreams no matter what. As Florence says: "I'm well aware that there are people who say that I cannot sing. But there is no one who can say that I *didn't* sing."

The Bear Pit's next production is Road, by Jim Cartwright, in September. It couldn't be more different from Glorious - a tough, gritty drama set in a Northern street in 1980s Britain, when

Thatcher had done her worst and life was bleak. But it has its comedy moments. And theatre, after all, is there to show us all aspects of life.....

Poetry Corner:

This month's selection from Audrey Raishbrook is *The Solitude of Alexander Selkirk* by William Cowper

I am monarch of all I survey;
My right there is none to dispute;
From the centre all round to the sea
I am lord of the fowl and the brute.
O Solitude! Where are the charms
That sages have seen in thy face?
Better dwell in the midst of alarms
Than reign in this horrible place.

I am out of humanity's reach,
I must finish my journey alone,
Never hear the sweet music of speech;
I start at the sound of my own.
The beasts that roam over the plain
My form with indifference see;
They are so unacquainted with man,
Their tameness is shocking to me.

Society, Friendship, and Love
Divinely bestow'd upon man,
O had I the wings of a dove
How soon would I taste you again!
My sorrows I then might assuage
In the ways of religion and truth,
Might learn from the wisdom of age,
And be cheer'd by the sallies of youth.

Ye winds that have made me your sport,
Convey to this desolate shore
Some cordial endearing report
Of a land I shall visit no more:
My friends, do they now and then send
A wish or a thought after me?
O tell me I yet have a friend,
Though a friend I am never to see.

How fleet is a glance of the mind!
Compared with the speed of its flight,
The tempest itself lags behind,
And the swift-winged arrows of light.
When I think of my own native land
In a moment I seem to be there;
But alas! recollection at hand
Soon hurries me back to despair.

But the seafowl is gone to her nest,
The beast is laid down in his lair;
Even here is a season of rest,
And I to my cabin repair.
There's mercy in every place,
And mercy, encouraging thought!
Gives even affliction a grace
And reconciles man to his lot.

The Tattooist of Auschwitz – Serialised on Sky TV

The Tattooist of Auschwitz was serialised on Sky TV. It was based on the 2018 Holocaust novel by New Zealand novelist Heather Morris. The book tells the story of how Slovakian Jew Lale Sokolov, who was imprisoned at Auschwitz in 1942, fell in love with a girl he was tattooing at the concentration camp. story is based on the real lives of Sokolov and his wife, Gita Furman. Despite some criticisms of the book, I found the TV presentation to be enthralling and very moving. Please be warned, this is not the sort of TV programme to watch while you are drinking a glass of beer or wine and eating a snack. The emotion of the story drags you into its intensity.

In his old age, Lale is living in Australia where he meets Morris. She was given the idea of telling the story of Lale Sokolov by a mutual friend of hers and Lale's son after Lale's wife Gita died. Morris met with Lale for three years until his death in 2006 to hear his story about his time with Gita in Auschwitz and take notes for the book. During those meetings with Lale, he told Morris about the trauma, pain and survivor guilt he experienced. The TV series centres on Lale's dilemmas and contradictions to enable his survival. What would any of us have done?

The story follows his journey as a prisoner of Auschwitz concentration camp during World War II. After being forcibly transported on a long journey on a livestock train with other Jewish prisoners,

Lale arrives at Auschwitz II-Birkenau work camp where, within his first night, he witnesses two men killed by the SS.

Lale begins to suffer the horrors of a concentration-camp, which involves witnessing gassings of fellow prisoners and becoming ill with typhus. While Lale is ill, the current tattooist of the camp, Pepan, takes interest in him and arranges for him to become his apprentice. Lale endures the labour of tattooing new prisoners to enable his further survival.

Lale briefly meets a beautiful, young woman while tattooing her arm upon her entry to the camp, and he experiences love at first sight. Lale becomes the main tattooist after Pepan disappears. Lale asks the SS officer in charge of him, Baretzki, for an assistant, just as Pepan had asked that he be his assistant. Baretzki picks out a young prisoner named Leon.

Lale uses his relationship with Baretzki to gain increased privileges within the camp, including the ability to communicate with Gita, the beautiful woman he met earlier. Gita works in one of the camp warehouses that houses the confiscated belongings of prisoners and often sneaks valuable items to Lale. He then risks his own life to exchange jewels and money with a sympathetic German worker who comes to the camp each day for medicine and items of clothing to help prisoners who are suffering or gain favours with the SS.

The SS officers begin acting nervous and impulsive upon news that the Russian army is advancing. Camp documents are destroyed. Many prisoners are transferred out of Auschwitz, including Gita who in the rush tells Lale her surname is Furman. Lale is transferred to Mauthausen in Austria and then soon to another camp near Vienna. Lale escapes from the camp through a hole in the fence and, upon being found by Russian soldiers, is forced to work at a chalet that serves as headquarters for Russian soldiers due to his ability to speak both German and Russian. Every day he is escorted to town by a Russian soldier to procure young, attractive German women to come to parties at the chalet in the evening. He pays them with money and jewels. One day he is told that his escort is no longer necessary and he can take the car into town alone. Once there, he escapes and makes his way to his hometown to find his sister alive, but learns that his parents are still missing and that his older brother has died.

Meanwhile, Gita has escaped her transport with three Polish women before making her way to Bratislava, Slovakia.

Lale then heads to Bratislava to find Gita, knowing that many Slovakian prisoners are being sent there. He waits two weeks at a train station and then spots her in a street. The pair kneel down and tell each other they love each other. After the war, they both emigrate to Australia.

There is often criticisms of how TV develops an inspiring novel, but this was excellent TV.

Brian Goredema-Braid

Film Preview:

There is an interesting selection of films currently on the main and the art centre circuits.

A Quiet Place: Day One: The third in a trilogy. A woman named Sam must survive an invasion in New York City by bloodthirsty alien creatures with ultrasonic sound hearing.

Kinds of Kindness: A triptych fable, following a man without choice who tries to take control of his own life; a policeman who is alarmed that his wife who was missing-at-sea has returned and seems a different person; and a woman determined to find a specific someone with a special ability, who is destined to become a prodigious spiritual leader. Starring Emma Stone and Willem Dafoe

Hounds: A grifter who will take on any task, accepts an offer from a hoodlum, to deliver the owner of the victorious beast from a dog fight. He hooks up with his son, sharper than Dad, to help, and the two men head off into the longest of nights in Casablanca. Nothing goes right. Their captive suffocates in the boot of the car and they are required to dispose of the body before morning. Made totally with a cast of amateur actors. Only at Warwick Arts Centre (WAC) and Midland Arts Centre (MAC)

Green Border: A Syrian family leaves the violence of their country behind, hoping to cross from Belarus into Poland and then onto the safe haven of Sweden. But, like so many lost souls, they end

up caught in a political maelstrom, demonized by the Polish government and press and used as pawns in an inhumane, deadly border game. Only at WAC & MAC

The Commandant's Shadow: A [documentary that](#) focuses on the story of Jurgen Höss, the son of [Auschwitz concentration camp](#) director [Rudolf Höss](#), and his boyhood home life in the villa adjacent to it. The film also stars [Anita Lasker-Wallfisch](#), an Auschwitz survivor who meets face-to-face with Jurgen Höss decades later. *The Commandant's Shadow* drew media comparisons to the 2023 film [The Zone of Interest](#), a dramatization similarly focusing on the Höss family's life adjacent to Auschwitz. Only at WAC & MAC

Sleep: South Korea has produced several brilliant films. This one is also bound to attract interest too. After his family's ordeal in 1980 at a hotel, a man sees its ghostly inhabitants seeking his "shining". A ghost teaches him how to capture the ghosts in psychic lockboxes. By 2011, he has become an alcoholic to suppress his abilities. Working as a [hospice](#) orderly, he uses his shining to comfort dying patients, earning the nickname "Doctor Sleep" (Only at WAC & MAC)

Horizon: An American Saga – Chapter 1: A film series that consists of four planned American epic Westerns directed, co-written, and starring [Kevin Costner](#). Set in pre- and post-[Civil War America](#), and details the exploration of the [American West](#). Depicting a twelve-year span, the movies feature an ensemble cast portraying various characters and their experiences [pioneering](#) into new territory from their homes. Look out for the other 3 films!

Strike: An Uncivil War: Daniel Gordon's feature documentary tells the story of the Battle of Orgreave, the most violent confrontation between Miners and Police during the 1984/85 Miners' Strike in Great Britain. (Only at MAC)

MaXXXine: In 1980s Hollywood, an adult film star and aspiring actress Maxine Minx finally gets her big break. But as a mysterious killer stalks the starlets of Hollywood, a trail of blood threatens to reveal her sinister past. (Only at WAC & MAC)

Sorcery: In 1880, an indigenous Chilean Huilliche girl sees her father murdered by a German colonist. The 13-year-old girl, renounces her Christian upbringing and seeks shelter with the leader of an Indigenous organization that practices witchcraft. Under his gruff yet tender tutelage, she learns the art of sorcery and vows to settle the score.

Orlando: My Political Biography: A bold and joyous celebration of trans identity, told through the lens of Virginia Woolf's iconic novel. Woolf's Orlando follows the centuries-spanning life of a young nobleman who awakens to find that they a woman.

About Dry Grasses: Set in a tight-knit Turkish community that seems to only experience two seasons, probes into power dynamics and the darkest regions of the human soul. A middle-aged quick-witted and quick-to-anger elementary school art teacher in a traditional village who dreams of a posting in his native Istanbul. He shares lodging with his colleague and spends his nihilistic days developing an inappropriate fixation on a 14-year-old teacher's pet. Only at MAC & WAC

Still on the Circuit:

Freud's Last Session: On the eve of World War 2 and the end of his life, Sigmund Freud invites author C.S. Lewis for a debate over the existence of God. Innovatively, this impressive film explores Freud's unique relationship with his lesbian daughter Anna and Lewis' unconventional romance with his best friend's mother. Starring Anthony Hopkins and Matthew Goode.

The Dead Don't Hurt: In the 1860s, a [Franco-Canadian](#) woman falls in love with a Danish immigrant in San Francisco. They are separated and kept apart by [American Civil War](#). Starring [Viggo Mortensen](#) and [Vicky Krieps](#)

The Bikeriders: An engrossing drama follows the rise and fall of a 1960s rebel motorcycle gang. Beginning as a refuge for outsiders, the gang, takes a violent turn as the leader loses control and his brooding, and the unpredictable right-hand man becomes distracted. Starring Tom Hardy, Austin Butler and Jodie Comer.

TV & Film Preview:

A shorter preview this month as most of terrestrial TV is dominated by Wimbledon, the European Football Championship, Glastonbury and the General Election. But there are some little gems amid the sport and music.

Saturday 29th June:

21.00 – Channel 4: *Spencer* - Biographical drama starring Kristen Stewart. December 1991: Diana, Princess of Wales, arrives at Sandringham to mark Christmas with the royal family. Ignored by her husband, treated coldly by her in-laws, and subjected to a torrent of media attention, the former Lady Spencer begins to reckon with the realities of her situation and her marriage.

Sunday 30th June:

20.00 – BBC3: *Maze Runner* - Sci-fi thriller based on the novel by James Dashner, starring Dylan O'Brien, Kaya Scodelario and Will Poulter. In a post-apocalyptic world, a young man, confined in a community of teenage boys whose memories have been erased, plots his escape.

22.40 – BBC1: *Cyrano* - Period musical drama starring Peter Dinklage, (Game of Thrones fame) Haley Bennett and Kelvin Harrison Jr. Swordsman and poet Cyrano de Bergerac is too shy of his appearance to declare his love for his childhood friend, Roxanne.

Monday 1st July:

22.00 - BBC4: *Stonehenge: The Lost Circle Revealed* - "An astonishing discovery that is going to have us rewriting the prehistory books," says Professor Alice Roberts. This is more a series of revelations, being announced here for the first time, which extends the origins of Stonehenge back in time by some 500 years to 3,000 BC

23.50 – BBC1: *My Week with Marilyn* - Drama based on a true story, starring Michelle Williams and Eddie Redmayne. In 1956, Marilyn Monroe arrives in Britain to co-star with Laurence Olivier in his film adaptation of *The Prince and the Showgirl*. The mercurial behaviour of Marilyn drives Olivier to distraction, she's befriended by young production runner and the two become confidantes.

Tuesday 2nd July:

22.50 – BBC1: *The Sisters Brothers* – Comedy Western starring John C Reilly, Joaquin Phoenix and Jake Gyllenhaal. Gunslingers Charlie and Eli Sisters are hired to find and kill a kindly chemist who possesses a unique method for gold prospecting.

23.05 – BBC2: *Red Joan* - Spy drama based on a true story, starring Judi Dench and Sophie Cookson. When a senior citizen is arrested under suspicion of spying for the KGB decades beforehand, the charge seems contrary to her past as a young woman studying physics at Cambridge University.

23.15 – BBC4: *Eugenics: Sciences Greatest Scandal* - Journalist Angela Saini and disability rights activist Adam Pearson explore the shocking origins and legacy of eugenics in Britain and its continued influence today. The second and concluding episode

Wednesday 3rd July:

21.00 – ITV1: *The Footballers Fraudster* - Documentary about a promising footballer who, turned to a life of crime. Using his charm to pose as stars from the world of sport, scamming unsuspecting victims, breaking hearts and destroying lives before being arrested

21.00 - BBC4: *Sleuths, Spies and Scandals: Andrew Marr's Paperback Heroes* – Marr explores the genres of fiction that are the most popular with the general public, unpicking their conventions to show why they are such page-turners. He begins by looking at detective novels, profiling pioneers Agatha Christie, Dashiell Hammett and Ruth Rendell,

Thursday 4th July: Two classic films on BBC4 to take your mind off the General Election!

19.30 – BBC4: *North by North West* – One of Hitchcock's best ever. Classic spy thriller starring Cary Grant, Eva Marie Saint and James Mason. An advertising executive life is in deadly peril when he is mistaken for the mysterious "Mr Kaplan" by ruthless members of an enemy spy network.

21.40 – BBC4: On the Waterfront - Classic crime drama starring Marlon Brando, Karl Malden, and Rod Steiger. A one-time boxing hopeful idles his time away on New York's dockside, protected by his brother while "working" as a strong-arm man for the corrupt leader of the dockers' union.

22.25 – BBC2: Moulin Rouge - Musical romantic drama starring Nicole Kidman and Ewan McGregor. Montmartre, 1899: A young Englishman, arrives in Paris with ambitions to become a writer

23.00 – Channel 5: Fast and Furious Presents Hobbs & Shaw - Action adventure starring Dwayne Johnson, Jason Statham and Idris Elba. The bickering agents track down a deadly supervirus that has been stolen by a terrorist. You know what you are going to get! (It takes your mind of the election!)

Friday 5th July: A great night for fans of Kylie Minogue!!

21.00 – BBC4: Kylie at the BBC

22.30 – BBC4: Kylie Live in the Park

00.10 – BBC1: The Woman in Black – An excellent horror thriller starring Daniel Radcliffe. A young solicitor is sent to examine documentation left by a recently deceased woman. When he arrives at the isolated house, he is still tormented by the death in childbirth of his wife four years earlier, discovers that the property holds a dark secret.

Saturday 6th July:

21.00 – Channel 4: The French Dispatch - A brilliant Wes Anderson film not to be missed! Don't worry about the plot it is all in the superb imagery. Following the American staff of a magazine based in a French town where revolution hangs in the air. Famous actors queue up to be in a Wes Anderson film! Including Owen Wilson, Frances McDormond, Bill Murray, Tilda Swinton etc. Enjoy!!

22.30 – BBC1: Training Day - Police drama starring Denzel Washington and Ethan Hawke. Idealistic rookie cop is given the opportunity of trying out with an elite LA undercover narcotics squad.

Sunday 7th July: A good night for fans of the famous Italian tenor

19.00 – BBC4: Pavarotti: The Last Tenor - A documentary tribute to the late Luciano Pavarotti

20.25 – BBC4: Pavarotti in Hyde Park – A live concert from 1991

22.00 – BBC4: Pavarotti – Another documentary about the great singer's life.

19.25 – ITV1: Wonder Woman 1984 – The Amazonian warrior contends with a rich businessman who wants to destroy the world. Starring Gal Gadot, Chris Pine and Pedro Pascal

21.00 – BBC2: The Turkish Detective – A new crime detective thriller series based on the Inspector Cetin Ikmen novels by Barbara Nadel. British detective Mehmet Suleyman arrives in Istanbul to join a homicide unit led by an eccentric inspector.

22.30 – BBC1: House of Gucci - Biographical drama starring Lady Gaga and Adam Driver. A woman from humble origins marries fashion scion Maurizio Gucci. They grow ever more ambitious while their marriage begins to fray.

A Selection of Cartoons: - With thanks to Glyn & Heather Evans





A Few Funnies to Finish With:

Of course, I can't afford a voice activated car, it goes without saying.

Two silk worms were in a race, it ended in a tie.

I've heard that Aladdin has been banned from a flying carpet race for using performance enhancing rugs

I've recently become a Professor of Palindromes, so now you can call me Dr Awkward.

I was walking in the jungle and came across a lizard on its hind legs telling jokes, I turned to the local tribesmen and said "that lizards really funny" The tribesmen replied " that's not a lizard, that's a stand-up chameleon ".

I had an interview to be a pilot with Ryanair. They asked, "Where do you see yourself in 5 years' time?" I said "Eighty miles away from where I said I was going " So they gave me the job.

When you're with Spanish speaking friends, remember to say 'mucho' as much as possible, because it means a lot to them.

A man in Indian restaurant orders chicken tarka, waiter says, "sorry I don't know that dish", he says "it's like a tikka but a little otter".

Welcome to the Plastic Surgery Addicts' group. Nice to see some new faces.

A man ran up to me shouting 'big hole in the ground full of water, big hole in the ground full of water' but at least he meant well.

I recently took my naval exams. I got seven Cs

If the devil finds out I've stolen his favourite wig they'll be hell toupee

The doctor said, 'What is the problem?' I said, 'I have broken my leg in three places.'
He said, 'Don't go to those places then?'

The inventor of the Morse code has sadly passed away, dashes to dashes, dots to dots.

They say never go food shopping when you're hungry. But it's been over a week now and every day I just get hungrier.

My wife said if I carry on being so pedantic eventually I'll find I've got less and less friends. I said, "No I won't, I'll find I've got fewer and fewer friends".

A suspect was charged with killing a man with sandpaper, in defence he said, "I only intended to rough him up a bit".