



SPARKPOINT

SHREWSBURY | 2018-2019

INSPIRE DISCOVER CREATE COLLABORATE

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THINGS THAT GO
BUMP IN THE NIGHT

Inside:

With Halloween upon us,
explore the world's obsession
with fright!

Welcome

...back to Shrewsbury and to a crisp, cold second half of the Michaelmas Term! While the internal examinations on the horizon may be enough to give a few of you sleepless nights, I thought I would devote this Halloween issue of SparkPoint to that peculiar quirk of our race – our desire to scare each other, and ourselves for no good reason!

THE HAUNTED OAK

He prayed his prayer and he swore his oath,
And he raised his hand to the sky;
But the beat of hoofs smote on his ear,
And the steady tread drew nigh.

Who is it rides by night, by night,
Over the moonlit road?
And what is the spur that keeps the pace,

What is the galling god?

Paul Laurence Dunbar

POEM OF THE WEEK

obacerate

verb

To cover one's mouth, or the mouth of another – often as a pronounced reaction of shock or fear.

WORD OF THE WEEK

Used as the extraordinary soundtrack to that most chilling of films, *The Exorcist*, Mike Oldfield's 'Tubular bells' represented an amazing advance in technical music and earned him a Grammy in 1974.



MUSIC OF THE WEEK



15 MINUTE CHALLENGE

HILL HOUSE

Sometimes unfairly overlooked because her works now seem a little trite and Hackneyed, Shirley Jackson actually created much of the framework that has come to define the structure of American Horror Fiction (both on the page and on the screen). Her classic work, *The Haunting of Hill House*, will keep you awake all night long if you have the chance to read it! Click for an extract.



WAR OF THE WORLDS

Eighty years ago this week, Orson Wells, noted actor and film-maker, broadcast an adaptation of H. G. Wells' classic novel *'The War of the Worlds'*. This was so unique a broadcast and so unprecedented that many of those listening mistook it for a genuine broadcast and much of North America was engulfed in a sudden panic, convinced that the events being reported were real. Click to listen.



TWO ACTORS ONLY

There is a perception that with the advance of film and the development of special effects, there is no way to make theatre 'scary' anymore. Anyone who has been to see Stephen Mallatrat's phenomenal adaptation of Susan Hill's Classic *'The Woman in Black'* will tell you otherwise. Click here to read more and watch a trailer.



Very few images can claim to be as profoundly disturbing as this 1781 work by Henry Fuseli – its profound and terrifying of terror in the form of the demented horse and ape-like incubus has rightly won it a place in the list of most peculiar paintings of all time.

IMAGE OF THE WEEK