
HENSON HERALD

Lies dam lies and statistics!! Within are publishing stats for 2021-2022 and the pattern is an encouraging one for publishers in UK. For some the Pandemic has heralded a greater interest in reading. North Staffordshire Press is aiming to offer more apprenticeships closer to home later in the Summer but in the field of Business Management and three of the team have already shown interest. By the time we go to press the Summer School will be taking shape on paper and at a £6 fee for July-August it's not to be sneezed at. Currently a dozen are looking to joining online and physically at Keele.

Our Intern from Staffordshire University shows a passion for work and is carrying out R&D into non-fiction and Artificial Intelligence (AI) in UK and USA. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mohammad Sayed Yaseen for all his hard work and wish him all the best with his degree.

God shall judge between the nations, and shall decide for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war anymore. (Isaiah 2:4)

Dr Deep Chand took the Hippocratic Oath and was a modern-day warrior. He was a hybrid of a military man and a physician besides being a philanthropist. In the second Elizabethan age Deep Chand is an iconic character By combining the latest treatments in the battlefield with strong leadership he assisted many war casualties. *The Pictorial Life of a Soldier* is a sequel to his autobiography titled *To Hell and Back*. Dr Chand's book will be of great interest to army medics as well as the population of the Indian sub-continent. Military historians will undoubtedly find his work invaluable.

Malcolm Henson (MD).

**EDITED BY
LUCI BALL**

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POEMS FOR MAY

'In May' – William Henry Davies

Yes, I will spend the livelong day
With Nature in this month of May;
And sit beneath the trees, and share
My bread with birds whose homes are
there;
While cows lie down to eat, and sheep
Stand to their necks in grass so deep;
While birds do sing with all their
might,
As though they felt the earth in flight.
This is the hour I dreamed of, when
I sat surrounded by poor men;
And thought of how the Arab sat
Alone at evening, gazing at
The stars that bubbled in clear skies;

And of young dreamers, when their
eyes
Enjoyed methought a precious boon
In the adventures of the Moon
Whose light, behind the Clouds' dark
bars,
Searched for her stolen flocks of stars.
When I, hemmed in by wrecks of men,
Thought of some lonely cottage then
Full of sweet books; and miles of sea,
With passing ships, in front of me;
And having, on the other hand,
A flowery, green, bird-singing land.

'May' – Christina Rossetti

I cannot tell you how it was,
But this I know: it came to pass
Upon a bright and sunny day
When May was young; ah, pleasant
May!
As yet the poppies were not born
Between the blades of tender corn;
The last egg had not hatched as yet,
Nor any bird foregone its mate.

I cannot tell you what it was,
But this I know: it did but pass.
It passed away with sunny May,
Like all sweet things it passed
away,
And left me old, and cold, and gray.

FUNDRAISING FOR UKRAINE

On the 13th May we hosted a coffee morning that was well received and attended in efforts to raise money for Ukraine.

The morning was a great success, and we raised a total of £500 which will be sent to Ukraine via Christian Aid. Below is a picture from the morning.



This month we also received the great news that a number of students from Mariupol, Ukraine have confirmed that they will be virtually attending this years Summer School, free of charge of course.

We look forward to meeting and engaging with these students and collaborating on our publishing ideas.

THE ONGOING SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN

A piece written by Sadaat.

When the Taliban took over the power in Afghanistan, tens of thousands of Afghans fled the country due to fear from Taliban. This fear was due to Taliban's past brutality and breach of human rights during their rule in 1996-2001 and afterwards fighting the former Afghan government including the US and its allies resulting to killing of lots of people including innocent people.

Afghanistan is a country with different ethnic groups such as Pashtun, Tajik, Hazara, Uzbek and etc. The Taliban have monopolized the power and do not give contribution to other ethnic groups in the key government posts other than their leaders and fighters within their structure. As this group is formed mainly from Mullah and Mawlawi (religious leaders) and they are mainly from Pashtun ethnicity, all of the key government posts are given to them. Although they are only educated of religious issues not science and technology which this caused lots of educated people to sit home, some fled the country, and some burnt their educational documents as were frustrated.

Some Tajik ethnics have announced resistance against the Taliban under the name of national resistance in some areas in the north of the country after the Taliban took over the power. This escalated when their negotiations failed over the formation of an all-inclusive government. They sometimes ambush the Taliban and so far many clashes have taken place between them.

By coming of Taliban, The poverty has reached its highest rate. People are selling their children and some their kidneys to survive. Unemployment is increasing day by day. Thousands of people are still fleeing the country every day for Iran or Pakistan to survive. Although, they know that there are a lot of restrictions for refugees in these countries.

The Taliban do not respect the human rights. They have detained and killed lots of former employees of the government. They have closed the doors of schools for the girls. They do not allow women to have part in the government. The national flag of the country is

removed from governmental places and is believed by them to be related to the former government although it has a history of nearly a century. Many people were beaten accused of carrying the flag. The barbers have been warned not to give haircuts to people as westerners and advising people not to shave their beards, should put a hat or turban on their heads and even forcing people to come to Jummat (praying together in a mosque) in some areas. Also, desert courts are taking place by them at some provinces.

They are religious extremists who implement the Islam holy religion in a different way which is really shameful for us. The Islam does not say what they do now. They are the ones who studied Islam in an extremist way in Haqqania Madrassa and other Madrassas in Pakistan where extremists are produced and that is why they are so tough. It has almost been nine months they are in power but still none of the countries have recognised them as they are constantly seeking recognition.

But still some people are happy with Taliban. The reasons of their happiness are due to the past corruption, unreasonable detentions or detentions based on personal enmity, NATO bombardments on civilians' houses, robbery, kidnapping and etc during the former government backed by the US in Afghanistan. And now the ensured security by the Taliban across the country. The crimes rate such as killing of people, robbery, kidnapping, and etc has fallen to its lowest in the country.

They are allegedly having some domestic oppositions over the power amongst them. Actually the Taliban structure is consisted of two influential leaders, Mulla Abdul Ghani Baradar who is acting as first deputy prime minister of Afghanistan and Sirajuddin Haqqani, the interior minister. But they have kept it secret and out of access of media.

The former president along with his cabinet escaped the country and left the people in this situation. We lost our army, troops and weapons.

Anyway the people are the main victims of this situation.

Sadaat.

PUBLISHING IN 2021

The Publishers Association has released *[Publishing in 2021](#)*.

A shortened version of our annual industry statistics, *Publishing in 2021* features key numbers and commentary around sales income, formats and key export markets.

UK publisher sales rose 5% to £6.7 billion in 2021, a new high for the industry. This included books, journals and rights/co-editions sales combined.

Total UK sales income rose 7% to £2.7 billion. Total export sales income rose 2% to £3.8 billion.

Key findings include:

- Total print up 5% to £3.5 billion
- Total digital up 5% to £3.2 billion
- Total academic up 4% to £3.5 billion
- Total education up 5% to £552 million
- Consumer books up 4% to £2.2 billion
- Fiction up 7% to £733 million
- Non-fiction up 1% to £1.1 billion
- Children's up 7% to £425 million
- Audio downloads up 14% to £151 million

The report received wide coverage, examples of which can be found on the [BBC News website](#) and at [The Guardian](#).

The Department for Education announces £270 million in funding for adult numeracy.

Malcolm Henson (MD).

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