



Coventry and Warwickshire Humanists Newsletter September 2026

Dear Fellow Humanists

Well, apart from the brief 'Indian Summer' in late September, Summer is almost over and we will need to seek out those coats, jerseys, winter shoes and waterproof clothing. Despite the intense heat at times, it was an enjoyable summer. I did not travel abroad this year, instead, I had 7 days in Birmingham at the European Athletics Championship at the Alexander Stadium. Being a former athlete, I always enjoy watching athletics tournaments on TV, but to see it live and in close proximity is both exciting and exhilarating. It is also a good experience to meet spectators from other European nations which does provide a cosmopolitan atmosphere inside the stadium and in and around Birmingham City Centre. The guides who are all volunteers help to create an inclusive and happy atmosphere inside the stadium. However, this does contrast and conflict with the situation away from the Athletics Championship, where some politicians are rejoicing in peddling their offensive racist and separatist views upon the public. And please don't get me started on non-tax-paying billionaires donating millions to keep these obnoxious opinions in the public limelight. I am still optimistic that an inclusive and humanistic view will outlive the politics of hate.

Despite the rumours, I am not that mean or tight-fisted – when I say that I do not give much money to charities. What I really mean is that I only donate money to a few worthy charities. One of those charities, I am proud to donate to is the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI). Unfortunately, the RNLI have recently come into criticism because of saving asylum seekers in distress while crossing the English Channel. Described by some as being 'unpatriotic' and 'traitors'. Some individual RNLI personnel have been vilified and threatened on social media and at their homes. This is appalling. The RNLI symbolises everything that is humane, good and worthwhile about the United Kingdom. The RNLI is run by unpaid volunteers who put their own lives at risk to rescue anyone who is in distress at sea. They do not seek to check anyone's passport details, race, nationality or personal circumstances before putting out to sea. I am pleased and proud to continue to make regular donations to this brave organisation as an example of serving humanity.

At the time of compiling this Newsletter, there is the outcome and aftereffects of the Ed Sheeran US tour. I must admit that I am not a big fan of Ed Sheeran, but it does appear to be a bit spineless of him with this issue. Apparently, the owners of a venue who are strong supporters of the Israeli government have instructed Sheeran to drop his friend and artiste Macklemore from the tour. Macklemore has often supported Palestine and criticised the genocide in Gaza several times while on stage. What I find surprising about this issue, is that Sheeran has 'sold-out' on his friend. Sheeran has tried to play a 'neutral card' by stating that 'everyone is welcome to his concerts, regardless of their opinions.' He also tries to downplay this incident by claiming to be the victim in this issue. Other artistes and musicians have also withdrawn from the tour. It does appear that he is more loyal to those who support Zionism rather than his friends and fellow musicians!

Brian Goredema-Braid

Chair of Coventry & Warwickshire Humanists

Meetings:

Thursday 17th September: "A Humanist response to the turmoil and suffering of our 21st Century world" led by John Goodfellow and Glyn Evans. I did find this to be a very interesting and well-researched presentation by Glyn and John. The unfortunate aspect was that the attendance at this meeting was very low. The content and presentation did deserve a bigger audience. The main focus was the growth in Economic Inequality in the UK and across the world in the last 40 years. John and Glyn presented statistics and empirical evidence with regard to the influence of economic factors on the physical and emotional well-being of poor and vulnerable people. Maybe, Glyn and John could be persuaded to repeat this presentation in 2027? Apparently, Glyn is prepared to make his Power-Point presentation available to members of this group.

Thursday 15th October: Humanist Bookshelf – You may have seen a recent posting from Humanist UK regarding the celebration of Humanist writers and books. One of the best aspects of the humanist approach to life is that we have no need for holy books, or saints, or spiritual leaders. Instead, we as individuals can take ideas, wisdom, and inspiration from a range of sources. So, we are asking you to attend the meeting with suggestions of Humanist literature and writers. Humanists UK have recommended a list of well over 200 books, which we will make available at the meeting.

Thursday 19th November: Solutions Not Sides – Sharon Booth: We are very fortunate that Sharon has agreed to discuss her work with Solutions Not Sides with us. Sharon was a main speaker at the Humanists UK Convention in June this year. Sharon chaired a dialogue between an Israeli Humanist and a Palestinian Humanist. Sharon's work explores how reason, freedom and empathy can provide a framework for hope in the face of death and atrocities. How to move beyond tribal loyalties towards a shared future of freedom and security for all. This should be a very interesting and stimulating discussion.

Thursday 17th December: This will be our Annual Festive Gathering where we usually share food and seasonal fare, with music, poetry, comedy and maybe even a visit from Santa Claus. More information in the October Newsletter

Civic Service for the Mayor of Kenilworth: This event took place on Sunday 6th September at St Nicholas Church in Kenilworth. The service is intended to welcome the new Town Mayor, Alison Insley to her post. Alison has an interesting and active life (including being an on-call Firefighter at Kenilworth Fire Station!) Several community representatives were invited to offer their welcome and support to the Mayor with a short 2-5-minute speech, including the Vice Lord-Lieutenant, Jeremy Wright MP and representatives from other local town councils and faiths including Muslim, Sikh, Jewish and Christian. Sharon Booth spoke on behalf of Coventry & Warwickshire Humanists. Sharon's speech was excellent – very succinct and to the point.

There was a lovely poem 'Summer Cut Open' from two young people who have been recognised for their creative writing and shortlisted for the Warwickshire Young Poet Laureate. This was excellent as well as the musical presentations. As expected, the service included prayers and hymns and a bible reading.

However, despite the inclusiveness of the overall Civic Service, I was very surprised that the vicar then anointed the Mayor with oil '*For the work God has laid before her – may this symbolic action be a sign of our desire to seek your strength and wisdom in the tasks that lie ahead*' I just wonder if that was really necessary? Surely, a simple 'Welcome' would have sufficed?

Added to which, in the order of service, it was mentioned, '*We come as Christians, and followers of other faiths, as those who are seeking and those who are doubting*' Well, as a Humanist and atheist, I am not seeking, neither am I doubting! I know exactly where I stand and have stood for over 40 years! Why not just say '*Other faiths and none*'?

Afterwards, we all had drinks and light refreshments. Overall, it was a very interesting and pleasant service and Sharon Booth did us proud.

MPs have voted down the Assisted Dying Bill.

This was sad news indeed, especially as many of us had hoped for success following the previous Parliamentary discussion on the Bill that was timed out by 'Fillibustering' in the House of Lords. I have included this statement from Andrew Copson the Chief Executive, Humanists UK:

'It means the Bill will go no further. After years of campaigning, and after so many terminally ill people and their families bravely shared some of the most painful and personal experiences of their lives, the law will remain unchanged.

Frustratingly, it didn't fail because of well-argued opposition, but because of unprincipled misrepresentation of the Bill by its opponents and, ultimately, ineffective parliamentary processes and a poorly attended vote today.



Dying people who want the choice of an assisted death will still be denied it. Some will continue to suffer unbearably at the end of their lives. Some who can afford it will travel abroad. Others will face choices that no dying person or family should have to face.

I am truly devastated.

But much, much more importantly than that, I'm thinking about the people who will live with the consequences of this vote. The people who had dared to hope that, when the time came, they might finally be given some choice over how their life ended.

I can't stop thinking about the people I've met during this campaign. I don't know what I can say right now, but I want to tell you briefly about just one of them. I think she deserves that at least.

Victoria Denning is a former headteacher and a part of the Humanists UK family: a celebrant. For years, she has helped families through some of the most important moments of their lives.

Earlier this year, Victoria was diagnosed with mesothelioma, which is an incurable cancer. Until then, she had been living an extraordinarily active life. Suddenly, she was told she may have only 12 to 18 months to live.

Victoria wants as much good time as she can have – with friends, outdoors, and just doing the things she loves. But when the suffering becomes too much, she wants the option to decide for herself.

That's all. To say her goodbyes. To know that, when she is ready, she can die peacefully and on her own terms. Today, Parliament denied her that choice. I know many of you will be feeling angry, heartbroken, or simply exhausted by this news. I am too.

This is not the end.

Humanists UK will continue to fight for what is fair and right. We will keep fighting for dying people – and for people facing incurable, unbearable suffering – to have genuine choice at the end of their lives.

We will fight for the right to die with dignity, at a time and in a place that is right for them.

And we will keep going for as long as it takes.

Thank you, as always, for standing with us – and with everyone who deserved better from Parliament today'

The Rise of Christian Nationalism:

Over the past month, hundreds of men in black, their faces covered, blocked the roads into Dover and surrounded the port for hours. They also did the same in Portsmouth. Traffic stopped for miles. Coastguard vehicles were damaged. And as they did it, they chanted 'Christ is King'.

This was not a crowd that lost its temper. It was organised, uniformed, and rehearsed. The group behind it, Patriot Platform, was founded by a man who says he is building a 'Christian patriotic army' to pressure the government. He told his followers that after Dover it would 'snowball across the country'.



They haven't stopped. In the days since, angry men have picketed a newspaper's offices, threatened to return in greater numbers, and talked of round-the-clock blockades – a campaign whose tactics their leader says were inspired by Northern Irish paramilitary-style groups and which is being bankrolled via an American Christian crowdfunding site. All in the name of a 'Christian patriotic army'.

By his own account, the leader of the 'Christ is King' protest group, Patriot Platform, has said an American 'think tank' once put £30,000 into his bank account to fund a protest in Downing Street. In 2024, Humanists UK warned that American evangelical groups had pumped over \$280 million to international projects, including UK advocacy work. This is the exact phenomenon Humanists UK has been warning about for years now – and a big part of the reason why politics in the UK is becoming more fraught, more divisive, more 'American', and more religious.

Warning sirens

Humanists UK has been saying for some time that Christianity was being turned into a banner for nationalist intimidation in this country, and that the tactics, the money, and the language were being imported from the United States. At times we have been a lone voice.

We said it when preachers took to the stage at Tommy Robinson's 'Unite the Kingdom' rally to denounce 'secular humanism'. We said it when a self-styled 'King's Army' set out to intimidate LGBT people in Soho. We said it when councillors were reintroducing Christian prayers to council meetings and banning Pride flags on the grounds that Britain is a 'Christian country'.

And we said it this summer, when Andrew Copson sat down with the former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams in a high-profile *New Humanist* interview to ask whether Christian Nationalism is a threat to the UK.

What is Christian Nationalism?

'Christian Nationalism' is an organised political project that uses belief in Christianity to decide who belongs in this country and whose political voice matters. It is not the same thing as Christianity, and it is not the same thing as patriotic Christianity or patriotic churches. Most Christians in Britain will have watched the weekend's footage with the same unease as everyone else, and the clergy who lend themselves to these events do not come from the mainstream.

One form of extremism does not justify another:

Worryingly, some have tried to argue that Christian Nationalism is a necessary evil or a 'bulwark' because of the existence of Islamic fundamentalism. Since the protests in Dover we have seen social media comments and emails from people who tell us that they would still 'rather' have a 'Christian army' on the streets than Islamic fundamentalists.

It is necessary to understand the fear behind that, but, dismaying that people are being drawn into what is clearly a false binary choice. As Humanists UK wrote a year ago, Christian Nationalism and Islamist extremism do not cancel each other out; in fact, they mirror one another and feed off each other. Each defines itself against the other, points to the other as proof of its own necessity, and recruits from a corresponding pool of angry and aggrieved men. Choosing one to protect yourself from the other only makes both stronger. The only people who benefit from the choice are the two factions offering it!

But in case anyone accuses Humanists UK of naively or foolishly 'equating' or 'lumping them together', let's be perfectly clear about one thing. The threats are not the same.

On numbers alone, an Islamist extremist is more likely to kill you or someone you care about. A buoyant Christian Nationalist movement in Britain has a far more realistic chance of taking away

your rights and freedoms because its danger lies in its proximity to power. That is what has happened in the United States, where much of Project 2025, a 900-page plan drawn up to remake the federal government along Christian Nationalist lines, is now being implemented by its own authors as federal policy across abortion rights, education, broadcasting, and more.

We need secular democracy

It's easy to see how this movement could become close to power in this country.

Reform UK has already vowed to abolish the legal protections for human rights that every person in this country relies on. Just this week its education spokesperson, Suella Braverman, said schools that fail to make children sing hymns and the national anthem will face 'consequences', enforced through Ofsted and through parents reporting their children's teachers.

These are unsettling days. But they are not the first this country has seen, and the answer has always been the same: people who believe in reason, kindness, and equal belonging, standing up together and refusing to be quiet.



Let us be clear about what it is not. It is not Christians, and it is not churches. Most Christians in Britain will have watched the weekend's footage with the same unease you did. People of every religion and belief belong here equally, and a state that protects everyone's freedom is the only kind that can keep that promise. That is what Humanists UK exists to defend.

We need to stand firm and loudly declare that these men do not speak for this country.

Patriot Platform claims 45,000 sign-ups; we have 150,000 members and supporters. But we need more to counter the influence of the Christian Nationalists and the far right. Every one we add is one more name we can count.

These are unsettling days. But they are not the first this country has seen, and the answer has always been the same: people who believe in reason, kindness, and equal belonging, standing up together and refusing to be quiet. Humanists.

Stand Together!

Religious Education: the humanist approach

Humanists now have more say in how Religious Education is taught across England and Wales than ever before. After a decade of tireless work from our education and campaigns teams, humanist representatives now sit on 153 out of 173 local bodies that decide the RE curriculum in schools across England and Wales.

Some people are surprised that we want a say in how Religious Education is taught... or that we want it taught at all! But when taught well, good Religious Education (or Religion, Values, and Ethics as it's called in Wales) is vitally important. At its best, it prepares pupils for a world where they will meet people of diverse beliefs, values, and convictions. As well as providing greater understanding of these differences, it teaches important skills, including how to question, explore, and contextualise others' views, ultimately helping them to make up their own minds about what is true. Good RE means children learn views beyond those held by their family. They'll learn about the beliefs of their friends, teachers, and neighbours. This approach encourages tolerance. As we've seen in Northern Ireland, when RE is only taught from one religious' perspective, it puts children at risk of indoctrination.



Poor quality RE can mean that some children never learn that it's OK (and completely normal) to be non-religious or ask questions about the religion they are raised in – despite the fact that half the UK is non-religious. Badly taught RE can result in some pupils being taught that there are no morals without religion.

More humanists involved in designing RE curriculums helps to make sure that this is never the case – so that every child's right to a fair and balanced education is upheld.

Invitation from Humanist International:

Join us to celebrate our global achievements and success stories!



Join us for our final virtual Members Meeting of the year on **13 November at 2:00 PM UK Time** via Zoom (with live translation via Wordly). We are gathering to celebrate breakthrough moments, organizational milestones, and the real-world impact achieved across our network this year.

We are also inviting Member and Associate representatives to present during our spotlight sessions. If your organization has a campaign win, grant outcome, or success story to share, we encourage you to apply.

Agenda

- **Opening Remarks:** A joint introduction by President Maggie Ardiente and the CEO Gary McLelland.
- **Spotlight: Organizational Milestones:** A session dedicated to celebrating historic membership growth, organizational expansion, and key campaign wins across member organizations.
- **2026 Grants Program Impact:** A showcase of concrete outcomes, community-level changes, and personal stories funded by the 2026 Grants Program.
- **HI accomplishments for 2026:** A high-level overview highlighting Humanists International's major organizational achievements and global campaign successes throughout 2026.
- **Q&A:** An interactive forum for attendees to ask questions, discuss presented topics, and engage directly with speakers and leadership.
- **Closing:** Final summary by the Chair and a look ahead to the **2027 World Humanist Congress**.

We look forward to gathering with you to celebrate our shared achievements!

Kind regards,

Javan Lev Poblador

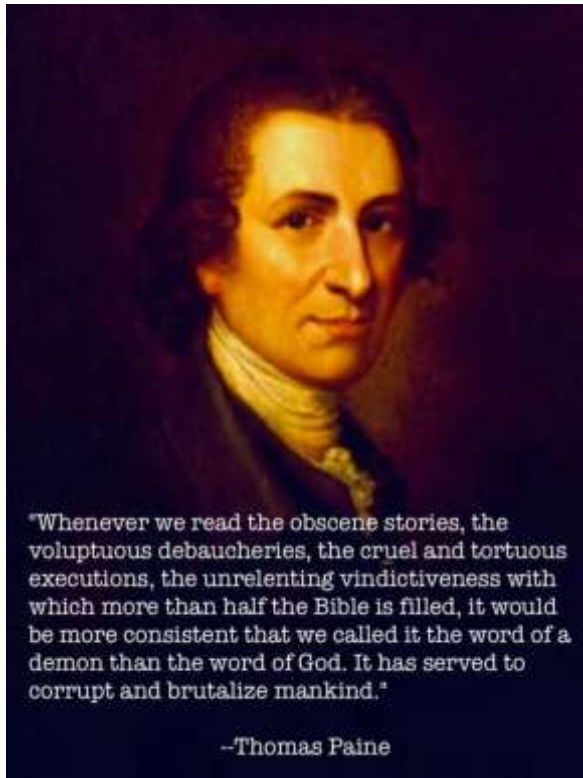
Membership Manager

To register and participate in the event, please click below or use the email:

From: **Humanists International** membership@humanists.international

You can register [HERE](#).

Thomas Paine:



I recently came across this quotation from Humanist and atheist philosopher Thomas Paine. I will bring more Paine comments and quotations in future Newsletters.

Cinema Film Preview:

(Some are shown on the main cinema circuit, but most are available at the small art cinemas, Warwick Arts Centre, Midland Arts Centre and Leamington Spa Theatre)

Sense and Sensibility: A new adaptation of Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility*. The film follows the three Dashwood sisters, who must leave their family estate and move to a cottage with their widowed mother. Forcing the young women to learn how to navigate through love and loss. Starring Daisy Edgar-Jones and Esme Creed-Miles

Queen at Sea: A woman walks in on her elderly parents in the throes of what appears to be a consensual sexual encounter her instinct is to call the police, believing her mother who is suffering from dementia, is incapable of giving consent to husband. A complex and emotional scenario to question our preconceptions, of the elderly in this devastating and superbly acted film. Starring Juliette Binoche, Tom Courtenay and Anna Calder-Maxwell.

Manhunter: A retired criminal profiler returns to the FBI to help track down a serial killer of families and is forced to consult an expert—the imprisoned Dr Hannibal Lecktor. Starring Brian Cox and William Peterson

Fallen Angels: An adaption of Noël Coward's comedy of bad manners. Two upper-class wives, their husbands away for the day, share a few toasts to their pre-marital dalliances—with the same man, who just may be en-route from France to visit. Starring Rose Byrne and Kelli O'Hara

Digger: A completely transformed Tom Cruise stars as Digger Rockwell - the most powerful man in the world, who soon embarks on a frantic mission to prove he's humanity's saviour before the disaster he's unleashed destroys everything. With Riz Ahmed, Sandra Hüller and Michael Stuhlbarg.

Leviticus: A story of two teenage boys whose forbidden relationship unleashes a terrifying supernatural entity that takes the form of the person they desire most - each other. Nerve-shredding suspense with an emotionally powerful love story.

Her Private Hell: Glamorous young actresses are targeted by the killer named 'Leather Man.' A vengeful GI searches for his daughter in this hypnotic, ultraviolent film. from Nicolas Winding Refn. An extravagant, strange and unsettling.

How Deep is Your Love: A mischievous, transporting documentary follows a team of marine biologists exploring the last wilderness on Earth. In the deep sea, mesmerising creatures thrive in the darkness.

Mean Girls: A wickedly funny satire on the US high school experience. Starring Lindsay Lohan, Daniel Franzese and Rachel Adams

The Weight: A man torn from his daughter is serving time in a brutal prison. The warden offers release if he and other desperate prisoners can smuggle gold out of a remote mine. Starring Ethan Hawke and Russell Crowe

Lost Children of Taura: An amateur historian begins researching a former institution for unmarried mothers and their children in rural Ireland and uncovers a shocking hidden history of neglect and loss. Faced with the deafening silence of church and state, she embarks on a campaign for justice, confronting deep wounds that continue to shape Ireland today. Starring Monica Dolan

Films on Musicians:

Queen Budapest: In 1986, Queen performed in Budapest in front of 80,000 fans. The last time that the band toured with Freddie Mercury. This was the first Western rock concert performed behind the then 'Iron Curtain'

Oasis: Don't Look Back in Anger: Join Oasis at their triumphant 2025 tour after 20 years of estrangement. It captures the tumultuous ups and downs of the Gallagher brothers and their ecstatic reception from fans across the globe.

Pulp: What Do You Do for an Encore? Legendary frontman Jarvis Cocker narrates this celebration of Pulp and their rise from obscurity to Britpop stardom. A band with sharp wit and empathy.

Plays from the National Theatre Live:

Golden Boy: During the Depression, a gifted young violinist is lured into professional boxing. He must confront what he is willing to sacrifice and who he's willing to become. Starring Josh O'Connor.

Giant: A theatre play about the life of Roald Dahl, starring John Lithgow

Opera from the Met Opera:

Così fan Tutte

Macbeth

Sansone et Dalila

Exhibitions on Screen:

Renoir and Love

Still on the Circuit:

A Private Life: Jodie Foster stars as a psychiatrist in this gloriously witty and suspenseful French detective thriller. When her patient unexpectedly commits suicide, she is accused of overprescribing antidepressants by the widower. Suspecting there is more to the case than meets the eye, she tries to uncover the truth, assisted by a hypnotist and her ex-husband. Also starring Mathieu Amalric.

Bad Apples: Set in an underfunded school a foul-mouthed and violent pupil tests a desperate teacher who reaches breaking point. A split-second decision sparks a chain of events that raises questions about responsibility, authority and the limits of patience. Starring Saoirse Ronan.

Pressure: Pressure follows the nail-biting 72 hours in the lead-up to D-Day. General Dwight D. Eisenhower employs chief meteorologist Captain James Stagg to advise him on when to launch the largest seaborne invasion in history. With the fate of the free world hanging in the balance, Stagg must cut through military egos, crushing uncertainty and terrifyingly high stakes to make an impossible call. A tense historical thriller about weather, warfare and the burden of responsibility, Starring Brendan Fraser and Andrew Scott.

The Incomer: On a remote Scottish island, two siblings have lived alone for decades, surviving by hunting seabirds, speaking to mythical creatures and defending their home from dreaded 'incomers'. Their world is upended when an awkward land recovery co-ordinator arrives to locate them to the mainland. Starring Domhnall Gleeson, Gayle Rankin and Grant O'Rourke.

The Cycle of Love: A young street artist from Delhi sets off with a handful of paint brushes and an old bicycle on a journey across Europe and Asia to find a woman who captured his heart during her visit to India. Convinced that their meeting was fate.

The Sacrifice: Andri Tarkovsky's last film. A retired actor is celebrating his birthday with family and friends when an imminent nuclear catastrophe is announced. He makes a promise to god that he will sacrifice all he holds dear if the disaster can be averted. The next day, he must keep his promise.

Le Femme Infidele: Claude Chabrol's wicked psychological thriller follows the fall-out from a husband discovering his wife's affair. His obsession deepens and takes a devastating turn.

Hadestown: The Musical: A genre-defying musical blending modern American folk music with New Orleans-inspired jazz to reimagine a sweeping ancient tale of two intertwining love stories, that of young dreamers Orpheus and Eurydice, and King Hades and his wife Persephone. Filmed live on stage in London's West End and featuring the original Broadway cast.

On the Sea: A moving tale of the attraction between a local hand raker, and an itinerant deckhand. Married to his childhood sweetheart, Jack finds himself drawn to the charismatic Daniel, sparking an affair that shakes their remote fishing community.

I Want Your Sex: Stuck in a relationship going nowhere with his girlfriend and confused about his sexuality, frustrated and neurotic twentysomething finds himself suddenly at the sexual beck and call of his boss, domineering and ultra-confident art gallery boss. Is this a toxic relationship or is there something deeper growing between these apparently very different people?

Holy Days: A young boy finds refuge with three delightfully eccentric elderly nuns at a run-down convent facing shutdown. Holy Days is a joyful comedy packed with heart, humour, and high-speed hijinks, complete with a stellar cast that includes national treasure Miriam Margolyes.

TV and Film Preview:

Friday 25th September:

21.00 – BBC1: Would I Lie to You – The series highlights episode with Rob Brydon, Lee Mack and David Mitchell

22.00 – BBC2: Immaculate - Horror starring Sydney Sweeney. A novice nun from Detroit joins a convent in Italy. Yet, despite being a virgin, she becomes pregnant and a miracle is declared.

22.40 – BBC1: The Graham Norton Show – A new series of the popular chat show. Guests include Tom Cruise, Florence Pugh, John Bishop and music from Emeli Sande

22.45 – ITV1: Licence to Kill – Timothy Dalton as James Bond – you know what you are getting!

23.00 – Channel 4: American Pie – Four teenage boys pledge to lose their virginity before their high-school prom, but their efforts have hilarious and outrageous consequences. Starring Jason Biggs, Natasha Lyonne and Chris Klein

23.00 – BBC2: His House – Horror starring Wunmi Mosaku and Sope Dirisu. A married couple flee South Sudan for asylum in the UK. They tackle racism and bureaucracy. Their dilapidated council house is also home to a malevolent spirit that won't leave them alone.

Saturday 26th September:

18.15 – BBC1: Strictly Come Dancing – It must be Autumn with the start of another Strictly series. The first week for the novice dancers. Three new hosts, Emma Willis, Josh Widdicombe and former Strictly dancer Johannes Radebe

21.00 – BBC4: Paris Police 1910 – The excellent French period crime thriller serial starring Jérémie Laheurte. In French subtitled. **21.55 – Episode 4**

22.00 – Channel 4: Kingsman: The Secret Service - Spy adventure starring Colin Firth, Samuel L Jackson and Taron Egerton. A tearaway street kid is recruited to join a shadowy secret organisation. Pitched into a battle against a criminal mastermind.

22.45 – BBC1: Legally Blonde - Comedy starring Reese Witherspoon. Determined to prove there's more to her than hair and make-up, the blonde bombshell follows her ex-fiancé to Harvard.

23.20 – ITV1: Red 2 - Action comedy sequel starring Bruce Willis, John Malkovich, Anthony Hopkins and Helen Mirren. The team of elderly secret agents is forced back into action to track down a nuclear device left over from the Cold War that still poses a threat to world peace.

00.20 – Channel 4: Withnail and I - A brilliant cult black comedy starring Richard E Grant, Paul McGann and Richard Griffiths. Two out-of-work actors get into some serious disasters. A definite 'must see' film!! Definitely worth staying-up for – or recording!

Sunday 27th September:

21.00 – BBC1: The Split Up – Episode 3 of the drama serial about a wealthy Asian law firm

21.00 – ITV1: The Blame – Episode 3 of the tense police drama set in a dodgy police station

21.00 – BBC2: Wilderness with Simon Reeve – I always enjoy Simon Reeve's documentaries. He is in remote areas off the Mexican coast

22.00 BBC2: Platoon - Oliver Stone's excellent Oscar-winning war drama starring Tom Berenger, Willem Dafoe and Charlie Sheen. A college dropout is plunged into the hellish life in Vietnam. A world of fear, exhaustion and casual brutality in a fight against an unseen enemy.

22.30 – BBC1: Legally Blonde 2 – Red, White and Blonde - Comedy sequel starring Reese Witherspoon. The ditzy blonde socialite Harvard graduate is a rising young lawyer. Her dog is locked up in a cosmetics testing lab, prompting her to challenge the legal system to end animal experimentation.

Monday 28th September:

Quiz Night on BBC2: 19.30 – Mastermind – 20.00 – Only Connect – 20.30 – University Challenge

21.00 – BBC1: The Split Up – The 4th episode of the law firm drama

21.00 – ITV1: The Blame – Another episode of the police drama set in a corrupt police station

21.00 – BBC2: Finding Britain's Slave Traders with David Olusaga - The historian uncovers evidence of just how deep the slave trade was embedded in British society.

22.00 – BBC2: Colin From Accounts – I love this spiky Australian comedy. Colin is actually a disabled dog with wheels for rear legs. The third and final series starring Patrick Brammall and Harriet Dyer

23.00 – BBC2: Nickel Boys - A brilliant period drama based on Colson Whitehead's Pulitzer prize-winning novel starring Ethan Herisse and Brandon Wilson. In early-60s Florida, in a reform school run by cruel white administrators. Two inmates try to navigate the dangers of an institution from which boys mysteriously "disappear" with an unsettling frequency.

Tuesday 29th September:

21.00 – BBC1: Blue Lights – A welcome return of the exciting police drama series set in Belfast

22.00 – BBC2: Colin From Accounts – The final ever episode of this brilliant Australian comedy

22.40 – BBC1: Malcolm X - Biographical drama starring Denzel Washington. A street hustler converts to Islam while in prison, changes his name to Malcolm X and rises to fame as spokesman for the Nation of Islam. But his controversial political statements make him powerful enemies.

A Few Cartoons:



A Few Funnies to Finish With:

Went in my local green grocers and asked if he had any onions. He said "I've got brown onions, green onions, yellow onions, white onions, salad onions, pickling onions, spring onions, Spanish onions, and red onions". I said do you have any of those fancy little purple onions. He said "no, that's shallot".

An archaeologist was digging up an ancient city and asked, "I wonder when these people died."
I said, "October 31st."
The archaeologist replied, "How can you tell?"
I said, "Because they're all dressed as skeletons."

So, I said to the girl at the Tesco checkout:
"Can you do this any cheaper, it's got today's date on it?"
She said: "Look mister, do you want the newspaper or not?"

Did you know.....
When a lizard loses his tail
He gets a new one at that retail store

My Irish wife left me after 35 years of marriage because I was obsessed with 1980's music
I said to her, 'Oh, – 'Come on Eileen'

My mate who's a baker and specialises in tea cakes is having problems with the company he gets his ingredients from
He's thinking of changing his currant supplier

The toilets at the local police station have been stolen
Police say that they have nothing to go on

I got stung by a wasp and it was quite bad, so I went to A&E, the trainee nurse said, "What's the matter?" I said, "I've been stung by a wasp" She said, "Whereabouts is it?" I said, "I don't know probably blooming miles away by now".

A woman was in court. The judge told her "You are before the court accused of theft, please tell me what you stole" She replied "A tin of peaches your honour" "How many peach slices were in the tin?" The woman replies "5 slices sir" The judge told her "1 day for each slice. I sentence you to 5 days in prison, let this be a deterrent to you" The woman's husband jumped up and shouted "She also stole a tin of peas!"

I went to an Indian restaurant last night and ordered a chicken Tarka
It's a bit like a tikka..... just a little otter!!!

I bought an album of birdsong, at a charity shop. It was going cheep.

My grandad said he always used to leave the back door open in the old days
Which was probably why his submarine was sinking