The (roughly) 30-year-old newspaper The Independent has now become the only national newspaper to go completely digital. The reason for this is that nowadays many people are online a lot and would prefer an online edition. The owner of The Independent Evgeny Lebedev “This decision preserves the Independent brand and allows us to continue to invest in the high-quality editorial content that is attracting more and more readers to our online platforms.” The famous paper will stop being printed on the 26th March.

Alexander Lebedev, the head of the Independent Press, which publishes both the Independent and the newspaper, said that they are going to sell the newspaper to Johnston Press, for around £24 million pounds.

In the survey about newspapers going completely digital, 53% of people said they don’t think newspaper should go all digital, 17% of you thought they should, and 30% saying something else. A lot of people thought there should be both, and one person said “for some of our older persons it represents an opportunity and purpose to get out of the house, walk to the shops and exchange a few pleasantries.”

First LEGO League (www.firstlegoleague.org/about-fll) is a tournament that children aged 9-16 can take part in across the globe. This year the theme is Trash Trek.

A home-ed FLL team this year was called Rubbish Runners (rubbishrunners.weebly.com). The Editor-In-Chief, Elye Cuthbertson, was part of this team, along with Oliver Langton, Kyran Richards, and Aaron Cuthbertson. They came up with an innovation, a new kind of cigarette bin, to give users an incentive to throw cigarettes away, instead of on the floor. (You can read more about their idea on their website, linked above). They went to the regional tournament at Queen Mary’s University of London, and had a great time there. You can read a report about the day on page 4. Their team won! That means that they went to the United Kingdom and Ireland Finals on the 21 February. report of this also on page 4. There were 44 teams there, and out of all of those, the Rubbish Runners came second place! That’s second place for the entire UK and Ireland! Quite an achievement! The first place team was the West Linton Wasps. The Rubbish Runners are invited to the European Finals, held in Tenerife (Spain) on 27th April - 30th April.

3 of the team Rubbish Runners who are going forward to the Europeans need YOUR help to get to Tenerife! Help fund their journey, and help them represent the whole UK in the European Championships. To help make their dream come true, click the link here to help fund them: https://www.gofundme.com/kfqrp64k
Princess Charlotte was born in St. Mary’s Hospital at 08:34 BST. Her name was announced as Charlotte Elizabeth Diana two days after her birth.

Princess Charlotte’s Birthday

The adorable Princess Charlotte will be turning one year old on 2nd of May. On 8th of September, 2014, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge announced that they were expecting their second child (the first being Prince George, now 2 and a half years old). Princess Charlotte was born in St. Mary’s Hospital at 08:34 BST. Her name was announced as Charlotte Elizabeth Diana two days after her birth.

Princess Charlotte is fourth in line to the throne, after her great-grandmother, grandfather, father and brother. This means that if all of the above (except Princess Charlotte) somehow suddenly all died at the same time, she would become queen (even though she is so young). Thankfully, this is extremely unlikely to happen!

EU Referendum

There is going to be a referendum (a public vote) on 23rd June to decide whether or not the United Kingdom should stay in the EU (European Unions).

Some people say that the EU is holding the UK back, and they charge enormous fees for membership with little in return. Although, the EU allows freedom of movement between the 28 countries in it. David Cameron, prime minister, has said that he would rather stay in the EU, however the current Mayor, Boris Johnson, disagrees.
Scientists detect gravitational waves

(Edited by Editor-in-Chief Elye Cuthbertson)

Scientists believe they have discovered gravitational waves, which occurred when two black holes collided more than a billion light years away from planet Earth. The ripples they are detecting are astoundingly small and quiet, and disturbed the scientist’s machines by fractions of the width of a single atom.

Professor Karsten Danzmann, who is part of the Max Planck Institute for Gravitational Physics, said the detection was one of the most important developments in science. “The property of these black holes,” he said, “agrees exactly with what Einstein predicted around 100 years ago.”

“Gravitational waves provide a completely new way of looking at the Universe,” said Professor Stephen Hawking, who is an expert on black holes. “The ability to detect them has the potential to revolutionise astronomy. This discovery is the first detection of a black hole binary system and the first observation of black holes merging.”

Gravitational waves occur when big violent events happen in the universe, for example the explosion of a star, or, in this case, the colliding of two black holes. Some people believe that we will now be able to see black holes, a thing we have never been able to do before, while others think we will be able to have a better idea of things that happened thousands of years ago in the universe, possibly even the Big Bang, a theory of how the universe was created. It is expected that scientists will also be able to discover how gravity, the force that pulls things down, really works.

The Best Job in the World

(Edited by Kat Patrick)

Back, back, w-a-y back in about 2001, I was researching the idea of home-educating my daughter who was then only a year old. I was a teacher, and she was going to a child-minder three days a week. Out of the blue one day, it dawned on me: why was I leaving my own child with somebody, while I went out to teach other people’s children?!!

Sometimes, we parents get into home-education because we fundamentally disagree with the education system; or because we are torn to pieces about what a certain school or even a certain collection of children are doing to our own precious one; or because we don’t find traditional schooling a good fit. All of these are perfectly good reasons, but they’re kind of negative ones -- we reject the norm to embrace the unusual.

But what if the unusual were the RIGHT way, and that we embrace it because it’s been the best way all along?

This became clear to me one summer’s day, right after I’d left that paying job. It was such a luxury to just sit on a bench and observe my toddler. She was pottering around in the grass, shaking my soda bottle and watching the bubbles, and I was amazed how I wasn’t feeling the usual urge to put her on the swing for five minutes, then help her down the slide for five minutes more, wobble the wiggly bridge for five, then take her back home for a nap so I could get back to my “real” job.

Instead, I could just sit there. I could just be. And let my daughter just be.

This was when my perspective completely changed. My job now was to watch her. What made her tick? What excited her? What was difficult for her, what was easy?

The moral of this tale is this: home-education is often seen as a “running away from” or “opting out” of traditional schooling, but I want to encourage everyone who’s involved in it to see it with new eyes. Not running away, but leaping into, soaring through, bounding ... or, if you’re a quiet and methodical sort ... ambling/walking/tip-toeing along the path that you were made to follow.

A path on which you travel WITH your child!

Home-educating parents are so fortunate and blessed to be part of this journey, and it’s the best job in the world!
The excitement on the day was incredible, and it was great fun!

First LEGO League Regional Tournament

By (Editor-in-Chief Elye Cuthbertson)

When we arrived, we got given a schedule and with came a big shock: there were only seven teams, unlike the fifteen we thought there would be! 7 is a very small number of teams for a First LEGO League tournament. However, this was good, for it increased our chance of winning an award!

After the pit area opened up (they were a bit late) we went to set up. We stuck bits of paper with the Rubbish Runners (our team name) and ReStub (our innovation’s name) logos on the table. We also set up our practice mat for the robotics (we invited other teams to use it, as it demonstrates Core Values, and you never know when the judges are watching you!). While half the team was doing that, the other half set up our prototype. It was a prototype that we made out of Lego, a bunch of wires and a Raspberry Pi (a small computer). It was for our project, which you can read about on our website (rubbishrunners.weebly.com). We spent months and months getting it to work, so it was very satisfying to see it in operation!

First was the Opening Ceremony, where we were just told what was going to happen. After that, we had a little while until our first judging session, which was Core Values. In Core Values we were asked questions about how we worked together as a team, how we cooperated, etc. You are also judged throughout the day on your Core Values. Next was Robot Design, where we were asked about our robot, how we decided to build it, etc. Last but not least was project, which was probably our strongest point. We presented our idea to the judges, and they seemed quite impressed!

Then was the robot rounds, where we ran our robot to complete certain missions. We came fifth (in the robot rounds) out of seven.

Finally, the Award Ceremony. Since there were only seven teams every team ended up getting an award... but we won the Champions award! This means we went to the UK and Ireland final (below).

First LEGO League National Tournament

By (Aaron Cuthbertson)

As we arrived at Loughborough University for the FLL UK and Ireland Finals, the excitement in the room was palpable. As everyone began to set up for the day, you could feel an incredible sense of pride and accomplishment from every team. Each team had worked amazingly hard to get to the Nationals, and everyone was ready for day ahead, presenting their robots and their projects at a much higher level. After the opening ceremony the judging began, and we made sure we were ready for our first judging session, where we would be presenting our project. The session went very well, and as the day went on we felt very satisfied with all our judging sessions. In each one we felt we showed everything we had worked on across the last 6 months, how much time and effort we had put into all aspects of the tournament and how much we were passionate about what we had done. As well as judging sessions we also had our robot runs, and throughout the day we got very consistent scores. In between all this we were busy showing our project to the other 43 teams who attended the finals and looking at all of their amazing projects! We met some really nice teams there, including a Scottish team called the Uni-Bears who all played ukuleles! After a long day of everything from robots to balloon, it was finally time for the Closing Ceremony. After the thanks to the sponsors, judges and volunteers it was finally time for the awards to be handed out! We weren’t expecting any awards, so we were sitting back and enjoying the ceremony, very happy to see all the amazing teams getting recognized. Soon though almost all the awards had been handed out, leaving just the Runner-Up and Champions award to go. To our surprise the Runner-Up award went to Team #22 Rubbish Runners; ie. us! We were all completely shocked; not least of all our coach, who could not believe it! Unfortunately we had to run off shortly afterwards to catch our train, but since winning that award we have been invited to the European finals, which we are all hugely excited for! The finals will take place in Tenerife in May, but to get there we need YOUR help, by hitting this link, and helping to fund us: https://www.gofundme.com/kf6r64k

By (Editor-in-Chief Elye Cuthbertson)

By (Aaron Cuthbertson)
WIN FIVE FREE LICKALIX ICE-LOLLIES!

For your chance to win five delicious ice-lollies, give a name to this stuffed animal (right), the best one wins!

Enter by sending your name to homeedge-zette@gmail.com.

PLEASE READ THE RULES BELOW BEFORE ENTERING

Rules: All entries must be received by the 10th of April 2016. Only entries received by the deadline will be considered. The judge’s decision is final. The winner will be announced in the next issue. By entering, you are agreeing to have your winning photo as well as a photo of you receiving the prize in this paper and used by LICKALIX in their social media. The winner will receive their lollies in person – no postal option available. Family of The Editor may not enter.

Winner of last issue’s competition!

The winner of the last issue’s competition was Oscar Hornberger, who guessed that there were 127 five pence coins, which makes a total of £6.35. There was in fact exactly 179 five pence coins, which is £8.95. Well done Oscar!
Prison Architect

(By Games Reviewer Noah Sargentson-Wilk)

Prison Architect is, you guessed it, a game about building, managing and upgrading a prison. Its main mechanic is that it has “Rooms”, like a cell or an office, a dormitory or a canteen, which you can assign to different areas. There is also a “Gangs” system, where prisoners come in with gang allegiances, and, once there are enough gang members, they will start identifying areas of your prison as their turf, and will kill members of any other gang (or at least try to). Challenges include the problem that some prisoners will try to escape, they steal anything they can get their hands on, including weapons, they will riot if they are unhappy, and will sometimes attack guards. Your job is to manage all this!

The game is based on the American prison system with prisoners in orange jumpsuits, solitary confinement as punishment and the idea that all prisoners are evil people who want to riot and murder everyone. Before I was allowed this game, my Mum and I looked at a very interesting article by Paolo Pedercini (http://paolo.molleindustria.org/) on Kotaku.com: http://kotaku.com/what-to-do-with-prison-architect-a-video-game-about-b-1505204131

The article argues that this game gives a prejudiced and simplistic view of prisoners and the prison system. Pedercini is very critical, and some of what he says is really interesting from a political point of view. But in defence of the game, I think that the developers needed to make an engaging and challenging game, not a morality simulator.

The designers of the game responded to his review here (http://kotaku.com/prison-architect-creators-respond-to-our-prison-archite-1508504242); surprisingly they quite liked it!

Personally, I really liked the game, and I think that the game developers really achieved something with it.

Learning curve: 7/10  Originality: 9/10
Gameplay 8/10  System Requirements: low
Age: 13+  Overall awesomeness: 8/10
Meet The Editor!

What is the reason you became home-ed?
My mother does not like the curriculum they use in schools, which is the main reason I am home-ed.

If it were completely up to you would you go to school or be home-ed?
Definitely home-ed! Although I have never been to school, I don’t think I would like it AT ALL, even a private school.

Why do you enjoy journalism?
I enjoy it because I quite like the whole process of it. First you think about what to write, then research it, then write it. I just find all this great fun, even working to a deadline!

What do you enjoy apart from journalism?
I enjoy performing magic tricks. For a start I love performing them, and I also like enjoy the reactions I get from people. I used to go to a group every week, and whenever I walked in one of the people said, “burn the witch!”

What is your favourite part of the Home-ed Gazette?
I love that all you people at home contribute so much great stuff. I really enjoy reading what you send in!

A History of Cats
(By Poppy Ashbury)

It’s been about 4000 years since cats were domesticated.
The Ancient Egyptians were the first to keep and use cats to control vermin and other pests to protect stores of food. In Ancient Egypt, the cat was revered as a hunter and worshiped as gods and goddesses. Today cats have become the most popular pets, The ancient Egyptians imposed the death for killing cats and cats were also mumified before being buried, The Siamese cat: Wichianmat, (meaning "moon diamond") one of the several breeds native to Thailand (formerly known as Siam) the Siamese cat became One of the most popular breed's in Europe.

What do cats eat?
Cats eat (chicken) (rabbit) (beef) (raw meat) they will eat anything that they like the smell of they will smell the food before eating it.

Some cat owners believe they can feed their pet a vegetarian or vegan diet, and add a taurine supplement. In my opinion, this is the equivalent of eating nothing but iceberg lettuce and taking a synthetic multivitamin. That vitamin can't possibly make up for all the nutrients missing from an iceberg lettuce-only diet.

And the longest living cat was Crème Puff she lived for 38 years
Born: August 3, 1967
Died: August 6, 2005