



THE PRIORY ACADEMY

LSST

Prory Press

Holiday Special!

(Module 2 – Edition 1)



Day of the Dead News

Rachel Lang

Día de Muertos

Día de los Muertos: Day of the Dead.

In Mexico, the day of the dead is an important celebration, much like Halloween in the western world. In fact, the origins of Día de los Muertos are before that of Halloween. Many people often confuse the two as they do have similar dates and traditions; however, celebrations for Día de los Muertos do not involve dressing up as various scary characters as Halloween does. Instead, The Day of the Dead is all about celebrating the lives of those who have passed away. People decorate altars for the person who has died. Often an altar consists of: marigold flowers; a photo of the person who has died; a glass of water/their favorite drink; their favorite food; candles/incense etc.

During The Day of the Dead, there is a parade where people dress up as candy skulls. They decorate floats with flowers and people dress up for the occasion, and then parade down the streets for a big celebration! For those who live locally that are interested in the Day of the Dead and would like to attend a parade, there was one hosted in Lincoln on the 24th of October – so, look out for one next year. This was hosted in the Bailgate, with parade times at 12:00 and 14:30pm. This was called 'Strolling Bones' or 'Skeleton parade'.

Diwali Celebrations

Anusha Senthilkumar and Aashritha Guntuka

Diwali in England: A vibrant celebration of light and community

Diwali, known as the festival of lights, is a significant celebration for millions, especially within the Indian community in England. In 2024, Diwali will be celebrated on the 31st of October (the same day as Halloween!)

The festival has deep roots in mythology: the festival commemorates Lord Rama's return to Ayodha (a holy city in India) after defeating the demon king Ravana, symbolizing the triumph of light over darkness. In cities like London and Leicester, vibrant decorations adorn the streets, with homes illumined by Diyas (oil lamps) and intricate Rangoli designs.

Community events are a highlight, featuring cultural performances that showcase traditional music and dance, drawing in thousands of visitors. Leicester, in particular, is famous for its grand light switch on event that marks the beginning of celebrations.

Food is another essential aspect of Diwali, with family preparing a variety of sweets like Gulab jamun and savory dishes to share with loved ones. This festival not only celebrates cultural heritage, but also fosters a sense of community and togetherness, making Diwali a cherished occasion for all.

Seasonal News

Shay Ware

The Origins of Halloween

Halloween is a traditional holiday that is loved by many around the world. It's the one night a year where you can take candy from all the houses in the neighborhood. But where did this tradition start? This tradition is estimated to have started around 2000 years ago as a pagan festival called Samhain. It was thought that this was the day that the evil spirits could enter the mortal realm. The Celts dressed in scary costumes and lit bonfires to scare them away. This was called Hallows Eve, which was eventually shortened to Halloween. Over the years, this evolved as children now walk door-to-door through the neighbourhood to collect sweets. There was even an incident in Bradford during the 1800s, when around 20 children died from eating candy on Halloween.

I hope you enjoy your Hallows Eve!

Halloween Book Reviews

Oliver Erskine

Spooky Stories

Coraline, by Neil Gaiman

Coraline is a great book, based around a girl who has been teleported to another dimension. Here, her other mother has captured her true parents to make sure she would obey the wishes of the other mother. It has been set as a book to read for other year sevens in several schools and is also on our Priory reading list.

The Graveyard Book, by Neila Gaiman

The book traces the story of the boy named Nobody. As his family was brutally murdered, he is adopted and reared by supernatural occupants of a graveyard. He was raised by the ghosts of this graveyard and this tale is creepy and warmhearted. It is a great book and should be read by all kids who love dark stories.

Ghost Knight, by Cornelia Funke

This book is about a child called Jon who has just joined a new boarding school. He finds himself being controlled by a vengeful gang of ghosts that no one else can see. This paranormal book is full of delightfully creepy stories about ghosts, ghouls and supernatural spirits. For children who like scary stories, this is another great book to read.



Halloween News

Max Stothard

The History of Halloween and its iconic decorations

The most early decorations for Halloween were originally used for scaring off spirits, such as:

- Jack-o'-lanterns. Out of all the Halloween decorations one, surely the most iconic of them all, the Jack-o'-lantern, is supposed to have its origin from a guy named Stingy Jack – a man from an old Irish folktale, who tricked the devil himself. When Jack died, heaven and hell both denied his passage; he was made to walk around on Earth with only a flaming hot coal inside of a carved turnip so he could see where he was going. At the time of Irish immigrants bringing this to America, they figured that pumpkins, a fruit known to grow quite a lot in America, were much easier to carve out than the original Turnip in the tale. So, the famous “Jack-o'-lantern” became a common decoration for the holiday of Halloween.
- Ghosts. This common decoration came from Ancient beliefs of spirits returning to the Earth. Now, today the ghosts hanging from the trees, windows and other parts of a home's front garden are there to create the eerie feel of the holiday we know and love today
- Black cats and witches. The last of the three classics, both the witches and the beloved black cats have been recognized as being part of Halloween for multiple centuries. In Europe during the medieval era, cats, mainly the black variety, were supposedly familiar to witches and apparently the witches themselves were believed to cast spells during the spooky holiday. These symbols have stayed and are often made to be the decorations themselves, from being realistic and life size cartoons to simple silhouettes of the cats.



Local Halloween News

Anusha Senthilkumar and Aashritha Guntuka

Uncovering Local Legends within Lincolnshire

Lincolnshire is a county steeped in history, and with that history comes a rich tapestry of local legends and ghost stories that continue to captivate the imagination. From haunted castles to eerie encounters, the tales of the supernatural are woven into the fabric of this charming region.

One of the most famous ghost stories in Lincolnshire is that of the infamous Lincoln Castle. Built in 1068, this historic fortress has witnessed countless events over the centuries, and many believe it to be haunted. Visitors have reported sightings of a ghostly figure roaming the grounds, thought to be a former prisoner who met a tragic end. The castle's dark history adds an air of mystery, making it a popular spot for ghost tours.

Another intriguing legend is the tale of the "Witch of Wainfleet." This story revolves around a woman accused of witchcraft in the 17th century. Locals claim that her spirit still lingers in the area, with strange occurrences reported in the vicinity of her former home. From unexplained noises to sightings of shadowy figures, the legend serves as a reminder of the county's tumultuous past and the fears that once gripped its inhabitants.

Lastly, the village of Alford is home to the legend of the "Alford Ghost." This spectral figure is said to appear near the old church, often described as a woman in white. Many residents have shared their chilling encounters, claiming to have felt a cold presence or seen the ghostly figure gliding through the graveyard. The story has become a staple of local folklore, drawing in believers.

As we delve into these local legends, it's clear that Lincolnshire's ghost stories and urban myths offer a fascinating glimpse into the past.



Halloween News

Sara Stepien

A couple who got married in a cemetery on supposedly the unluckiest day described their wedding to be “Pretty Perfect”

Hannah and Mathew Parfitt, from Pontoporidd, Rhonda canyon Taf decided to get married on Friday 13th of October in a room that was used to once lower coffins before cremation. Hannah, dressed in a black wedding dress, and Matthew, dressed in a black suit and a tie with skulls, said their vows in front of candle lights and curtains drawn. “We did want to get married on Halloween but the weather always rains badly on Halloween,” said Hannah aged 27. This couple’s choice of venue was in Arnos Vale, Bristol, a Victorian cemetery which is also licensed as a wedding venue. Hannah said one of the rooms they used was where a pallbearer would “lower the coffins down to get cremated... obviously they don’t use it any more.” “We didn’t get married on the actual graves because that would be disrespectful” she said. Hannah chose to get married in a cemetery because she finds them quite peaceful. As for choosing the most supposedly unluckiest day of the year? Mathew said, “We haven’t had bad luck yet have we?”. “No we've been doing pretty good” said Hannah. “We've got a new house recently so it’s going quite well.” Samantha Buca, an alternative dress designer, said that those dresses have been quite popular in Autumn.

Halloween News

Esmae Elcocks and Ava Nesom-Rogers

Human Skull Found In Florida Charity Shop

An anthropologist with a keen eye was browsing through a charity shop on a Saturday, when she suddenly spotted a curious skull that appeared to be human. Others that visited the store agreed that it was likely human. The store owner explained to the eager investigators that this creepy skull had been kept in storage for several years until it was purchased. Police officers have said that this interesting investigation will be looked into further. However, other officials do not believe this discovery is worth investigating. The Lee County Sheriff's Office released this information on social media; to put it in their own words a "Twist of not-so-humorous-events." A similar finding was discovered in Arizona in September. At a Goodwill charity store, a human skull was found in a donation box. Officials have explained that, whilst the skull was human, it was most likely ancient and hopefully not associated with any crimes. Whilst these spooky events may be scary to some people, anthropologists are finding these discoveries significant to finding out about the evolution of mankind.

Halloween News

Max Stothard

Origin of trick or treat

Trick or treating is such a beloved part of Halloween, the excitement of filling your bucket with sweets and dressing up in spooky costumes with all the decorations outside. But where did it all come from? Well, it all goes back to 16th century Ireland and Scotland with the tradition of being rewarded with sweets or food. Supposedly, instead of saying the famous phrase we all know and love of “*Trick or Treat !!*”, this used to be “*Help the Halloween party!*” instead. It has only been since the 2000s that trick or treating has become as popular as it is today.

The actual trick part, which is always turned down to give sweets, used to be an all out threat to cause mischief on residents or their property if no treat was provided. Some people had to write signs on their doors that they were willing to give sweets so passersby don't attack the property. They also left their porch lights on to signal they had sweets.

There isn't much actual history behind this tradition; however, this is still what we dress up for, decorate our houses for, and know and love to this very day, centuries after its origin.