



THE PRIORY ACADEMY

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# Environmental News

Rachel Ballantyne

## Indoor solar panel breakthrough

Solar panels are one of the most common forms of a green energy source. Their relatively compact size means that they can be fitted in a wide range of places, and although they are small, they can have a big impact due to the sheer number of them that can be in one area. Recently, an American company under the name of Ambient Photonics, have unveiled a new type of solar panel that they say could replace batteries in common household items, which is small scale and designed for indoors. Batteries can be bad for the environment, as they contain components that are toxic for ecosystems, and as such need to be disposed of carefully and over long periods of time; a solar panel alternative for them would be brilliant in reducing the risk of environmental contamination.

Small scale solar panels do already exist – most people can find them powering calculators. Although this new development isn't inventing miniature solar panels, it aims to improve them to be more powerful so that they can power higher energy objects such as remotes, keyboards and computer mice as early developments. These solar panels would be powered by both natural light and nearby LED light, which makes them highly useful for inside a building – a power source that can be generated by other power sources means that the worry of 'using up' all of the generated energy on hand would not matter. Ultimately, this is a potentially highly beneficial update for reducing damage to the environment!

# Sports news

Elliot Richardson Bushell

## Africa and Asia cup

Has your fantasy team been affected by players leaving their teams for the Africa and Asia cup? Many people in Britain don't really consider that they play tournaments, equivalent to the EUROs, on other continents. However, the first Asia cup was held in 1956 and the Africa cup was introduced a year later.

The Africa cup has had multiple stages to it, having had several changes to the event. The first twenty year period hosted the cup named the Abdel Aziz Abdallah Salem Trophy after the first cup of nations president. This was the case until 1978 when Ghana were able to win the cup for the third time and the award was permanently given to them. The next cup was called the African Union cup, which lasted roughly twenty years as well, and was also permanently given to the next winner of three, Cameroon. Since then, the trophy has been named the African cup of nations. Originally, the trophy was introduced when football was becoming popular in Africa, and it became a way for African talent to make their names heard. Some of the money generated by the event was given to poorer neighbourhoods during and after the South African apartheid.

The Asia cup is a similar such event during which teams from across Asia compete. The 2023 AFC Asia cup is taking place in Qatar. It was moved to 12<sup>th</sup> January - 10<sup>th</sup> February 2024 to account for Qatar's extremely hot summers.

# Science News

Grace Bishell

## Release of a frozen virus.

Yet again, humanity may be facing the threat of an emerging pandemic. Scientists have warned that if we are not careful, a new, deadly virus could appear as a result of rising global temperatures.

Researchers have suggested that in the region of Siberia, an ancient pathogen is buried in the ice. This virus could possibly be released via climate change due to the fact that blistering heat could easily melt the ice which keeping the virus at bay. This newly found fear has caused many scientists to prepare for the possibility of its arrival. They are working towards creating a monitoring network that would notice any early signs of a disease that could infect single celled organisms as they are believed to be some of the first that could become hosts. Quarantine, much like during coronavirus, would also be a necessary precaution to prevent it from spreading. This careful planning is in an attempt to prevent the virus from leaving the region. This will ensure safety for most of the population as scientists work towards a cure /vaccine. In the meantime, any efforts to reduce carbon emissions and therefore the severity of climate change will also be vital in prolonging such a disease's arrival.

# Maths News

Isaac Eccles

## **The Millennium prize problems: Solving Maths for Money**

In education, it is required that you learn mathematics. Many people do not enjoy it. However, would you try to solve a problem for a million pounds? Probably, right? Well you can! The millennium prize problems are maths problems that have never been solved and have a hefty bounty on their heads. These problems were collected on March 24<sup>th</sup> 2000 and so far only one has been solved (the Poincare problem). The unsolved problems are: the Birch and Swinnerton-dyer conjecture, Hodge conjecture, the Navier-stokes existence and smoothness problem, P versus NP, the Riemann hypothesis and the Yang-mills existence and mass gap. Each of these problems is, of course, far beyond academic levels of mathematics, and some require Taylor series (a form of calculus). These problems are life changing if you solve them and would change the whole perspective of mathematics.

# Environmental News

Freddie Kingham

## One of Iceland's volcanoes has erupted

One of Iceland's volcanoes erupted (Katla) on 14<sup>th</sup> January. The average time between major eruptions was formerly five years but since 2021 the pattern has become annual!

The activity occurred at Fagradalsfjall which is 35km away from the Capital (Reykjavík).

Also, the capital (Reykjavík) has experienced 3 Volcanic eruptions. There were also a few earthquakes around the location of it. Although everyone was safe it remains a place for the lava. Katla is one of the most watched volcanos out of the 32 active ones in Iceland. No other activity has been recorded yet from the others.

# Weather news

Freddie Kingham

## Storm Jocelyn

Storm Jocelyn started to hit the UK in Scotland but has since moved south. Some Trains from Scot Rail were delayed to the next day as a result!

The winds have been observed at speeds of 40 – 50 mph. The train provider says that they will have to do a safety inspection first due to the intensity of the conditions. Trans Pennine Express tried to continue their routes from Scotland to England. People from northern Ireland also stated that there had been electricity out cuts. There were fifteen flood warnings in Scotland and sixteen in England. There was a yellow warning for Scotland, Northwest England and Wales.

It is safe to say the Storm has affected a great deal of us but by Friday had begun to clear up, with weather patterns returning to normal and wind speeds slowing down once more.