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Winter 2020

MORGAN NEWSLETTER TAKE-OVER



By Haajirah Arshad - Editor and Morgan Pupil

When I walked into that classroom back in September to meet the journalist group from our school, my hopes were high but If I'm being honest, I didn't expect many pupils to appear, just the friends I begged to come along. When I saw around fifteen pupils from three different years I was buzzin', I really wanted to become a part of something that I love and make this issue of the Stobswell Voice the best and make the school proud. I really like writing and telling people about local or international affairs.

This experience of working with the Stobswell Forum has been very good and I've learnt a lot along the way. I'm very happy with what we've produced and hope that the articles will be interesting to lots of people. I really appreciate my team's work, effort and patience, and I'm very proud of them. I also want to thank my teachers Mr Nisbet and Mr Robertson for helping us keep on track and for supporting us throughout the project. It has really been a pleasure working with my team on the Stobswell Voice – we really looking forward to taking part in more projects in the future.

By Ross Nisbet - PT English

Haajirah approached her class teacher to ask about opportunities to get involved with a group dealing with current affairs. Simultaneously, I was in contact with the Stobswell Forum about forging a link between the publication and the school. It was one of those moments which seemed to fall perfectly in place.

A group was created, the first meeting was set and, working over a period of two months, this is the result. As Haajirah has suggested, the group that assembled was rich in talent and interests. They all have shown enthusiasm for every aspect of the process, which I think is evident by the quality of the pieces produced.

I would like to extend my thanks to The Stobswell Forum and Jon Brady from DC Thomson for coming along and talking to the team. I would also like to thank the School for supporting the group. Finally, I would like to thank all of the pupils involved, whether generating ideas in meetings, writing articles, editing pieces, providing images, and drawings.

BACK IN TIME

By Monika Talja



These days Baxter Park is very well used by the public, people walk their dogs, have picnics in the summer, children play at the playgrounds and normally on the fifth of November each year hundreds of people go to Baxter Park to watch the fireworks.

In 1863 the park was designed by Sir Joseph Paxton, a British architect who is best known for designing the Crystal Palace in London 4 years earlier.

However, Paxton did not design the pavilion in the middle of the park. This building was designed by John Steel. It is a two-story, Italian Renaissance style building made of Bannockburn freestone.

With the sandstone building, came a statue of David Baxter which was built because it was Baxter who first had the idea to buy the 36 acres of land on the then outskirts of Dundee as a "pleasure ground" and commissioned Sir Joseph Paxton to design the park. Unfortunately over the years the statue was vandalised and can now be seen in the McManus Galleries.

At a young age David Baxter became manager of the Dundee Sugar Refining Company which unfortunately went under in 1826 so he moved to become the head of his father's business which started with a mill in the village of Glamis then moved to Dundee in 1822. It was hugely successful and he went on to became the owner of the at the time the largest linen business in the world.

David Baxter received a knighthood at the same time Baxter Park was opened in 1863 and the now Sir David Baxter and his two sisters Mary Ann and Eleanor Baxter gifted the park to the citizens of Dundee on the 9th September that same year.

As part of the major restoration of the park in 1995 John Steele's Italian Renaissance styled pavilion was brought back to its former glory and a new activity centre was built in the north of the park where many of today's community activities take place.

A new playground was also built to give children a chance to go to the park and have a fun time playing on the equipment while also meeting new friends. Since the restoration, the park has received the Dundee Civic Trust Award and the Green Flag Award

More recent developments in the park include the introduction of a multi games area, new keep fit equipment and the restoration and improvement of the well used tennis courts, while development of the park continues it has and will always be The Peoples Park for every one in the area to enjoy.

DISASTER STRIKES - BUT WE CAN TAKE ACTION

By Bshara Mousa

No one can deny the impact of COVID-19 on local businesses, which has varied from minor to major financial losses. Although both Scottish and UK Governments have put in a lot of effort to ease the hardship on businesses, it's still not enough to take away all of the troubles our local traders face.

Apart from the food and detergent industries, all other sectors have been drastically affected by the heavy financial blows stuck by COVID-19, especially after the first national lockdown then a return to a form of normality in the summer and now an increase in restrictions.

There are now growing fears amongst locals because of the increased restrictions that have been imposed, local business owners fear "an incredibly difficult future" due to the worry about the new five tier system. One local business owner said that anything that protects jobs is welcome but "the stark reality is that no country can afford to continue to fund this type of support indefinitely other solutions need to be found'.



Even though COVID-19 is an international pandemic and a vaccine hasn't yet been found, that doesn't mean we can sit by in the face of such a tragedy. We must take the actions we can to help the people who live and work in our community, shop local, support our friends family and neighbours and above all show patience, stick with the Scottish Government's advice and be hopeful.

A DIGITAL WAY FORWARD

By Imaan Hussain

With the situation we are in right now it is extremely important for the young and not so young to enhance their digital skills. One way they can do that is with the IDEA program.

IDEA is the digital and enterprise equivalent of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Bronze is beginner level, Silver intermediate and Gold advanced. The IDEA Bronze and Silver Awards are available now with Gold to be released in the near future.

It is a scheme focused on helping people develop and demonstrate digital enterprise and employability skills and its free. This Award includes individuals making their own profiles and receiving an introduction on how to work the activities and the website itself. IDEA offer the opportunity to complete a range of activities including helping you to stay safe online, getting more confident with the technology and perhaps even discover talents you didn't know you had.



The different sections are citizen, worker, maker and entrepreneur. These sections involve a variety of activities for the individuals to work on and on average only take about 10-15 minutes each to complete. You are awarded points as you go through the modules which count towards achieving your industry recognised Bronze and Silver awards

The Covid-19 pandemic has shown the need for everyone to improve their digital skills, schemes like IDEA show that we can all take that next step to become more confident in our online ability . It doesn't matter your age or previous experience everyone can improve their skills, if you just want to be more comfortable online or improve your CV and boost your employability, this might be for you.

Age is no barrier to digital learning at your own pace, your own time, and in your own home, if you are at school, a pensioner, looking for a job or in work this just might be for you.

To have your digital experience, visit www.idea.org.uk

HISTORICAL DESTRUCTION & MAYBE A BRIGHT FUTURE

By Haajirah Arshad

Imported from Calcutta now Kolkata in India was a world-renowned fibre called Jute. Britain were astounded by this abundant and useful plant – especially Dundee. Miraculously they created yarn and with that sold the many products made from Jute, bags, carpet backing, ropes, upholstery and house furnishings. The process was made for Dundee as it was easier to work the fibre after softening using Whale Oil and Dundee at the time was a world leading Whaling port.

In Dundee as the Jute industry slowly died our buildings stayed strong... well some stayed strong. Stobswell's and Dundee's last operating Jute mill Taybank Works in Morgan St has just been demolished to make way for 37 affordable homes for Caledonian Housing Association. These homes in the heart of our community are very welcome but it's upsetting that the mill operating from 1870 to 1999 has now gone with only some of the exterior walls left to remind us of the thousands of local people's hard toil.

The site won't stay derelict for long despite COVID-19 with spring 2021 penciled in for the start of building the new houses. A number of different types of housing will be built including bungalows, flats, semi-detached and detached houses, with bedrooms ranging from 1 to 4.The development will see some of the exterior walls left standing, like many of the adjacent



mills but many feel this still won't represent the history of Dundee properly and perceive that our heritage will fade away as time goes by.

On the other hand the housing will provide badly needed homes for families that are in desperately in need of finding a modern affordable home in the heart of the city and then there will be the boost to the economy that the builders will bring. Although the houses will be really beneficial for the people who come to live in them, the last working Jute Mill in Scotland has gone and with it a part of our city's heritage, a heritage that made Dundee an industrial powerhouse and provided employment for thousands of women and men.

But its gone, let's look to the future but never forget the past.

MORGAN'S PUPILS' ROAD SAFETY CONCERNS

By Imaan Hussain

There have been concerns raised by residents, parents and children about the daily number of pupils from Morgan Academy in danger on local roads that flow with heavy vehicle traffic.

A parent of a pupil at the school said, "I am really concerned with the numbers of pupils I see in the morning and lunch time crossing amongst moving traffic. I have witnessed some near misses myself. This is an accident waiting to happen".

As well as speed being an issue, the type of traffic that goes in and out of town is a problem too, sometimes you have big lorries that just roar past the pupils every day creating a very scary atmosphere specially on Forfar Road. The pupils face heavy traffic every morning, evening and lunch time, its just very dangerous and risky to cross the road.

The director of campaigns at BRAKE The Road Safety Charity, Joshua Harris, recently stated that:

"Across the country, people are working tirelessly to campaign for safe streets, organising petitions, meeting with MPs and councillors and raising money and awareness... we want everyone to think about how they can do their bit and step up for safer streets."

Schools are a known concern of traffic collisions. Statistics from the Department of Transport show that children aged 16 and under are the most vulnerable to road accidents, in particular child pedestrians which account for the majority of child casualties across all road user types.



Schools are teaching how to be more observant when crossing roads and how to act sensibly when doing so. This is really beneficial to the children as it will prevent further catastrophes but this can only be part of the solution. The authorities must play their part and reduce the amount of heavy traffic.

With the end of Road Safety Week, the hope is that everyone has gotten the message about keeping safe on roads and how to drive safely, Morgan's pupils want to add to the collective voices of organisations, public, communities, emergency services and other schools to spread awareness of road safety and speeding.

Remember! – there is 'No Need to Speed'.



Cartoon by Christopher Cochrane

THE JOURNALISTS ARE...

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