

## HAVE I GOT NEWS FOR YOU! **SCRIPT**

### Picture 01 – Opening Screen and Preamble



People have long circulated news via word-of-mouth, and as language evolved into writing and literacy – and governments played larger roles in people’s lives – sharing information became a necessity.

However, disseminating news and information on paper presented significant challenges. When each copy had to be handwritten, mass distribution was impossible.

### Picture 2 – Acta Diurna



They were carved on stone or metal and presented in message boards in public places such as the Forum of Rome.

They were also called simply Acta. They functioned like an early newspaper for the Roman citizenry. The Acta were begun in 59 BC and continued until AD 222.

In ancient Rome, Acta diurna were published prior to 59 BC (as early as 131 BC). These were daily gazettes, or news sheets, created by the government that contained information for the public: political news, military campaigns, trials, and executions.

They were first chiselled in stone or metal; later, they were handwritten and distributed in public forums or read from scrolls by town criers. Acta diurna are often considered precursors to the modern newspaper.

### Picture 03 – Tipao (Dibao (ancient Chinese gazette))



Still, early civilizations did distribute news. In China, one of the earliest forms of news media was known as the Tipao or Dipao.

Created as early as 202 BC, these were “palace reports or imperial bulletins” distributed by the government and intended for bureaucrats.

Any news for public consumption might have been distributed via posted announcements – basically, the forerunners of modern-day posters.

### **Picture 04 – The Printing Press**



The invention of the printing press paved the way for “true” newspapers.

The first true newspapers arrived after Johannes Gutenberg introduced his movable type printing press to the European world around 1440.

Though printing presses with movable type had existed in eastern Asia for around two centuries, they never made it to Europe; furthermore, Gutenberg’s version made it significantly faster to mass produce documents.

By 1500, the printing press had made its way throughout Europe, and news sheets (or news books) were mass-distributed.

### **Picture 05 – Gutenberg.**



Published at a regular interval (daily, weekly, monthly, etc.) meeting the requirements for a newspaper.

Other German newspapers followed, and in 1618 the world’s first broadsheet newspaper printed in folio size was published in Amsterdam, called Courante uyt Italien, Duytslandt.

The newspaper format soon spread throughout Europe, with newspapers published in Spain, France, and Sweden.

### **Picture 06 – William Caxton (1422 – 1491)**



He is thought to be the first person to introduce a printing press into England in 1476, and as a printer to be the first English retailer of printed books.

Successful in business, he became governor of the Company of Merchant Adventurers of London; on his business travels, he observed the new printing industry in Cologne, which led him to start a printing press in Bruges.

### **Picture 07 – The Oxford Gazette**



The first English newspaper was published in 1665 in Oxford, England. Known as the Oxford Gazette, the newspaper moved to London in 1666 and was renamed the London Gazette. It's still being published today.

The London Gazette is one of the official journals of record or government gazettes of the Government of the United Kingdom, and the most important among such official journals in the United Kingdom, in which certain statutory notices are required to be published.

### **The Great Plague and the origins of The Gazette (1665)**

The Gazette was first published on 7 November 1665 (Gazette issue 1) after King Charles II relocated his court to Oxford to escape the Great Plague in London.

Exiled courtiers were so terrified of the disease that they were unwilling to even touch London newspapers for fear of infection. Therefore, Charles II ordered a newspaper to be printed at the University Press in Oxford. Thus, The Oxford Gazette was born.

With the plague abating, and Charles II and his court back in the capital, The Oxford Gazette was renamed The London Gazette on 1 February 1666 (Gazette issue 24). It was the first official journal of record and the newspaper of the Crown.

### **Picture 08 – John Milton 1644.**



Throughout history, governments strived to oppress newspaper publishers and journalists who used their platforms for political criticism. In England, John Milton's 1644 promoted freedom of the press, which was ultimately granted by British Parliament.

One landmark case paved the way for freedom of the press in America, when Britain still had colonial control.

In 1734, New York governor William Cosby had John Peter Zenger arrested for political criticism lobbied in Zenger's New York Weekly Journal.

Despite the judge's wishes, the jury returned with a "not guilty" verdict. The verdict was monumental because it demonstrated papers could publish political criticism

without fear of retribution, and because it caused the British to fear no American jury would convict an American journalist.

Later, freedom of the press was guaranteed in the United States by the First Amendment in the Bill of Rights in 1791; however, the Sedition Act of 1798 forbid “writing, printing, uttering, or publishing any false, scandalous and malicious writing or writings against the government of the United States.”

Two years later, freedom of the press was preserved when one of Benjamin Franklin’s compatriots, Thomas Jefferson, allowed the Sedition Act to lapse.

Other newspapers followed, and around two dozen newspapers were published in American by the start of the Revolutionary War. By the end of the war in 1783, there were 43 newspapers published in the colonies; and by 1814 that expanded to 346.

At first, newspapers were only available to the wealthy. Those who were literate and could afford to pay for subscriptions in advance. The subscriptions typically cost what a general laborer would make in an entire week of work, so most could not afford them.

Increased literacy as well as technological advancements such as the telegraph – which made it possible to quickly share news over great distances – and the rotary press contributed to newspaper growth.

The “Penny Press” made newspapers affordable to the entire public and spurred an explosion of newspaper publishing.

### **Picture 09 – Industrial newspaper production.**



The Industrial Revolution spawned giant presses capable of printing 10,000 papers per hour and contributing to massive growth in the newspaper industry – from 2,526 newspapers in 1850 to more than 11,000 newspapers by 1880.

By 1890, some papers boasted circulations in excess of one million copies.

Wars likewise contributed to the popularity of newspapers, as battlefield reporters commanded national attention with their accounts of wars.

### **Picture 10 – The Influence of Newspapers.**



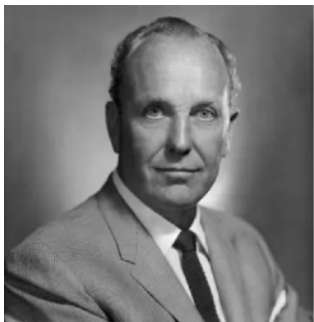
## Hold the Front Page...

Before radio and even longer before television the best way to get the news was from the newspaper. Most are printed on inexpensive paper with ink that rubs off on to your hands if you handle them for too long.

The main sizes in the UK, the larger broadsheet newspaper, typically measured 22 inches (560mm) along its vertical length. The other most popular size of newspaper is called the tabloids, these are known as the "Popular Press."

Why did governments want to suppress early newspapers? The pen is mightier than the sword, and newspapers carried enormous influence over the populace.

### Picture 11 – The Press ‘Barons’



**William Randolph Hearst Sr.** was an American newspaper publisher, and politician who developed the nation's largest newspaper chain and media company, Hearst Communications.

Allegedly, he used the power of the press to manufacture the Spanish-American War. By pushing for U.S. involvement, Hearst was able to influence public opinion; once the war began, he was then able to sell more papers covering it.



**Alfred Harmsworth, known under his later title Lord Northcliffe,** launched the Daily Mail on 4 May 1896 and laid down a model of popular journalism that still shapes our newspapers today.

To his admirers, he was the ‘greatest figure who ever strode down Fleet Street’; to his detractors, he was the man ‘whose interference with reading habits alone ... effectively put literature out of the reach of the average man’.

His influence can be seen in three areas. First, he applied the populist techniques found in the Sunday press, weekly magazines and American journalism to transform the British national morning newspaper, opening up a lucrative mass market.

Second, he changed the economic basis of the press, placing much greater emphasis on the competition for circulation, on securing branded advertising, and on using the latest technology to print and distribute his papers.

Third, he sought to create news as well as reporting it by launching campaigns on a wide range of issues, generating controversy and publicising his papers at the same time. Northcliffe became an inescapable figure in public life and laid down the template for the modern 'press baron'.



**William Maxwell Aitken, 1st Baron Beaverbrook PC, ONB**, generally known as Lord Beaverbrook, was a Canadian-British newspaper publisher and backstage politician who was an influential figure in British media and politics of the first half of the 20th century.

His base of power was the largest circulation newspaper in the world, the Daily Express, which appealed to the conservative working class with intensely patriotic news and editorials.

During the Second World War, he played a major role in mobilising industrial resources as Winston Churchill's Minister of Aircraft Production.



**Keith Rupert Murdoch AC KCSG** is an Australian-born American business magnate, investor, and media proprietor.

Through his company News Corp, he is the owner of hundreds of local, national, and international publishing outlets around the world, including in the UK (The Sun and The Times).

In Australia (The Daily Telegraph, Herald Sun, and The Australian), in the US (The Wall Street Journal and the New York Post), book publisher HarperCollins, and the television broadcasting channels Sky News Australia and Fox News (through the Fox Corporation).



**Harold Sidney Harmsworth, 1st Viscount Rothermere, PC** was a leading British newspaper proprietor who owned Associated Newspapers Ltd.

He is best known, like his brother Alfred Harmsworth, later Viscount Northcliffe, for the development of the Daily Mail and the Daily Mirror. Rothermere was a pioneer of popular tabloid journalism.

In 1888 he joined his elder brother Alfred's newspaper company, and in 1894 he and his brother purchased the Evening News for

£25,000.

In 1896 Harmsworth and his brother Alfred together founded the Daily Mail, and subsequently also launched the Daily Mirror.

In 1910 Harmsworth bought the Glasgow Record and Mail, and in 1915 the Sunday Pictorial. By 1921 he was owner of the Daily Mirror, Sunday Pictorial, Glasgow Daily Record, Evening News, and Sunday Mail, and shared ownership of the company Associated Newspapers with his brother. His greatest success came with the Daily Mirror, which had a circulation of three million by 1922.

### **Some of the local and area Newspapers over the past century**

By the early 20th century, newspapers included the features we recognize in modern newspapers today: banner headlines, photos and illustrations, comics, and sports coverage, in addition to the political and event news that have always been newspaper staples.

Although still at the top of the information food chain, newspapers began to face serious competition with the mass production of the radio beginning in the 1920s and television beginning in the 1940s. They were also threatened by huge conglomerates, which purchased smaller publications for large chains that, in addition to earning increased advertising dollars, could push political and other agendas.

Today, the newspaper industry continues to face challenges as the Digital Age threatens the survival of the newspaper as we know it.

### **Picture 12 – Fred “Scoop” McCave**



Frederick Bertram McCave was born on 29<sup>th</sup> March 1923 and died in 1987.

According to the 1939 Register, he started work as a Builder Clerk whilst living with his widowed father and his siblings at 10 Coniston Road on Canvey.

In 1941 he served with the Royal Artillery.

During his journalist career, he ran the Canvey News. The Canvey News was bought out by the Yellow Advertiser. The Canvey News was rebranded as the Castle Point Clarion.

### **Picture 13 – Geoffrey D. Barsby**



Geoff Barsby, was well known for running The District News for nearly forty years and during that time gave many talks of the history of the island.

“He also started the Canvey Mites Football Club about 40 years ago. “He ran a charity alongside District News and used to collect and contribute different things for health care projects in the community.

### Picture 14 – The Canvey Chronicle 1935



Canvey Island has been served by several local newspapers over the years, including:

Canvey News and Benfleet Recorder: A local newspaper covering news in Canvey Island and Benfleet.

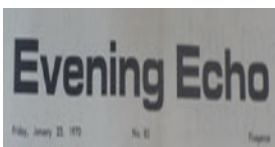
Canvey News Dutch Island Chronicle: Another publication focusing on the Canvey Island area.

### Picture 15 – Castle Point Clarion



The newspaper is not listed in the British Newspaper Archive, which suggests that it may have had a limited run or local distribution.

### Picture 16 – The Evening Echo



This version of the Echo was first published Monday 29th September 1969, the first month saw the paper given away free, it was originally a broadsheet but changed to tabloid style in the 1980s. There have been a few banner changes over the years.

### Picture 17 - And finally, to summarise ...

#### What is the future of newspapers in the Digital Age.

The number of daily newspapers has decreased. That trend is likely to continue as consumer consumption of news has shifted toward digital delivery, which is cheaper from a production standpoint.

Ultimately, however, the almighty dollar is likely to prevail: if it's cheaper to produce an online newspaper, yet possible to achieve greater ad revenues,



business-minded publishers will increasingly focus on delivering digital content and drop print production altogether.

**End.**