

The Norwood Voice

August 2020



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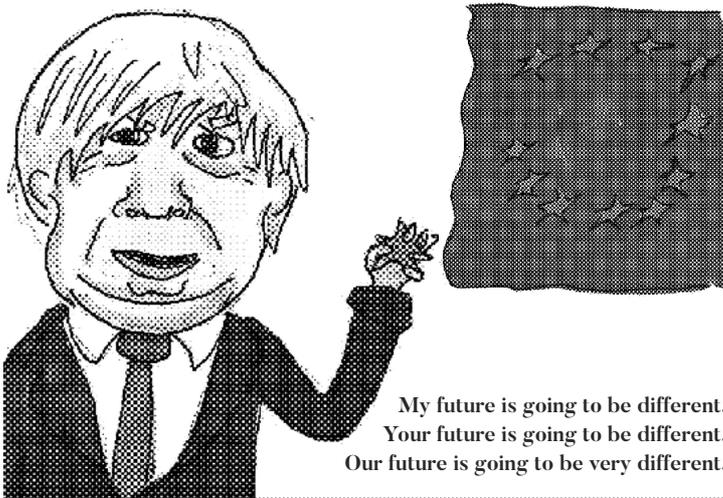
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Writer: Isabella Ali

The baffling thing with Brexit.

Why? You may ask... all hands point towards Brexit. I wonder if the adults within society ever thought about us. The same adults who are quite oblivious to our needs, our feelings and our voices.



My future is going to be different.
Your future is going to be different.
Our future is going to be very different.

None of our so-called leaders like Nigel Farage, Boris Johnson or David Cameron (who started this whole fiasco) care about the people who will be affected if we end up leaving the European Union; this could have horrific consequences.

They only did it for power. Cameron's Brexit blueprint has backfired leaving the youth powerless. Our voices silenced on a topic that will have huge ramifications for our futures and us.

Is there a solution? Do we have to sit here and watch this pointless thing sink into our lives? What about our food, our medicine, our friends and families, our jobs, everything... what will happen? When the impact of Brexit finally takes hold, the older generation will be gone and we shall be stuck with a life-altering problem.

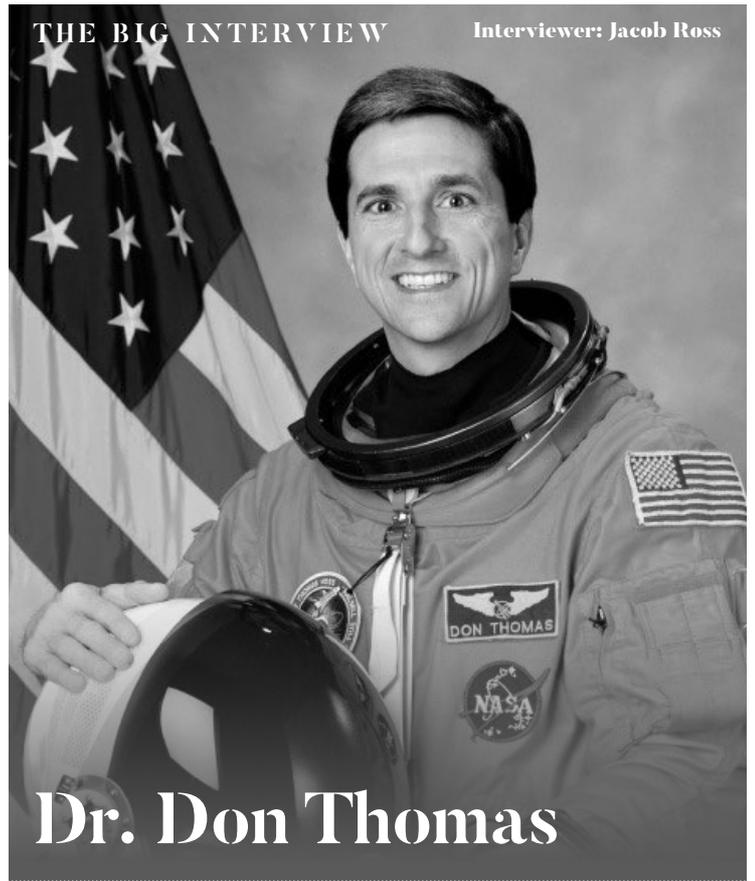
Brexit could potentially ruin our future opportunities. For three years, MPs have griped to two un-elected Prime Ministers about this issue and yet nothing has changed. It ruins great futures and amazing opportunities.

Twenty-eight countries tried to solve a dilemma that should not have even occurred. We should have put an end to it; now future generations will learn about Brexit and the damaging consequences in their history books.

I know my voice is important. I know my opinions are valid. I know my future is bright. Will Brexit stop me?

THE BIG INTERVIEW W

Interviewer: Jacob Ross



Dr. Don Thomas

The Norwood School recently attended New Scientist Live, the world's most exciting festival of ideas and discovery, and I had the opportunity to interview renowned astronaut Dr Donald Alan Thomas.

I asked Dr Thomas about his first mission and he said: "my first mission was in July 1994 (AS-TS 65 Mission); it was a science mission to study the impact of low gravity on the human body. I spent fifteen days in orbit altogether."

I continued to ask Dr Thomas whether the purpose of his visit to New Scientist Live was to inspire the next generation of space travellers. "Well yes, of course, I mean we are not getting any younger and I first dreamed of being an astronaut aged six so sometimes you should really just follow your dreams."

Dr Don Thomas is a fascinating character, one with an abundance of wisdom and knowledge in relation to space, so I had to ask him if NASA came knocking, could he turn down a mission to Mars?

"Oh, well I am getting on a bit, so I couldn't turn down an offer like that!"

A remarkable character who still has the passion to explore and the wisdom to inspire the next generation of space travellers.



A Bug's Life

What do we eat?

What happens when our agricultural system fails?

What happens when our soil becomes infertile and we can no longer turn to planting?
Where do we go? What do we eat?

We cannot rely on scientifically made meat grown in labs or other countries to export goods to our country. We have to take matters into our own hands.

According to the United Nations in the year 2050 the world population would have grown to 9.7 billion. Feeding that amount of people means producing twice the amount of food we already produce, but there won't be enough arable land to do so. So what do we eat?

What do we squash every day and complain about as they fly around our food? Bugs.

Could bugs be on restaurant menus in the near future? People are going to find eating bugs disgusting. They are associated with dirt or disease and disgust. So why would anyone want to eat them? Well, bugs are considered highly nutritional; with some being rich in protein, containing healthy fats, iron, calcium and they are low in carbohydrates.

Sustainability of bugs

However, there is more to dried bugs than nutritional values. We are living in a world where sea levels are rising, global temperatures are soaring, biodiversity is declining and inequality is deepening. First of all bugs are sustainable as they require less resources like other forms of livestock. In addition, they produce fewer greenhouse gases.



money to produce. The farming of bugs, like crickets and beetles, is popular in many countries including Thailand, India, South Africa, and Kenya. Actually around 80% of countries farm bugs.

When you see people eat dried bugs you tend to recognise programs like Survival with Bear Grylls or I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here. But, have you ever thought that the food you normally eat could be replaced with a healthy option like bugs? Cricket flour used commonly in cakes to remove flour, roasted grasshoppers for crisps and chocolate covered beetles could all replace unhealthy chocolate snacks.

Although many bugs are edible, lots of bugs out there are not. There are some risks to eating them. Certain bugs store compounds in them that make people sick, some are poisonous and others may be carcinogenic. The best way to try some bugs is to order them from a reputable company. Some companies like EAT GRUB and LuckyVitamin are two of many organic websites that sell products containing bugs.

So be cautious and do not go out in the backyard and look for dinner!



Gross Domestic Product.

Can we talk about Banksy?

Banksy is an anonymous street artist that paints in places on the streets and in alleyways.

He paints in secret and in places, you would not expect. He always appears masked or covered so he does not reveal his identity. Though we do believe Banksy's real name is Robin Gunningham, we are not 100% sure and cannot assume, as this is a guess.

We are also not 100% certain of his place of birth and his date of birth, but there are two guesses of these: born on 28th of July 1973 (45 years old now) and this occurred in Yate, 12 miles from Bristol. Remember these are only estimates and may not be accurate so do not rely on them.

Banksy has just opened a shop for the first time in Croydon, on Church Street. However, the doors of the shop do not open and you cannot go in as explained by Banksy on his Instagram account. There are items and some of his famous artwork on display in this shop and you can see it through the window. Some of the things featured are The Stab Proof Vest worn by Stormzy during his headline set in Glastonbury, life vests salvaged from the shore of the Mediterranean Sea, disco balls made from used police riot helmets and a toddlers counting toy where children are encouraged to load wooden migrant figures inside a haulage truck.

Banksy's shop has strange things up for display as described by one observer:

“The shop has impractical and offensive things for sale.”

He also hired people who look after and tell visitors about the shop. I interviewed one of them and asked if they knew whom they were working for, but they explained they did not know whom their boss was. They are described as the Secret Security Guards and they wear light brown blazers and have an earpiece in one of their ears.

The question is why did Banksy open the shop?

Well, he opened the shop because a greetings card company was trying to trade using his name and his lawyer advised him to open a shop to protect his art and brand, because it would be easier for him to make a legal case against the greetings card company if he had an official shop of his own. He named the shop Gross Domestic Product. In my opinion, Banksy chose this name because the word gross has two different meanings: something disgusting and unacceptable or a term used in finance meaning the value of economic activity within a country.

Using the word gross in this way makes you wonder and question this, it is done in a very clever way.

I visited the shop and I looked at the different exhibits. Personally, I liked the one with a cash register with fake butterflies connected to electric motors spinning around above it and a small artificial waterfall flowing down the side.

I also really liked the way he had turned something so serious into something so ridiculous, he turned a used police riot helmet into a disco ball and it actually looked almost exactly like one. I hope that you had a chance to see the shop before it closed. It was very interesting and had lots of neatly placed artwork when you looked in the different windows of the former carpet shop.

Wait I did not tell you it used to be a carpet shop, did I? Well a carpet shop called Ponden Home closed down a couple of years ago on Church Street. You may know of it. The shop was unused and covered in graffiti over time until Banksy installed his shop overnight without anyone knowing. The shop is only open for two weeks and will be closed by the time my article is posted on The Norwood Voice. However, it is truly monumental for our community.

Climate change: The facts

You might have heard of something called global warming, but not know the sheer scale of it. But, those days are over. So, what really is global warming and what can you do about it?



Global warming is leading to rising sea levels and melting ice caps due to higher temperatures caused by Co2 in the earth's atmosphere. Now, this might seem remote and far away from home but in the distant future, food security, marine biodiversity, sunny days at the beach and EVEN the human race might be affected.

Take a minute, stop whatever you're doing, think about a world RUINED by containerisation, a world with entire civilisations wiped off the face of the earth, a world where entire marine ecosystems dating back thousands of years wiped off the face of the earth. A world with no human race...

I know what you're thinking, "We are doomed!" But, if we act now, there is still time. Small things like: turning the lights off when you leave a room, using the car less, not leaving chargers plugged in when unoccupied, switching your energy at home to renewable/solar powered/wind turbine energy, using metal water bottles instead of plastic ones, using the train instead of the car/plane (this also benefits your comfort) and planting trees in your garden can greatly assist with the fight for nature.

Switched the light off? Great. Now, it's great that you're doing your bit, but along with individual change comes systems change. And, since OUR future is in THEIR hands, they should take care of it, which they are not doing very well at the moment. Since inaction (and profiting from our demise) is the dominating event on the political agenda. Why not use their ignorance and/or limited willpower to our own advantage?

Two words: active defiance. Now, I'm not asking you to storm the houses of Parliament. I'm just asking you to follow Greta Thunberg on Twitter, get involved in any extracurricular activities about the climate crisis, inform others about the crisis, get involved in strikes near you and ultimately, make them care.



Is VAR a step too far?

In this year's Premier League, Video Assistant Referee (VAR) has been introduced to prevent mistakes made by the referee on goals, penalties, mistaken identity and straight red cards. It comes in after being used in cups around the country, and of course, the World Cup in 2018.



My opinion: I feel that VAR is a really exciting thing that English football should be proud to have, and that it is purely there to correct the mistaken decisions made by the referee.

Obviously, being a Crystal Palace fan, I quite like the new technology, with tricky wingers like Wilfried Zaha and Andros Townsend, we're bound to get lots of penalties. However, there are some downsides to it, in some cases it disrupts phases of play and causes the atmosphere in the stadium to fall. I asked a few people their opinion on the new technology.

Stephen Roche: Overall, VAR is a positive - it will lead to more correct decisions. Anything new will always come in for criticism but on the whole I feel it will benefit the game. Technology and the manner in which decisions are made should improve in time and delays kept to a minimum.

Henry Ridings | Yr8: I think it's good, because it corrects wrong decisions, but it's bad because it takes so long.

Joseph Mullaney | Yr8: "I think it's good for the Premier League, but not good for cup games."

Luke | Yr9: It's good for the Premier League, because it over-rules clear incorrect decisions, but it takes so long."

To conclude I think that we're all in agreement that VAR on the whole is positive, but should there be a rule that the procedure can only be a certain amount of time? For example, would it be good to implement a rule that there is a maximum amount of time taken by a referee to make a pivotal decision in a match? The latter, in my opinion, would be a good resolution as:

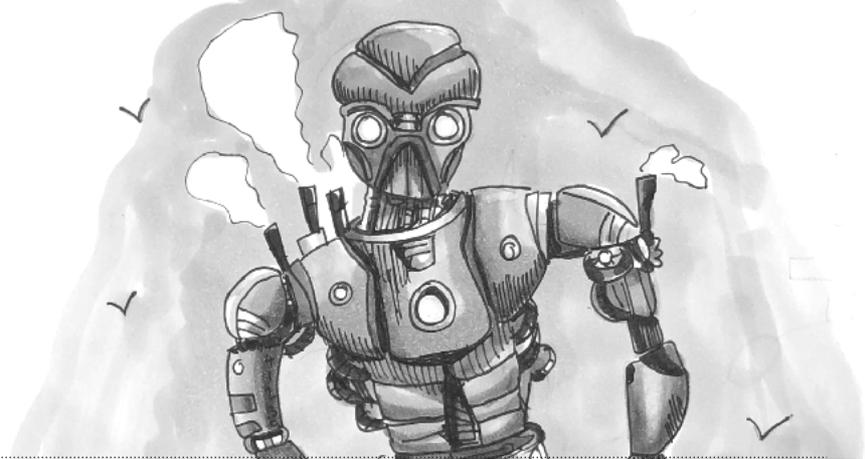
VAR makes sure that the fans in the stadium aren't left in the unknown for a long period of time.

Angus: Being an Illustrator

We would like to introduce you to Angus in Yr 7, a talented artist who has illustrated some of the articles in this edition of Norwood Voice. Angus joined us last year as a Visual Arts Bursary student and has really started to gain a name for himself as the 'go to illustrator'!

His work is lively, often humorous and incredibly engaging – he really does have a natural talent, we think you would agree.

Thank you and well-done Angus.



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