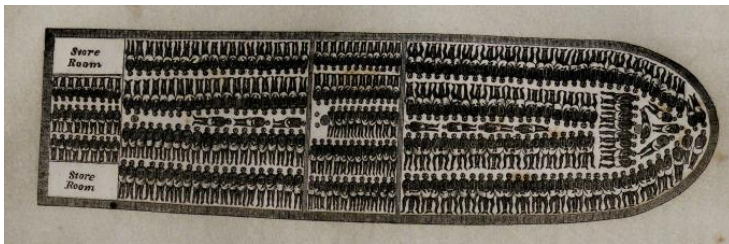


**Monuments and Memory**

The killing of George Floyd by a white police officer in Minneapolis on May 25<sup>th</sup> has sparked outrage and protest in cities across the US, Latin America and Europe.

**BLACK LIVES MATTER**

Protesters in Bristol pulled down the statue of Edward Colston, daubed it with red paint, knelt on its neck for nine minutes (as the policeman had done to George Floyd), and then dumped it into the harbour. Bristol was one of the British centres of the slave trade along with London, Liverpool and Glasgow, and Colston was a slave trader who transported up to 85,000 Africans into slavery in the Americas and profited hugely from it. He also gave a lot of money to the city and the statue was erected in the late 1800s to honour his memory.



Was the action of the protestors the right thing to do? Boris Johnson called it 'a criminal act' but many have welcomed it as a symbolic challenge to racist power.

Our cities are full of memorials that celebrate Britain's imperial past which of course included the slave trade and the violent oppression of thousands of people in Africa, India and elsewhere.

What should we do with them? Black historian Professor Geoffrey Palmer argues that pulling them down destroys evidence and may lead to the 'slow removal of black history'. But David Olusoga counters 'Was pulling down that statue in Bristol an attack on history? No, the fall of Colston is history itself'.

Would it be better to leave the statues in place but with plaques to explain who these people were and what they did? Or do they need to go? If so, where? Do they need to be destroyed? Would putting them into museums change their meaning and the way people look at them?

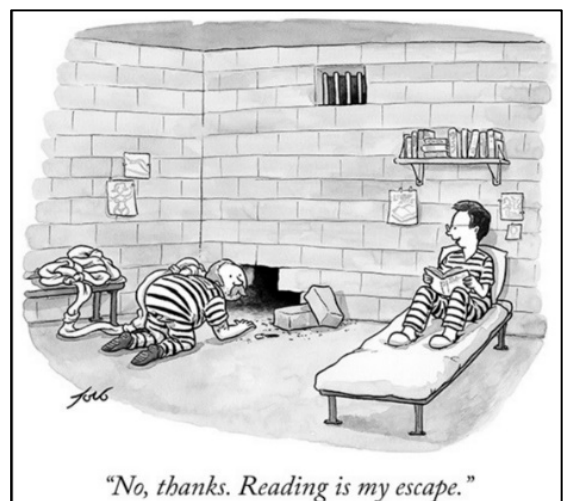
What do you think?

**Poem of the Week****'To Whom It May Concern' by Andrew Motion**

This poem about ice cream has nothing to do with government, with riot, with any political scheme.

It is a poem about icecream. You see? About how you might stroll into a shop and ask: *One Strawberry Split. One Mivvi.*

What did I tell you? No one will die. No licking tongues will melt like candle wax. This is a poem about ice cream. Do not cry.



## How well do you know your cats?

June 4<sup>th</sup> was *Hug Your Cat Day* – who knew? Though real cats are in short supply in HMP, you can celebrate with some quiz questions about bookish ones.

1. In Edward Lear's poem 'The Owl and the Pussycat', the adventurous creatures set off on their voyage with some honey and plenty of money, but what did they wrap it all up in?

- i. a picnic blanket      ii. a five pound note      iii. a newspaper      iv. a cloak

2. In *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* which Hogwarts professor reveals their animagus to be a cat?

- i. Dumbledore      ii. McGonagall      iii. Snape      iv. Hagrid

3. What is the name of the grinning cat in Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*?

- i. Puss in Boots      ii. Grimalkin      iii. The Cheshire Cat      iv. Mad Hatter

4. In Terry Pratchett's award-winning take on the tale of the Pied Piper of Hamelin, what is the name of the Amazing cat who leads a group of Educated Rodents?

- i. Tigger      ii. Gizmo      iii. Maurice      iv. Merlin

5. What is the name of the cat brought back to life in Stephen King's *Pet Sematary*?

- i. Scraps      ii. Jesse      iii. Tuffy      iv. Church

6. What book of cat poetry was the inspiration for Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical, *Cats*?

- i. Jellicat Cats      ii. Cats      iii. Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats      iv. Cats I Have Known

**And more about cats ....** "Owners of dogs will have noticed that, if you provide them with food and water and shelter and affection, they will think you are God. Whereas owners of cats are compelled to realize that, if you provide them with food and water and affection, they draw the conclusion that they are God."

*Christopher Hitchens*

## Make History with Paperchains

When the history of the 2020 Lockdown is written it shouldn't be just-the-usual voices that document it. We have created Paperchains to bring attention to those with experience of prison, armed services, or homelessness, and their families.

**These are the voices we feel are often less heard.**

Paperchains will be a book and 2021 exhibition of responses to the lockdown be it a journal entry, short story, a poem, a drawing, sketch or painting.

Send entries (one per person) to  
Paperchains, PO Box 7482  
Stourbridge DY8 9HH

DEADLINE: July 5th 2020



@Paperchains5

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### ANSWERS

- ii. Five pound note
- ii. McGonagall
- iii. Cheshire Cat
- iii. Maurice
- iv. Church
- iii. Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats