

JFS Journal

JFS School

Issue 6 - Inspirational Women Edition

April 2021

From the Editor's Desk...

Our latest edition was inspired by International Women's Day. Each article looks at famous and inspirational women, and their families too, each of the journalists explored different fields and those women who excel in them.

I certainly learnt about some people I have not heard of before, and I hope that you will too.

Thank you to our journalists, and thanks to you, our readers, for your support.

Ms Wolfson

Mr Thatcher!

When looking at formidable forces throughout the 20th Century, many figures may spring to mind. Maybe it is Winston Churchill, The Beatles, or for some maybe Sir Alex Ferguson. However, when looking beyond the front lines of power, there is always an intimate and effective support network. So, when researching into the powerful figures of the 20th century, it seemed obvious to highlight and spotlight one of the most influential and respected husband and wife duo in the 20th century; Margaret and Denis Thatcher.

Denis Thatcher was a shy man, but in the words of his daughter Carol, "He had to 'un-shy' himself very quick." The Margaret-Denis partnership was always the key relationship in the Thatcher family. Denis Thatcher was the ultimate Thatcherite, an old-fashioned businessman who, in his sixties, cast aside many of his ingrained instincts to rise to the challenge of acting as consort to the UK's first woman prime minister. He was able to provide financial security, pre parliament, making money in the oil industry, and most importantly, he was able to support Margaret and embody the role as the first Husband of a female Prime Minister.

Denis was also able to diffuse any situation with humour, as his daughter Carol said, "Dad always used to diffuse difficult situations with humour. If there was a crisis, he'd pour himself a stiff gin and say, let's just relax."

He played a pivotal role in Margaret's private life, supporting her in her tough role as Prime Minister, as stated in her autobiography, "I could never have been Prime Minister for more than 11 years without Denis by my side. He was a font of shrewd advice and penetrating comment."

However, Denis felt like the luckiest man in the world being married to such a powerful and prevalent figure at the time, the woman who led us to victory in the Falklands, the woman who allowed thousands of people to become homeowners/business owners and ensured socialism in this country was reduced to a minimal level.

Denis had this to say about his wife, "I have been married to one of the greatest women the world has ever produced. All I could produce, small as it may be, was love and loyalty."

That shows it all, that through thick and through thin, through peaks and troughs, Denis was there to support his wife, regardless of the situation.

Sam Field Y10

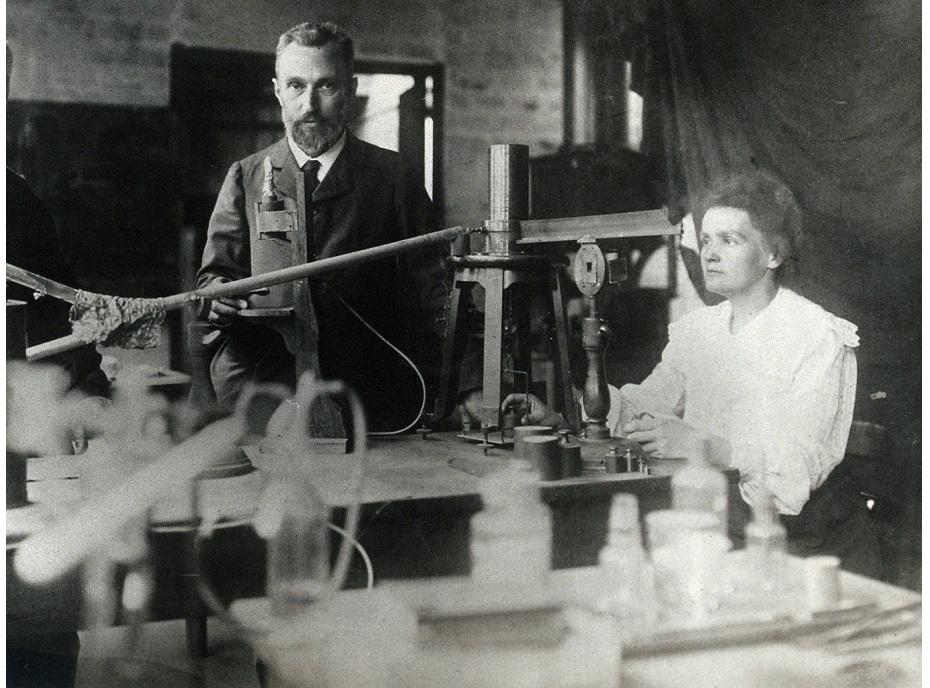


Marie Curie : Remarkable Researcher and Physicist



Marie Curie was a Polish – French chemist and physicist as well as a pioneer in radioactivity. She was born in 1867 and died as a result of radiation poisoning in 1934. Curie came from a poor background in Poland. All her life, she struggled against prejudice and the gender barrier, that threatened to hold her back.

Curie is most well-known and remembered for her work on radioactivity and her discovery of the elements Polonium and Radium. In 1903, she won the Nobel Prize for Physics together with her husband, Pierre Curie (who encouraged her in her studies), and Henri Becquerel, for their joint work on radiation. This was the first time in history a woman had won the Nobel Prize. Then in 1911 Curie received the Nobel Prize for Chemistry, this time by herself, for her discovery of two elements, Polonium and Radium. Pierre had died in 1906 after being hit and run over by a horse-drawn carriage. This prize made her the first person ever to win the award twice and in two scientific fields. Curie was also the first woman to receive



a Ph.D. from a university in France and the first female professor at the University of Paris.

During WWI, Curie was forced to put her research aside and assist in the war effort. She used her knowledge in the field of radioactivity to save approximately one million soldiers. This was achieved by helping to equip and operate dozens of mobile ambulances and hundreds of field hospitals with X-Ray machines. These efforts were fundamental in assisting surgeons to locate and remove shrapnel and bullets from the bodies of wounded soldiers. Curie

instructed and supervised many young women in the handling of the equipment, and even manned an ambulance herself, despite the danger of going too close to the front lines. Curie's X-Ray equipment and Radon gas syringes, which she designed to sterilize wounds, saved many soldiers' lives.

Marie Curie was a truly remarkable woman and pioneer. Her research and many important discoveries benefitted countless people, and continue to do so to this day.

By Eliana Ben - Menachem Y9

“

I was taught that the way of progress was neither swift nor easy ”

Women in Literature

For centuries, Women have had a heavy impact on the sculpting of today's literary scene. From the most renowned classics to some of our modern favourites, I guarantee that one of your favourite books would not exist if it wasn't for the work of women.

Although I do agree that men have provided some equally as impactful works, over time it has been significantly easier for a man to publish his works and consequently receive great success, only making the achievements of the likes of the Mary Shelley and Mary Ann Evans more outstanding.

I'd like to explore this further by having a further look at Mary Ann Evans – or more publicly known as George Elliot. Evans not only rejected religious ideology but sought to publish within the Victorian era; this being a time when women stereotypically wrote romantic novels, contrasting with the critical nature of her sixth novel 'Middlemarch' (released in eight volumes from 1871-1872) and other novels within her repertoire. Additionally, in this time period, it was normal for a woman's place to be in the home raising children, obeying her husband and following the bible. Mary Ann Evans was not satisfied with such a lifestyle and thus the alias 'George Elliot' was created. However, Mary Ann Evans wasn't the only woman to publish under male or gender-neutral pseudonyms, in fact it was a rather popular practice should a woman want to succeed in a 'man's world'. This is evident also with how the Bronte sisters became Currer, Ellis and Acton Bell when the time came to publish their work until 1848; a year on from the release of 'Agnes Grey' and 'Jane Eyre' and when Charlotte revealed the sisters' true identities to their publishers.

Another important woman in literature was Mary Shelley. Mary is the author of the original science fiction story – 'Frankenstein' (1818) which explores the creation of a monster because of society's rejection. It was probably inspired by ostracism faced in her life and some of her husband's radical political views (Percy Bysshe Shelley whom you may know from your poetry anthology). This novel really broke the stereotypical grounds of a woman's literary work, as well as literature due to its revolutionary exploration into fantasy. It is likely that one of your favourite sci-fi novels came to life following the evolution of inspiration from 'Frankenstein'.

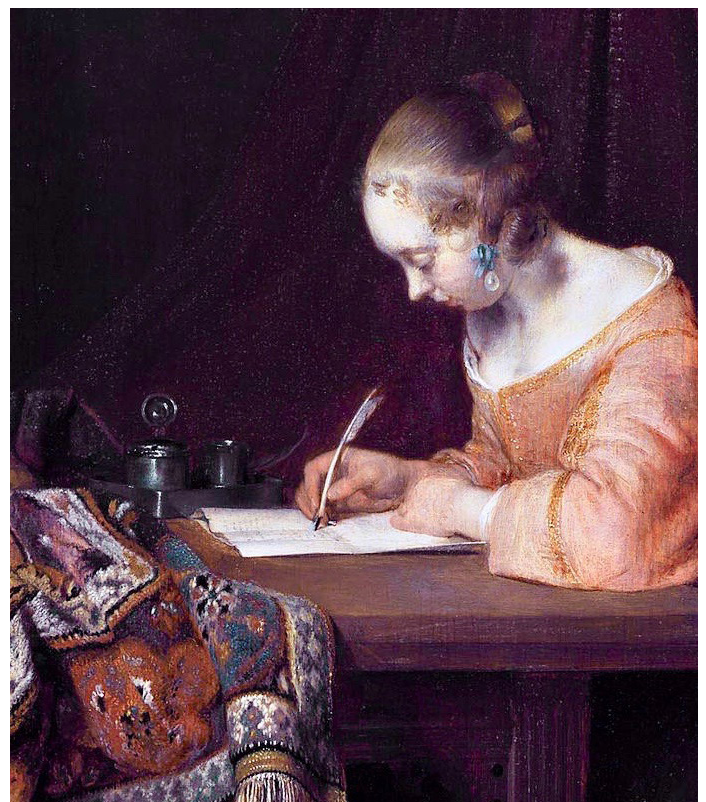
Stepping away from the classics, many books like 'The Hunger Games' and 'Shadow and Bone' have captured the hearts of many people today, and guess what? They are written by female authors too. Some more of the

“I guarantee that one of your favourite books would not exist if it wasn't for the work of women”

most ground-breaking modern literature such as 'The Secret History' and 'The Handmaid's Tale' has been written by women and they are fantastic! These books are responsible for the shaping of our society. They have also successfully reached the film industry, providing a larger scope for reaching out to more people. The current Y/A market is honestly dominated by female authors too. Not only supplying an audience with a good story, but also showcasing to young women that they too can become authors and achieve great things in this massive world.

It is really empowering to see that female authors are so tremendously triumphant today, following rejection and preconception that "a woman can't do what a man can" and frankly I think that our perspectives and society would not be the same without these women's works.

By Jasmin Jones Y11



Women in Art

Once, women were to be seen and not heard, to do the cooking and housework but not have an actual job. Women all across the world have done things that men wouldn't have expected of them. They have taught, inspired, created, and left their mark on this planet. Anyone can do anything as long as they put their minds to it, whether they are female or male. Here are some examples of females who have influenced and invented, who have created incredible artwork which we admire to this day.

Harriet Powers was a woman, who most have probably never heard of, but her story is a moving and uplifting tale of her rise to fame. Powers was a black slave, born in 1837 in Georgia, USA. Little is known about her, but she was eventually freed and married young. She began to design and make beautiful quilts, with intricate patterns and charming images. Most of these quilts depicted scenes from the Bible, with simple silhouettes of

people sewn into the fabric. Only two of her quilts are still surviving today, perhaps these were the only ones she sewed, or maybe the rest remain undiscovered. The quilts are named the Pictorial Quilt and the Bible Quilt.

Harriet Powers must have had a time. She was black, a former slave and she was a woman. But she is still remembered for her story, and her artwork. She was determined, even after being born into slavery, to leave her mark.

A more well-known female artist, Frida Kahlo was a Mexican woman known for her self-portraits. She too had an interesting and slightly painful story. She contracted polio when she was six and was bedridden for almost a year. One of her legs was permanently damaged as a result, and she walked with a limp. However, she began school and, after a few years, she began to be known amongst the students for her bravery,

“I paint self-portraits because I am so often alone, because I am the person I know best”





This seems to reflect the way she goes about life, un-emotive, despite the difficulties and the hurt. Similarly, her self-portrait, 'The Two Fridas', shows her before and after her divorce with Rivera, and on one side, her heart appears broken, although her expressionless face doesn't seem to register this. It reveals that, despite the horrible rejection she felt after her divorce, she would continue to endure, as she had endured everything else. There seems to be a rather sad or grim nature to her portraits, expressing her grief through art.

Frida Kahlo died at the young age of 47, but her paintings grant her a kind of immortality. She went through life with so many struggles and obstacles, but she left behind her artistic legacy and of course her incredible work.

These two inspirational women, fell many times but still got back up. They show that females are strong as well, whether mentally or physically. We can learn a lot from their art and their stories.

By Natasha Alexander, Year 7

despite the fact that she was female. Frida already had a problem with her leg, but, to make things much, much, worse, she was involved in a bus accident some years later. Her spine was fractured and a steel handrail impaled her hip. She had to stay in hospital for a long time, and, when she eventually was allowed home, she was forced to stay and spend time to fully recover.

Necklace and Hummingbird.' It depicts Kahlo in front of lush foliage, with a necklace made of thorns around her neck, and a lifeless hummingbird as the pendant. Despite the fact that thin trails of blood are depicted flowing from her neck where the thorns pierced it, there is no evidence that she is in pain, and she has a determined, stoic expression.

Kahlo wondered how to pass the time, so, she turned to art. She painted plenty of self-portraits, having said, "I paint self-portraits because I am so often alone, because I am the person I know best." Her art work became her passion and she married the famous Mexican painter, Diego Rivera.

Unfortunately, it was not entirely a peaceful marriage as Rivera was often unfaithful. Kahlo was so saddened by this betrayal that she cut off her hair and painted a self-portrait of this. She also painted an image depicting her looking at her heart on the floor, which was bleeding and broken from Rivera's betrayal. They were divorced, but then remarried not long after. As an artist himself, Diego Rivera supported Frida and her work, and together they were very involved in the art and politics of Mexico in the 1930s and 40s.

In her lifetime, one of Frida Kahlo's most famous paintings was 'Thorn



From Redding To Lyon: The Story Of Megan Rapinoe



At the age of 35, Megan Rapinoe is arguably one of the most accomplished and important women in not only women's football, but even the international sports industry in general. Known also for her outstanding variety of hair colours, Rapinoe was one of the first characters in sport to play whilst being open about her LGBTQ status.

Megan has won almost everything there is to win in the rapidly developing women's football scene. Awards include the Ballon D'or Feminin, the Best FIFA Women's Player as well as the 2012 Olympic Gold medal and two World Cup trophies for the USA as captain (2015 and 2019). However, it didn't start that easy when she was younger. Her mother, who worked hard in a small Californian district called Redding, was forced to remove

“the skin colour that they have, gives them special privileges”

photos of her daughter as many people disagreed with the way Megan was confident about her sexuality.

The recognition for what Rapinoe had been advocating was only given acknowledgement in the past two years, but long before has Megan been working hard for her main principles of removing 'white privileges and equal pay for both women and men in, not only sport but lots of industries and businesses. Many people have criticized Rapinoe for these reasons, as well as even criticizing her football abilities claiming that she only became popular

scoring penalties. However, what has happened is that due to how big football is on Freeview TV, many people were there to see Rapinoe cruise to victory with the USA, whilst representing everything she was working to improve.

Her important values brought lots of attention to key figures in both the sporting and political arenas. Many members of sporting teams, whether it be men's international or in domestic leagues worldwide, have made an effort to try to make women and men's football both to pay equal salaries. Unfortunately, many factors in men's football make it so much large-scale including TV rights, brand deals etc. Another very important movement Megan pledges for is Black Lives Matter. Since 2016, Megan has been kneeling during the National Anthem. Now in 2021, 4.7 billion people tune into English Premier League matches where many players kneel to recognise the movement.

Colin Kaepernick, formerly the key talisman as quarterback for the San Francisco 49ers was considered infamous for not standing up for the National Anthem during a game. Megan spoke up on this matter, on how lucky some people are because the skin colour that they have, gives them special privileges that people of darker skin tones just do not have.

Overall, Megan is considered one of the best to ever be involved in women's football past and present. What she does for not only the sporting community in America, but worldwide, is record-breaking.

By Aron Jaffe Y10



Equality in the Music Industry

“It’s not about women being above men, it is about equality”

Artist, actor and idol Ariana Grande gets slammed by critics and tabloids for quote on quote “boy bashing” in the form of Feminism.

Ariana has expressed in the past that she is a Feminist and supports women. Her fans see this in her music which is all about empowerment and confidence. Grande is never seen feuding with another female artist or influencer as it is important for her fans to know that women need to support each other.

The singer explained in an interview that ‘everyone needs to be equal, it’s just a never-ending fight’. Ariana speaks about how society has been



like this for such a long period of time and she does not understand why it’s so hard for everyone to be treated the same way. In the same interview she informed the public that people have so many misperceptions of what being

a Feminist is and that women should not be afraid to speak up about it.

Being a world-famous singer, Ariana has been accused of influencing a ‘Boys v Girls’ culture’ which can also be known as boy bashing. Ariana’s songs are written from her point of view so it is understandable that this could be seen as ‘one-sided’ or competitive, but she further explains that her music shouldn’t be viewed as threatening but actually encourages people to educate themselves on Feminism. Grande also assures her fans that she is about making women feel strong and telling them that they have a voice.

“It’s not about women being above men, it is about equality.”

By Layla Freedman Y10



Sarah Everard Case: A Turning Point?



The tragic fate of Sarah Everard has been the focus of much media attention of late. Starting with her disappearance, then the discovery of her body, arrest of a police officer and culminating in a demonstration on Clapham Common, attended by the Duchess of Cambridge, and later broken up by the police.

On a personal note, one of the streets that the police closed was the one on which my father was brought up on. Also, his local park, the Agnus Reilly Gardens, was considered the likely crime scene. Clearly, a lot of people felt some sort of connection with the case, as it led to an unprecedented debate about violence against women in general and how far we are from a society where women can walk down a street safely, even in a relatively prosperous part of South West London. Some politicians suggested a curfew to prevent men leaving the house after 7.00 pm. This was to demonstrate how many women's lives are constrained by the need for safety. The thinking behind it was that only if men's lives were similarly affected, would there be the political will to force through real change.

Some cynics noted the contrast between the coverage of this killing and that of sisters Nicole Smallman and Bibaa Henry, who were murdered last summer in

Fryent Country Park, a stone's throw away from our school, and a case which received comparatively little publicity. Although a suspect has been charged, the police appeared to behave reprehensively being accused of taking and distributing selfies with the bodies. The victims' mother has suggested that race was a factor, and that the attitude of the police and the public would have been different if her daughters had been white.

Killings by strangers are fortunately rare in the UK, but they often have a disproportionate effect on society. Forty years ago, a series of police mistakes left the serial killer Peter Sutcliffe (aka the "Yorkshire Ripper") free to kill at least a dozen women and kept half of the local population living in fear over five years. This led to a sea change in how the police investigated these cases. It may seem counter-intuitive to focus on one case when dozens of women are killed every year by their partners or relatives. But, for whatever reason, the Sarah Everard case seems to have caught the national mood and we can only hope that it leads to a change of attitudes towards violence against women among both the police and the public.

By Joshua Reuben Y10

Women and Unpaid Work - Is it a Problem?

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An article in the BBC a few months ago raised the issue of unpaid work and the Coronavirus Pandemic 'attack' on women's equality. The UN Women (United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women) has warned that these issues could bring women's equality back 25 years and there is a risk of reverting back to 1950s gender roles.

What is 'Unpaid work'? Unpaid work means exactly that, work that is not paid for. It includes things like doing laundry, childcare, cooking etc. Doesn't seem that bad - Right? Wrong!

Prior to the pandemic, 16 billion hours of unpaid work was being done worldwide; ¾ of them being done by women. Before the pandemic, women used to do three times more unpaid and domestic work than men. The UN Women Deputy Executive Director, Anita Bhatia said, "If it was three times as much as before the pandemic, I assure you that that number has at least doubled."

It might seem like doing a few more house chores is not a big deal but

ask yourself, what are they giving up? If they spend more time on unpaid work, it means they're not doing something else. This generally means they are not earning an income and if they aren't earning money, they effectively are not supporting themselves and thus are relying on others for financial security.

In addition, for the 'working mothers' (I put the quotations because I do not want to offend the Stay-at-home-mums) they now must work at home, adapt to being at home and working online, care for their children who are at home all day, do the laundry, prepare meals etc. While this was not the case for all, during the national lockdowns, it usually fell on the mother to oversee the homeschooling whilst also doing their professional jobs. Those women used to have a full day of work but now need to take time for unpaid chores. What happened to their work hours? They must take time off. That time is now being used

for unpaid work which means that their income is smaller or if they stop work altogether, they are relying on someone else, just as women used to do in the 1950s, thus increasing their financial insecurity.

Having more to do in a day has led to mental health decline since the pandemic (not only in women). However, women on average are more exhausted as they are overwhelmed by the increase in household chores and care work.

Personally, I think that there is a risk of reverting back to 1950s gender roles in some way or another. For some reason in society, being a mother and an employee used to be 'unacceptable' and I'm glad it's not that way anymore but there are still changes to be made. Sadly, until society and perceptions change, women will not truly be equal to men.

By Tami Potishman Y9

