

College News

Although the beginning of the school term has been as seamless as possible, chaos seems to have taken the Earth hostage.

Whether it has been through natural hazards or extreme political stances, disasters have been at the centre of news globally, hence the broad theme of 'disasters' for this issue seemed appropriate.

In this month's edition, we have looked at the hurricane that struck

America, the questionable actions of President Trump, problems within the democratic system in the UK and disasters in regards to terrorism.

However, our journalists have also explored people's positive responses to disasters and the positive effects of work by people in our community.

Hasbeebah Asharaf, Celestine Stilwell and Isabelle Speciale, Year 12



ShelterBox can be a lifeline for those who have suffered disasters

ShelterBox can be a literal life-saver

During challenging times, it is often easy to focus on the destruction caused by disasters, whether natural or man-made. However, one organisation works particularly hard to provide help to those in need - ShelterBox.

Over the past few years, natural disaster occurrences have become more frequent, leaving countries in devastation. ShelterBox is an organisation that helps provide aid, such as emergency shelter, vital resources and supplies.

I interviewed Kingsbridge Community College geography teacher Elizabeth Treglown-Ryan to find out about her close involvement with ShelterBox and how she helps.

So how does she help the charity? Elizabeth is a part of the response team, which not only assesses the problem and extent of the damage, but also helps with Customs and distribution of the boxes. The team stays in communication with local leaders and organisations to make sure people have the right tools and resources so they can begin to rebuild their homes and recover.

What challenges did Elizabeth face?

As a result of a natural disaster, often roads and proper resources are blocked off, so Elizabeth's team has

to rely on quick thinking and problem solving.

Additionally, due to Elizabeth's involvement with many foreign countries, including China (earthquake in Sichuan), Sri Lanka (flooding and landslides) and Kenya (Dadaab has a large refugee camp as a result of a drought), language and communication barriers have been a big obstacle for her team. Although they have a translator, it is still a challenge that they have had to overcome to enable them to help those who are vulnerable.

Another issue they have faced has been a lack of resources for distribution, putting the teams in a situation where they have to decide who needs the boxes and resources more. They do this by taking into consideration the elderly, large families and people who have disabilities.

Therefore, despite the crushing and destructive effects of natural disasters, including more recent ones such as the Mexican and Japanese earthquakes, ShelterBox is a beacon of hope to those affected by such disasters.

The charity's hard work inspires others to do what they can in such situations and make the best out of an unpredictable situation.

Safiyah Asharaf, Year 8

Draft legislation known as the European Union Withdrawal Bill that will see the Government transfer EU laws to Britain has been moved on to the next stage of parliamentary scrutiny by a majority of 36.

The bill will transpose most European law into British law books, immediately repealing laws such as the European Communities Act (the supreme of European Law). It is suggested that up to around 60 per cent of British law is European law, so a swift transition is crucial. It will also grant the cabinet the power to repeal, establish and amend laws to increase ease of transition. This element of the bill is nicknamed the Henry the Eighth clause.

It is so called because the cabinet can enact its powers without laws going through parliamentary debate. While it may merely be a practicality, many find it hard to ignore the dictatorship overtones of any law that even touches on bypassing the democratic process.

With dramatic mutterings of the end of democracy, we



Portrait of Henry VIII by Hans Holbein the Younger, circa 1540: Brexit clause has been given his title

are assuming that these clauses have a purpose other than avoiding full parliamentary debate about each and every small law and

bylaw. As always, people read the headlines and ignore nuance - there are limitations in place. Tax and criminal laws cannot be

amended and neither can any clause in the Human Rights Act.

Rather than an image of Theresa May becoming an evil tyrant, it remains a fact that bills such as this could undermine the law. As the House of Lords puts, it remains "a departure from constitutional principle", effectively removing the input of parliamentary representatives, a principle key of both this country and democracy itself. Although many will not care about the intricacies of agricultural regulations, what the bill represents worries them.

With concerns about the influence this bill grants alongside accusations of "power-grabbing" by senior MPs, it is improbable that the bill will remain unchanged before it becomes relevant sometime in 2019, when negotiations finish. It, like everything else concerned with Brexit, is always going to be a confusing mess of opinions and concerns, although the impact of it is yet to be seen. Isabelle Speciale, Year 12

Concert terrorist Mexico still shaking

Disaster struck on May 22, 2017, as a home-made bomb killed 22 people and injured 250 at an Ariana Grande concert in Manchester.

The attacker, Salman Abedi, 23, also died in what we believe was a so-called Islamic State terror attack. As you can imagine, it was chaos, with people running for their lives.

Witnesses described "red and orange flashes, then a loud bang".

Shortly after the attack, Ariana hosted a

concert that included Justin Bieber, Miley Cyrus, Katy Perry, Robbie Williams, Niall Horan and many more. She has used the money from the concert to help the families who were affected by the attack.

To conclude, the event has obviously affected many people, but not as many adults as children, because the concert was mainly attended by children and teenagers.

Emily Willis and Tabitha Minty, Year 7

There were mixed reports and confusion coming out of Mexico in the wake of the earthquake.

The tremor struck shortly after many people had taken part in an earthquake drill on the 32nd anniversary of the 1985 magnitude-eight earthquake after the country had experienced another earthquake earlier in the month. Mexico is not unfamiliar with disaster.

More than 500 members of the army and navy, together with 200 police officers and volunteers, have been working in the worst-affected areas. In Enrique Rébsamen Primary School, officials say 11 children were rescued, but 19 children and six adults died.

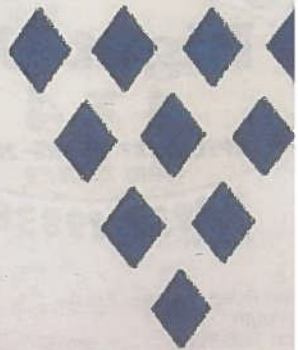
The country's elite team of rescuers, known as 'the Moles', are leading the volunteer rescue efforts. The group was formed in the wake of the devastating 1985 earthquake that killed over 10,000 people and it is still doing important work to help any survivors.

Mexico City authorities hope many more will be rescued, as 52 people had been rescued so far from collapsed buildings. People are trying to stay positive but current figures place the death toll at more than 300.

Mexican president Enrique Peña Nieto has declared three days of mourning for victims and all involved in the tragedy. Ellie Penzer, Year 12



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President's DACA stance stabs heart of US ethos

US transgender ruling appalling

It would be impossible to have a theme of disasters and not talk about the Trump administration: it epitomises catastrophe.

However, it is not so much a natural disaster as it is a political shambles. And the latest edition to Trump's presidency is the scrapping of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, which was introduced by President Obama in 2012.

DACA provided temporary protection to children who are attending or who have completed school, but who are illegal immigrants in the US. It gives such a person an impermanent right to work in the US and, providing they pass criminal checks and their applications is approved, their deportation is postponed for two years.

But by scrapping this policy, many children of undocumented migrants could face drastic consequences.

It has been stated that DACA will end in 2018 and applications may soon be rejected,



Protest march in response to the rescission of Deferred Action For Childhood Arrivals in New York City on September 9, 2017

putting more than 800,000 of these 15- to 36-year-olds, referred to as 'dreamers', in a state of limbo and fear of deportation. Those who have been accepted onto this initiative will find their per-

mits expiring within months, perhaps as early as March 2018, and most of them will have lost their status by 2020.

Ultimately, President Trump is working towards overturning one of Barack

Obama's most pro-immigration policies in an attempt to fulfil his electoral promises, among which are his radical ideas to build a wall between the US and Mexico and a ban on immigration from

some Muslim-majority countries.

Although he claims that "DACA recipients are not enforcement priorities unless they're criminals, involved in criminal activity or gangs", it is hard to wholeheartedly trust a man who is so focused on removing an immigration policy under the radar to protect "his people" at a time when thousands of "his people" are struggling for survival during Hurricane Irma.

Despite his desire to get rid of the DACA policy, it is yet to be set in stone. A total of 16 states have pledged to sue him over his attempt to abolish the 2012 policy, with huge influencers such as Washington DC and New York City among them.

Should their lawsuit succeed, then the Dreamers can continue their residence in the US; should it fail, the young generation of Dreamers could face a future that resembles more closely a nightmare.

Haseebah Asharaf, Year 12

Did US media dismiss effect of Hurricane Irma on the Caribbean?

In a month that seemed to see no end of disasters, natural or otherwise, areas of the south-eastern US and the Caribbean were hit by one of the most powerful hurricanes since records began, Hurricane Irma.

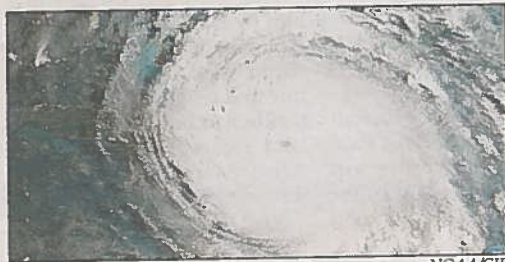
In its 17-day lifetime, Irma caused an approximate \$62.9bn worth of damage and, as at September 21, was known to have claimed 102 lives as it fluctuated from category to category, hindered only by drier air and slightly cooler waters.

Irma, which developed on August 30 from a tropical wave that had moved off the West African coast, intensified rapidly after formation

into a category-two hurricane within 24 hours and then a category-three hurricane, which meant it was now classified as 'major', shortly afterwards.

Due to eye-wall replacement cycles, its intensity fluctuated between categories two and three for a few days, but early on September 5 it was classified as a category five after continuing to intensify the day before.

Throughout its trail of destruction through the Caribbean, Irma continued to alternate in intensity as it affected Cape Verde, the Leeward Islands, Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Turks and Caicos Islands, the



Geocolor image of Hurricane Irma

Bahamas, the eastern US, particularly Florida, until losing its hurricane status and dissipating off the New England coast.

In preparation, warnings were declared across affected areas from September 4; millions were evacuated, including a few fortunate dolphins at a resort in Cayo Guillermo; sup-

plies were distributed; and other measures, such as the securing of national sports facilities in Haiti and the activation of the International Charter on Space and Major Disasters by the Dominican Republic, as well as the US and Haiti two days later, were taken.

In Florida, a state of emergency was

declared and around 7,000 troops were put on duty by September 8. As well as this, mandatory evacuations were made for the Florida Keys, although a shocking 25 per cent of residents stayed, schools and businesses were closed, including Walt Disney World, which was completely closed for the first time in its 45-year history, and shelters were opened.

In the wake of the disaster, clean-up operations continue despite subsequent hurricanes - Jose and Maria. But destruction is not the only thing the hurricane has caused. Questions are being raised not only about the effects of

climate change on the disaster, but also a glaring bias in news coverage: despite the extent of the damage throughout the Caribbean, reports mainly revolved around the affected areas in the US.

While small islands dealt with the aftermath of destruction, all that could be seen on television were the preparations being made in Florida at the time.

As the unusually forceful 2017 hurricane season continues and the already alarming facts of climate change become increasingly apparent, how will the world and its leaders respond?

Joanne Forster, Year 9

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What about our pride, Mr Trump?
Celestine Stilwell, Year 1



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