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# NOUSE



Spring Term Week Three  
Tuesday 22 January 2013  
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EVANS PROPERTY GROUP OWNER MICHAEL EVANS' £60M YACHT. THERE IS NO IMPLICATION THAT PROFITS FROM THE HESLINGTON EAST JOINT VENTURE WERE SPENT ON THE YACHT

## “Tax haven” company in £1.2m Hes East profit

**Josh Boswell**  
DEPUTY EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY is sharing profits on some of its most lucrative Heslington East halls of residence with a private company registered in the secretive tax haven of Jersey.

An investigation by *Nouse* has uncovered the joint business venture with Evans University Accommodation Limited, which makes annual profits of more than £1m from running student halls in Goodricke and Langwith.

The University sold off half the ownership of Goodricke and Langwith accommodation to property developers Evans Group in 2010, and now shares the firm's profits from running the student flats.

Evans Group is run by Michael Evans, property tycoon, and runs the Heslington East halls through Evans University Accommodation Limited – an offshoot company registered in Jersey.

The University has refused to be drawn on whether Evans Group is avoiding paying tax in the UK by funnelling its profits through a Jersey-registered offshoot. A spokesman said, “They are a matter for HMRC.”

The HMRC Anti-Avoidance Strategy says, “A small minority of HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) customers continue to engage in tax avoidance, which undermines the delivery of fair tax outcomes.”

“In the UK, the tax loss from avoidance is estimated to run into

several billion pounds across both direct and indirect taxes. This directly affects the delivery of public services and long-term economic growth.”

The joint venture between Evans Group and the University was set up in 2010 to handle the business of Goodricke's and later Langwith's student accommodation.

Now, those who pay to live in the two colleges earn the enterprise profits, which are shared between the University and Evans Group's Jersey-based company Evans University Accommodation Limited.

The University has chosen to split the ownership of the two Heslington East colleges in two companies, Student Accommodation Provision LLP and Student Accom-

modation Provision Two LLP. Both the University of York and Evans University Accommodation Limited have a 50 per cent share in each.

In 2012, Student Accommodation Provision LLP registered a turnover of more than £3m and a profit of almost £1.2m.

On the published accounts of the joint ventures, Student Accommodation Provision LLP and Student Accommodation Two LLP, there are two designated members. One member is registered at the University of York, Heslington. The other is in Saint Helier, Jersey.

The UK has a corporation tax of 24 per cent. There is no corpo-

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## News

# The first complete breakdown of Student Experience Report and YUSU accounts

**Neil Johnston**  
NEWS EDITOR

NOUSE HAS had an in-depth look at the York Student Experience report and YUSU's accounts from the past academic year.

The Union appears to be in a strong financial position and is coming close to maxing out the funds available to them. The Student Experience Report has shown that whilst students are largely pleased, there remain some serious concerns.



The data for this report was obtained from a variety of sources including interviews, surveys (both external and internal) and discussion groups. The report found that 83 per cent of students are satisfied with their academic support, but 32.9 per cent of students were dissatisfied with study spaces on campus.

Academic representation appears to be an area for concern, with just 37 per cent saying they were satisfied with their ability to influence the decision making process within YUSU, and only 45 per cent satisfied with the ability of YUSU to represent students' views to the University.

Despite 93.2 per cent of students claiming they had heard of their course reps, only 60.6 per cent of respondents were satisfied with

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their ability to communicate with them.

According to the report, 90 per cent of students were satisfied with their course and 85 per cent were satisfied with the student union's organisation and management. This puts York as 11th in the sector and 4th in the Russell Group.

There are huge variations in satisfaction between departments. The report says, "Although 83.7 per cent of respondents stated that they were satisfied with the teaching, there was a lot of concern about the range of teaching staff and inconsistencies within and between departments; 11 per cent were dissatisfied. Some departments had satisfaction levels as high as 95.4 per cent and others as low as 50 per cent." On average, 9.8 per cent were dissatisfied with their courses.

The report highlighted that a major area to be dealt with was final year student satisfaction. At 71 per cent, York is currently 33rd in the sector and 5th in the Russell Group.

YUSU suggested assessment through a range of different methods, including online submission.

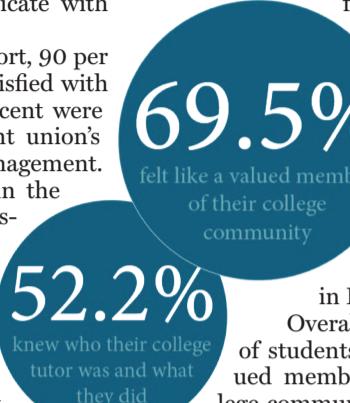
For student development, a number of areas were looked into, for example, only 59.7 per cent of students were satisfied with the careers service. The report also noted that almost 20 per cent of students were working in a part-time job - over the limit recommended by the University.

There was an extensive analysis of the benefits of the college system. There was significant demand for more non-alcoholic events, with 24 per cent saying they wanted them.

Large differences in the satis-

faction of events were identified between different colleges, ranging from 24 per cent in Alcuin to 68.9 per cent in Derwent.

BRANDON SEAGER



Overall 69.5 per cent of students felt like a valued member of their college community but only 34 per cent of off-campus students felt this way.

While it was viewed that the YUSU elections were successful the report reveals, "it engaged significantly more males than females."

There is also cause for concern over students' belief in YUSU. Only 45 per cent of students were satisfied with the ability of YUSU to represent student views to the University.

Whilst most had heard of the YUSU President, 57 per cent were unaware of what the role entailed. The student assemblies failed to engage students, with only 7.9 per cent of students attending at least one of the assemblies.

The report also highlights that 56% of students are concerned about safety on campus. Worries centred around poor lighting, poor security presence, isolation and a history of crime.

The survey, carried out before the tuition fee rise, revealed 34 per cent of respondents did not feel like they were getting value for money from their course. More concerning is that 80 per cent of respondents were concerned about their personal bank balance.

The report says that 72.2 per

cent of students were able to choose their first year campus accommodation but less were able to make the choice between catered and non-catered.

It also highlights that a significant portion of students are concerned over green issues, with 18.3 per cent of students thinking that YUSU should be concentrating its campaigning activity on Environmental issues. A majority actively recycle despite having to put in extra effort for it.

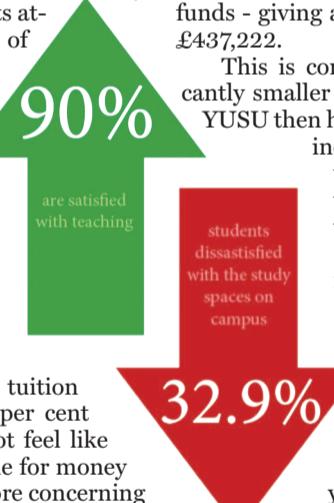
Last year YUSU received a slightly higher total of incoming funds at around £3,685,000 compared to £3,660,000 in 2011. YUSU

spent about £1,185,000 of restricted funds and around £2,456,000. This was from a total expenditure of just over £3,641,000,

compared to last year's £3,479,000. This meant the net incoming resources before exceptional costs and transfers was -£217,550 for restricted funds and £261,272 for unrestricted funds - giving a total net income of £437,222.

This is compared to a significantly smaller £180,976 last year.

YUSU then had to pay other costs including £500,000 to the University for the new student centre. YUSU's commercial operations proved profitable, yet again the group making over £1,424,000 compared to £1,350,000 last year. This included £699,702 from Your Shop and £306,893 from catering. YUSU Bars also generated almost £409,000.



## York Student in Lib-Dem co-chair win

Sam Fisk, a York student has been elected co-chair of Liberal Youth, the national youth wing of the Liberal Democrats. Originally from Bedford, the second year Social and Political Sciences student was the first to stand as a jobshare candidate with Kavya Kanshik, his running mate. The pair won 48.4 per cent of the first preference votes.

Sam said, "We want to show the Liberal Youth can make a positive difference".

## UKIP youth chair removed from position

Olly Neville has been removed from his position as Chairman of the Young Independence Council, the UKIP youth movement. A UKIP statement said he was dismissed for "misrepresenting UKIP policy". Describing himself as a "Libertarian", Neville has alleged that it was in fact due to expressing his stance on gay marriage on BBC Radio's World At One. The UKIP rule book states that members are entitled to make their own opinions public, if clearly expressed as their own.

Elected Chairman in November with around two-thirds of the vote, the election was cancelled after the votes were cast. He was later appointed to the position.

## Entwistle's final appeal rejected by US Court

A former University of York student faces life in an American prison after losing his appeal against the conviction of murdering his wife and infant daughter. Neil Entwistle, aged 34, was originally convicted in 2008 for the January 2006 murder of his wife Rachel and 9 month year old daughter Lillian Rose.

The US Supreme Court's recent refusal to review his case means that Entwistle has exhausted all of his appeals, and will now spend the remainder of his life in prison.

*Reporting by Josh Boswell and Sofia Geraghty*

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# GSA Chair denounces “undemocratic” Council

**Laura Hughes**

EDITOR

THE GRADUATE Students' Association Council decided on Saturday to hold a by-election, after the chair denounced the GSA Council's proposals to appoint someone to the position of Academic Affairs Officer, rather than hold an election.

The allegations were made in response to an email sent by the GSA President, Keke Zu, to all Council members from the four current GSA Principal Officers, outlining all of the options available to Council in the wake of the resignation of Taha Rajab, the Academic Affairs Officer.

The email explained that he and the other principle officers preferred to have the council appoint someone to the position rather than hold an election.

At the beginning of the meeting on Saturday there was a debate over the transparency, or lack thereof, within the Association. There was also a suggestion to add policy to the constitution to clarify what needs to be done in the event of a resignation as some felt it was too vague.

Ted Brown, the Chair, told *Nouse*, "The Council is the primary decision making body; however, nowhere in the constitution does it grant council the ability to appoint an officer. Ultimately, the proposal is a blatant disregard of the rules, and simply unacceptable."

The Council was told the Principal Officers believed that 'option 1', in which the Council elects an interim Officer at the meeting on 19th January for an immediate post until May 2013, was "the most sensible."



**The Council was told the Principle Officers believed electing an interim officer was a sensible decision**

In response to the proposed option of holding an immediate election for the position of Academic Affairs Officer and then another election in May 2013 for the rest of the Principal Officers.

Council members were told, "If we went with option 2, then our reputation would be at risk, especially after being forced to rerun the ballot at the recent election. In addition holding an election takes up a large amount of time and resources."

The email requested that Council members did not discuss this with anyone outside of Council until a solution was in place.

GSA Policy and Communications Coordinator, Ken Leach told *Nouse*, "I am also sure it is immediately obvious why we would inform

**“ Ultimately, the proposal is a blatant disregard of the rules, and simply unacceptable ”**

Chair of the Graduate Students' Association Council  
Ted Brown

the GSA Council about Taha's resignation before making the news public, since this is considered standard practice in most organisations."

"While the Principal Officers put forth their recommendation, they also put forward other options for Council to consider. I think it would be insulting to the mem-

bers of Council to suggest that they would rubber-stamp any suggestion put before them and were incapable of coming to their own conclusion about the issue.

"They were asked to consider this issue more than a week before the Council meeting took place. There can be no suggestion that anyone is trying to 'forgo the democratic process' – which is an accusation insulting to our Officers; both principal and voluntary."

YUSU International Officer, Mike Anstey told *Nouse*, "Without getting too deep into the nitty gritty of the situation, I was asked my views on the Principle Officers or Council possibly 'appointing someone into the position' - which I wholeheartedly reject.

"The Council should not have

any leniency to decide what they believe to be 'an appropriate course of action'; there should be adherence to the GSA's constitution which I am told, warrants an election to be held. I believe for the GSA to retain their reputability as a representative organisation is to hold an election for the position to fill the Officer slot until their main elections."

Brown continued, "The GSA is supposed to be a democratic representative body and as such it needs to operate in a transparent and accountable manner. Appointing someone to the position effectively removes the students' right to selection.

"We cannot withhold someone's right to vote or run for office, and I find it odd that the Officers are willing to do so. I doubt I need to remind them that this is exactly how they were selected. Furthermore, we need to let the cat out of the box. They shouldn't be withholding this information; the students have a right to know."

Leach concluded, "It could be argued that the proposal put before Council is in the best interests of postgraduate students at the University, since it means they will continue to be represented at senior University committee-level in a way they would not be if we had to hold another election which requires significant time, resources and a gap in provision.

YUSU President Kallum Taylor commented, "The GSA Council made the correct and sensible decision. Not doing so through a creative interpretation of the rules, or for the inconvenience it brings, would have really harmed their credibility."

# Reports of mental health issues double

**Laura Hughes**

EDITOR

THE NUMBER of students reporting mental health issues to the University has doubled in the last five years.

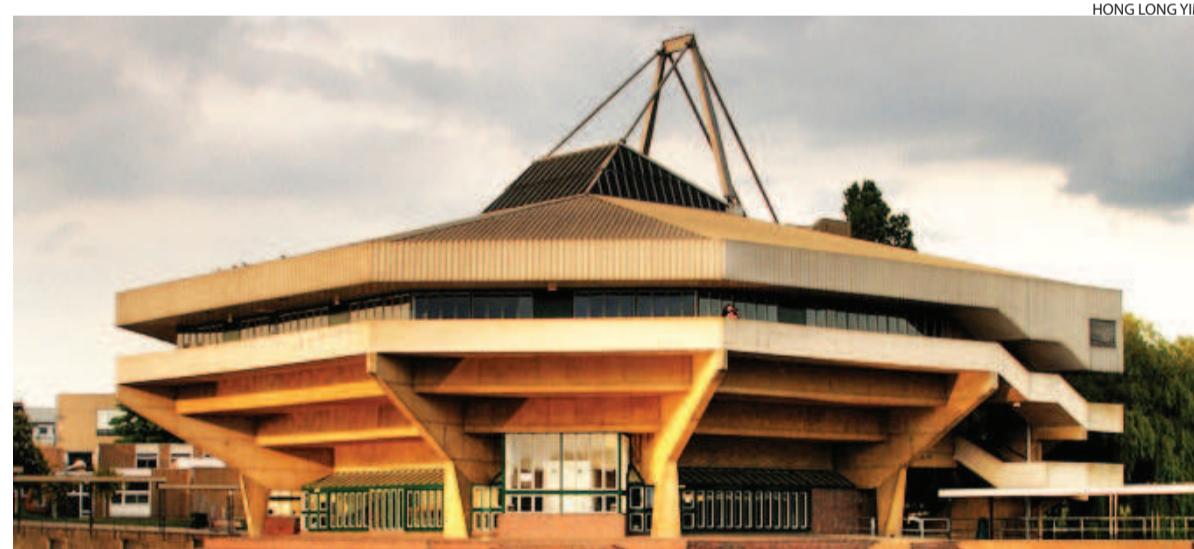
The figures are based on those who approached the university's student support services. 61 students reported serious anxiety, stress or worry in 2008. This figure increased over the past five academic years, with as many as 253 students asking for support.

The number of students reporting an eating disorder increased from 14 in 2008/09, up to 41 in 2011/12, whilst the number of students reporting depression has risen from 64 to 146.

The number of serious mental health issues has almost doubled in the past four years from 11 to 21 students.

York University has developed the Open Door Team over the last 3-4 years, which is the single point of contact within the central student support services to support students with any form of emotional, psychological or mental health difficulty.

The most recent statistics reveal 1,631 students were seen by the Open Door Team in the 2011/12 academic year.



**The University says the proportion of the total number of students in lower than the national position**

YUSU Welfare officer, Bob Hughes told *Nouse*, "These figures are shocking, and show that this is not only an issue that cannot be ignored, but one that needs addressing locally and nationally."

"The University experience can be incredibly tough anyway, especially if there is an underlying mental health issue. It is great to see a growth in the mental health provision at York to meet the rising student numbers YUSU will continue to push for improved mental health

provision and support, and we hope that the university agree with us about how serious an issue this is."

The university says, "We do not consider the numbers of users of the Open Door Team to be a particular cause for alarm, when set against the incidence of significant (clinical) levels of anxiety and depression in the 16-25 age group in the general population."

"We consider every student whose mental health impairs their study to be a concern but we are

pleased that students feel that this service can help them.

"We are also encouraged that our service is able to assess the severity of students' needs with the minimum of delay. The University has invested in online learning to staff to better identify students who may benefit from the support that the Open Door team provides."

The number of students at York has risen from 12,863 in 2008 to 15,925 in 2012/13 – a 25 per cent increase – which has had an inevita-

ble effect on the total numbers using the service."

"Recent figures place the incidence of significant (clinical) levels of anxiety and depression in the 16-25 age group in the general population as above 16 per cent.

"At York, we can add those struggling with issues of transition and homesickness, dealing with grief and loss, with eating difficulties, phobias or mild obsessions, difficult relationships and the small proportion with more profound mental health difficulties, but the proportion of the total number of our students accessing the Open Door Team is around 11 per cent, significantly lower than we might anticipate when compared with the national position."

One third year undergraduate student: "I found the Open Door service an extremely accessible and comfortable system to use, which removes much of the stigma that students may feel about seeking help and advice."

One of the most useful aspects was the supplementary information and programmes of support that were suggested to me. The whole experience has helped me to put a lot of things into perspective and given me the time and support to cope with the stresses of university."

## News

### >> Continued from front

-ration tax in Jersey, except for utility companies and financial services companies.

Evans Property Group was contacted but did not respond with a statement.

A spokesperson for the University said, "We need investors to help fund new and additional student accommodation. Joint ventures reduce the financial risk from the University's perspective and allow us to improve facilities for students, without losing control over rents and support for students."

"We are aware of the arrangements governing the tax status of Evans group companies and are satisfied that these work neither to the University's nor our students' disadvantage. Beyond that, they are a matter for the HMRC."

As a joint owner of the Goodricke and Langwith accommodation companies, the University of York receives a share of the companies' profits as a surplus to reinvest. The pre-tax profits for 2012 were almost £1.2m.

As a Jersey-registered company, the University's Evans Group venture partner is not obliged to pay UK corporation tax on any profits it makes, but other UK-based Evans Group companies will pay tax under UK law.

In 2012 the University withdrew a £1.1m surplus from the two joint companies.

In the same year, the average price for accommodation offered on Heslington East was £117 per week. Despite recent complaints over problems with heating and water, the average price is set to rise to £127, with the most expensive reaching over £153 per week in 2013/14. The cheapest accommodation avail-

able, priced at £96.39 will rise to £99.05 in the coming year.

The University spokesperson said, "The arrangements with Evans benefit students and the University directly by allowing us to focus the use of our capital on provision of teaching, research and other amenities."

"They also give the University access to a share of any surpluses

arising from student accommodation - these are then reinvested in University activities in accordance with our charitable status."

The investigation also found a separate company, Drachs Investment No 3 Limited, registered at the same Jersey address as the University's venture partner.

Documents obtained by *Nouse* from Companies House say, "Drachs Investments No 3 Limited is owned by a trust for the benefit of the Evans Family."

## Come clean on "tax haven" dealings

**COMMENT >> Page 13**

Pictured on page 1 is the 1,643-ton, £60 million White Rose of Drachs, belonging to Michael Evans, a British, multi-millionaire property developer and owner of the Evans Property Group. According to *Powerboat and Motoryacht Magazine*, "The yacht is used for both personal and business purposes", but there is no implication that profits from the Heslington East joint venture were spent on the yacht. It is pictured (page 1) in Venice, Italy. From 16 to 21 January 2013, it has been docked in Monaco.

Andrew Pollard, solicitor and director, answered the phone at the Drachs offices in Jersey. When asked why the University's venture partner was registered at Drachs' address he said, "I have no idea."

"All I can say to you is that you clearly are investigating matters of fact and you can establish matters of fact for yourself. So you've obviously done that, and you must rise and fall by what you've done. So I shall

leave that to you."

"You've been undertaking some research, and you've established that the joint venture is made of two parties, you've established who those two parties are, you've established where they're registered."

"And that's a perfectly sensible thing to do. But you then ask about shareholdings in Drachs. Well, that information isn't in the public domain, and therefore, it's not something that I'm able to confirm or deny."

*Nouse* has since found that, according to public domain documents obtained from the Jersey Companies Registry, Drachs Investments No 3 Limited is the parent company of the University's venture partner, Evans University Accommodation Limited, owning 100 per cent of the shares since its foundation in 2010.

Though registered in Jersey, according to company documents, Evans University Accommodation Limited used to be called Goodricke Limited.

When asked if Drachs Investments No 3 Limited is a parent company for Evans Property Group, Pollard said, "That information isn't in the public domain. So if you choose to say that, you choose to say that at your risk."

When asked about paying UK tax he said, "I've no idea. It's not something I'm engaged in. I'm a Jersey resident, and I'm engaged in the provision of my duties in Jersey. I've no idea about other jurisdictions. The UK is a foreign jurisdiction to Jersey."

Evans Group is a complex network of at least 23 companies, with some registered in the UK, and some - including the University's joint venture partner - registered in Saint Helier, Jersey.

Evans Property Group Limited, a company in the Evans Group, is registered in the UK. It published a pre-tax loss of £235,000 in 2012, and a tax payment of £0. But in 2011 it published a pre-tax profit of £990,000. A tax payment of £0 was published that year too. This does not suggest that no tax has been paid at all by Evans Group, it just shows the particular company submitting those accounts paid no tax in that period.

Another UK company in the group is Evans Student Investments Limited.

*NOUSE*'s findings reveal that Drachs Investments No 3 Limited is the "ultimate holding company" for this UK-based Evans Group company.

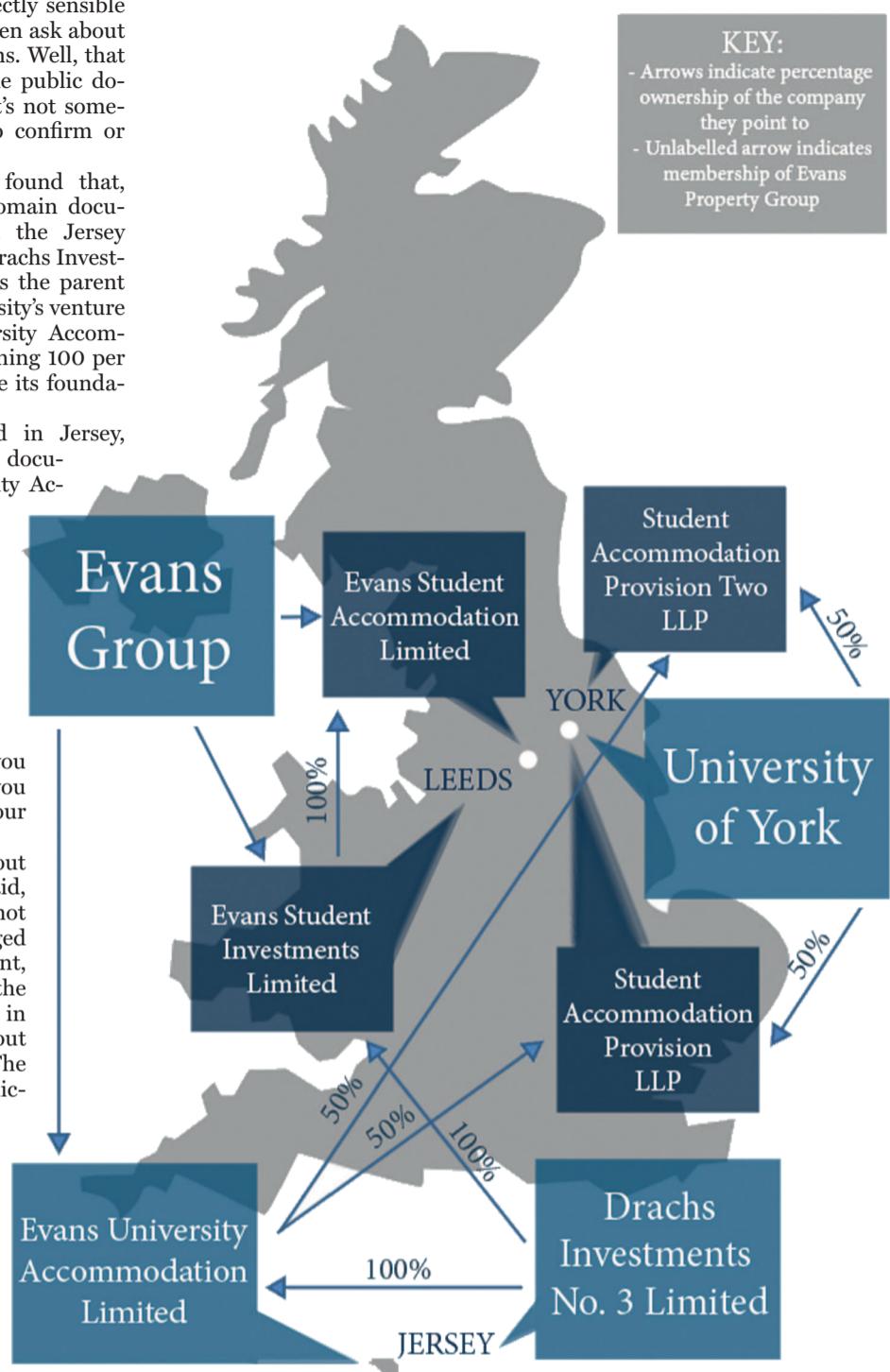
According to published accounts, it made pre-tax profit of £208 in 2012, and so paid £50 in tax at normal UK corporation tax rate.

This company's published accounts also show it has a 100 per cent share in a further subsidiary company, Evans Student Accommodation Limited, also based in the UK.

Evans Student Accommodation Limited had a published net

GRAPHICS BY BRANDON SEAGER

**KEY:**  
 - Arrows indicate percentage ownership of the company they point to  
 - Unlabelled arrow indicates membership of Evans Property Group



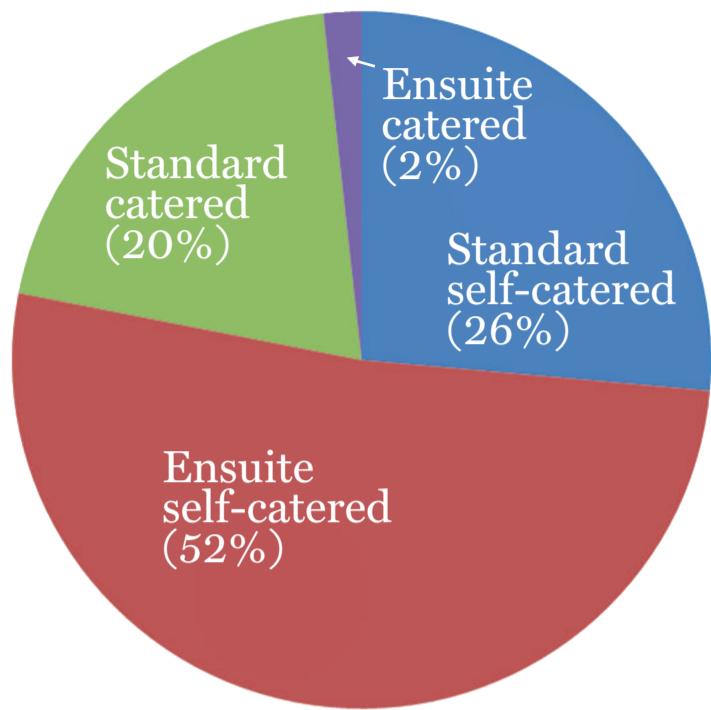
worth of £4.2m in 2008; followed by negative £570,000 in 2009; £1.5m in 2010; £5.5m in 2011; and £6.9m in 2012.

Its published tax payment for 2008 was £245,000; and for 2009 it was £11,000. But for 2010 it published £409,000 tax credit, and in 2011 £85,000 tax credit.

The sum of these published tax payments is exactly £0. The published net profit over the same period is £2.7m.

Again, this does not suggest that no tax has been paid by Evans Group, it just shows the particular company submitting those accounts paid no tax in that period.

**Michael Evans, Evans Property Group owner, made the Sunday Times Rich List in 2012. Worth around £300m, he ranks 267th, ahead of the McAlpine family and Zac Goldsmith's family**



UNIVERSITY OF YORK

**Ensuite catered accommodation is rising from £122.01 per week this year, to £150.64 in 2013/14**

**52 PER CENT** of students' campus rents will rise by just under £10 per week to £127.33

**Standard catered accommodation on Heslington East costs over £20 more per week than its equivalent on the west campus**



From left, Graham Gilbert, The University's Finance Director; Alan Syers, Portfolio Director at Evans Property Group; and Philip Ashworth, a Dickinson Dees Partner in charge of their York office, in front of Goodricke College

## Hes East: the deal in depth

**Josh Boswell**  
DEPUTY EDITOR

IN THE financial year 2010/11 the University generated a profit of £2.7m from selling half of Goodricke and Langwith Colleges to Evans Property Group in the joint ventures, Student Accommodation LLP and Student Accommodation Two LLP.

The deal was announced in August, 2010, four months after the official April opening of Goodricke college.

At the time, Graham Gilbert, the University of York's finance director, was in charge of the deal.

He said, "We are looking forward to a profitable collaboration with Evans, our joint venture partner."

Alan Syers, portfolio director at Evans Property Group, said, "We

expect that this innovative approach to the ownership and management of student accommodation will deliver long term benefits to both partners."

**"This innovative approach to the ownership and management of student accommodation will deliver long term benefits"**

Alan Syers, 2010  
Portfolio Director at Evans Property Group

Dickinson Dees, York-based Law firm, advised the university during negotiations. Announcing

the deal, Philip Ashworth, a Dickinson Dees partner at their York office, said: "This is one of the most significant deals in York over the past 12 months."

In an online statement Dickinson Dees said, "We were able to introduce the Evans group to the University with a view to Evans making a large equity investment and forming a joint venture with the University to hold, operate and manage the new facility. We advised the University on transferring the investment lease to the joint venture vehicle and then on behalf of the joint venture vehicle in its onward management of the facility."

"Throughout this transaction we worked closely with the University's estates and facilities, finance, tax and procurement teams as well as the construction contract's surveyor."

## What is the difference between tax evasion and tax avoidance?

**Amy Blumsom**  
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

ESSENTIALLY, THE difference between avoidance and evasion is legality. Tax avoidance is legally exploiting the tax system to reduce current or future tax liabilities by means not intended by parliament. It often involves artificial transactions that are contrived to produce a tax advantage.

Examples of tax avoidance are: tax deductions, changing one's business structure through incorporation, or establishing an offshore company in a tax haven. In a recent report, HMRC denounced tax avoiders saying that "a small minority bend or break the rules by deliberately avoiding or evading their taxes – and we are resolute in tackling these people".

Celebrities such as Jimmy Carr have come under criticism from the media in the past for participating in tax avoidance schemes.

The scheme used by Carr,

known as the K2 scheme, meant that wealthy Britons paid less than 1 per cent tax, costing the taxman £168m.

The organisation 'UK Uncut' challenges large corporations and businessmen who attempt to avoid tax. Sir Philip Green, who runs the Arcadia group, is among UK Uncut's targets.

Green does not actually own the Arcadia group, it is instead in the name of his wife, who lives in Monaco and doesn't pay income tax. In 2005, the business tycoon paid himself a dividend payout of £1.2 billion which was channelled through offshore accounts in the tax haven of Jersey before ending up in his wife's tax-free bank account in Monaco.

Tax avoidance is not the same as tax planning or mitigation. Tax planning is conduct

which reduces tax liabilities without going against Parliament, for instance, through gifts to charity or investments in certain assets which qualify for tax relief. Other examples of mitigation include saving in a tax-free ISA or paying into a pension scheme.

Tax evasion is to escape paying taxes illegally. This is usually when a person misrepresents or conceals the true state of their affairs to tax authorities, for example dishonest tax reporting. In November 2012, HMRC announced that they "will relentlessly pursue those who engage in evasion, with serious conse-

quences for those who don't pay all the tax they owe, from financial penalties to criminal conviction." An exception here is Switzerland, where many acts that would amount to criminal tax evasion in other countries are treated as civil cases.

Harry Redknapp, former Portsmouth football manager, was tried for tax evasion after it was

revealed that he accepted an untaxed bonus from the football club which was paid into an account named after his pet dog, Rosie.



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# Tuition fees increasingly fund £127m debt

- University sees debt increase and a drop in research funding but a rise in tuition fee income

**Josh Boswell**  
**Neil Johnston**

THE UNIVERSITY has taken on more debt, and is relying more on students to fund its deficits. This is due to several changes in its financial position, including a significant decline in research income coinciding with an a large increase in debt.

The gearing ratio, a measure of the University's dependence on borrowed money, has also increased. In 2011/12, the ratio was 35.1 per cent, up from 29.9 per cent in 2010/11, and 9.3 per cent in 2007/08.

This increase is largely due to the University's expansion programme, which has also led to the increase of £27.6m in the University's net debt, now totalling £127m.

Research income in 2011/12 fell under £50m for the first time in five years to just £46.4m. This compares to £51.2m in 2010/12 and £57.4m in 2009/10.

According to the accounts, this fall is reflective of "the situation in the wider research funding environment that is impacting the University's science departments in particular."

However, the income the University receives from tuition fees has increased from £33.3m to £36.7m for home and EU students and £28.2m to £31.2m for international students.

Though these figures show tuition fee income from before the fee rise came into effect, there are several indicators that the University is

already becoming increasingly reliant on funding from students rather than other sources.

The number of students has risen 50 per cent in the past nine years with the University having an aim of reaching "a critical mass of around 15,000 students".

Cash flow has reduced by £4.8m, while there was a £2.8m depreciation of capital on last year. As well as the increased debt, the pension scheme still has a £9.7m deficit, despite reducing its liability this year.

In the same year, the number of staff earning £110,000 - £119,999 increased by four. Although the number of staff earning £100,000 - £109,999 has fallen from eleven to nine, the number of staff earning £120,000 - £129,999 has increased from three to five.

**“Expanding too fast or investing too heavily into services could hurt students in the long run”**

**YUSU President  
Kallum Taylor**

A spokesperson for the University commented: "The University's total borrowing commitment is less than £150m, which is the upper limit set by the Council. We have no plans to exceed this limit. The borrowings have allowed us to construct new buildings and thereby to



Most of the money spent in internal investment has been on the University's expansion at Heslington East

increase the numbers of students we admit; the additional fee income this generates greatly exceeds the costs of our borrowings."

The University is currently borrowing at 85 per cent of its upper limit.

But the spokesperson added, "The University's overall financial position is very strong, as shown by the substantial year-on-year operating cash surpluses we generate. These allow us to reinvest in new facilities for teaching and research."

On research income they commented: "Total research grant income was down in 2011-12, as the

funds available to major national grant-giving bodies (such as the government-funded research councils) reduced. However, we are on course for a rise in research grant income in 2012-13. Researchers are increasingly focusing on larger grant applications, often in collaboration with colleagues from other disciplines and other universities."

Kallum Taylor, YUSU President, commented: "With HE (Higher Education) in very unpredictable territory, it's obvious that the University should air on the side of caution. Expanding too fast or investing too heavily into services could hurt

students here in the long run."

He added that the University needed to spend in the right places: "However, it is still important for us to be ahead of the curve and spend smartly into areas that will keep pushing our University up as a key world player."

"College 9 is a prime example. Building another 600 or so rooms will obviously bring in more rent payers - but if the whole package of the student experience isn't in sync with this expansion then it's a risk that just will not pay off."

**COMMENT > Page 13**

# Optimistic estimates for campus rooms takeup

**Neil Johnston**  
**NEWS EDITOR**

THE UNIVERSITY is predicting an optimistic rise in students returning to campus accommodation, despite the number of empty rooms doubling over the past year.

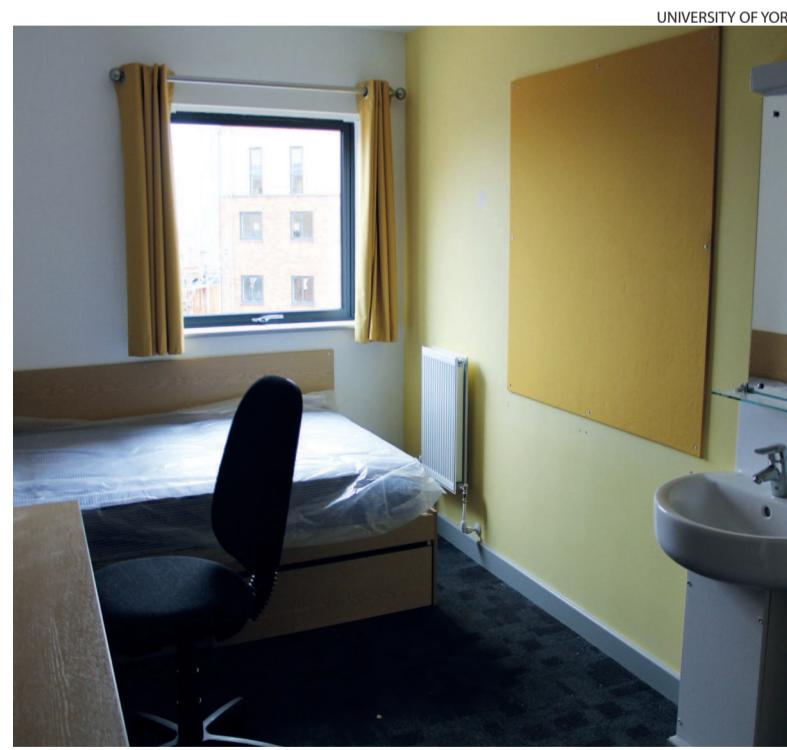
According to figures obtained through a Freedom of Information Request, the University is expecting 63 per cent rise in second and third year students choosing to return to campus accommodation.

Currently, 438 second and third year students live in campus accommodation, however the number is expected to increase to 714.

This is despite the fact there has been rise in the number of empty rooms over the last two years. In 2012/13, there were 177 rooms void at the start of the year compared to 88 in 2011/2012 and only 37 in 2010/11.

If the University's prediction is not accurate, then there could be an shortfall from the expected income generated from accommodation.

Next year, the average rent paid by students for on campus accommodation will be £4,949.04, an increase from £4,551.16 this year. This means that there is a the potential for a £1,365,924 shortfall,



The University had 177 void rooms this year, up from 88 in 2011/2012

if the figures predicted by the University are not accurate although the University will always need to keep a number of extra rooms for students that ask to move back on to campus for welfare issues..

A University spokesperson defended the figures saying, "The University's Council has approved the construction of a ninth residential college for the start of academic year 2014-15. This will allow us to

increase the percentage of upper year and postgraduate students in college from the current 33 per cent to 41 per cent.

**“It was a big worry to see us fall short on places...It has all kinds of knock-on effects, from the University's financial pot and future planning, to even derailing how JCRC's might have budgeted for their Freshers' Week programmes”**

**YUSU President  
Kallum Taylor**

They added: "There are always some voids in university-owned accommodation, and we expected an increase in voids in 2012-13 with the opening of new Langwith."

"We are confident that the void rate can be reduced going forward through positive marketing of rooms to upper year and PG students."

Kallum Taylor, YUSU President, commented, "It's a big worry to see us fall short on places filled this year. It has all kinds of knock-on effects, from the University's financial pot and future planning, to even derailing how JCRC's might have budgeted for their Freshers' Week programmes."

He added, "There's both external and internal reasons for the drop; and at least the University have smelled the coffee now and woken up to the fact that they've got to go out of their way in making their offer genuinely competitive."

"It's also worth noting that we fully support their push to have more second and third years living on campus, for all the benefits it brings to the social dynamic of the college system. Early signs show it's working - but it will take more than some pretty flyers and smart PR to hit their predictions."

## News

# University misses class target

**Alex Osborne**  
NEWS REPORTER

THE UNIVERSITY was 3.3 per cent beneath its benchmark for the proportion of students falling in to National Statistics Socio-Economic Classification (NS-SEC) groups 4-7, in the 2010/11 academic year.

These analytical classes fall into the University's target populations for widening participation and diversity amongst students, along with known black and minority ethnic groups.

Groups 4-7 constitute students whose parents' employment backgrounds fall in to 'small employers and own account workers (4)', 'lower supervisory and technical occupations (5)', 'semi-routine occupations (6)' and 'routine occupations (7)'. These typically correlate with a working-class background.

This came alongside a 1.3 per cent drop in proportion of NS-SEC group 4-7 students from the previous academic year 2009/2010.

Figures for the current academic year are due to be released at some point during 2013, and are likely to show an even greater drop in proportion of working-class students (as defined by NS-SEC) in light of the increase in university fees.

Despite larger bursaries and funding being available to these



The statistics for this year's new intake will be released later in 2013

students, many are likely to have been dissuaded by the £9,000 a year tuition fees. Testimony to this is the evident slump in 2013/14 UCAS applications from working class students, particularly males, which was highlighted earlier in the year by David Willetts, Universities Minister.

Despite lower percentages of working class students, York has succeeded in other fields of student body diversification, with a main-

tained percentage of 9.1 per cent of black and ethnic minority undergraduate home students and an increase to 14.9 per cent of 'all undergraduates'.

Postgraduate home student figures from the aforementioned backgrounds have risen to 11.4 per cent, though 'all postgraduate' figures have dropped by 0.4 per cent.

All of these figures are accurate for the 2011/12 academic year. Equally, the percentage of interna-

tional students at the University has steadily risen since 2007/8, reaching 22.4 per cent for the 2011/12 academic year.

A University spokesperson said: "Our main target is to maintain and if possible increase the percentage of students from socio-economic classes 4-7. The figures have still to be verified, but we believe that

**"Our main target is to maintain and if possible increase the percentage of students from socio-economic class 4-7"**

University Spokesperson

2012-13 has seen an increase in students from SEC4-7, despite the increase in home undergraduate fees. We have a comprehensive system of bursaries and fee waivers in place to attract students from families with modest incomes.

"We have also recruited a team of eight staff dedicated to working with schools and colleges in disadvantaged areas and running programmes which make it easier for students from those schools to come to York."

# Porters pledge

**Anwen Baker**  
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY has announced that portering provision for the 2013 Christmas vacation will be increased. Standard service across all colleges will be extended up until Christmas Eve and Derwent College will now have 24 hour cover throughout the holidays.

This is in response to numerous complaints about the lack of portering provision over the 2012 Christmas vacation. Last Christmas, around 550 students in Heslington West were left with only one porter, stationed at Wentworth College.

Kallum Taylor, YUSU President, hit out at the lack of provision, writing a letter to the head of Portering asking for details of arrangements and denouncing the service as "inadequate".

Taylor commented: "It's good that the University have listened to students on this matter. Whilst regular term time college staffing cover and type remains under question, it's vital that the Christmas vacation service level is adequate. There's making efficiencies, and then there's trying to get away with the bare minimum."

## Student satisfaction with library continues to rise

**Fiona Parker**  
NEWS REPORTER

THE RECENTLY published Library survey results of 2012 mark a further increase in satisfaction with the University library.

The positive responses to the survey, according to the Library Survey Team should be attributed to several factors, including the new 24 hour opening times.

One male undergraduate student said: "I particularly value the fact that the library remains open all night. This is extremely useful and I hope it remains as such."

The survey was conducted over a period spanning November and December 2012. A record number of 2,285 library users completed the questionnaire.

Students and members of staff were asked to rate various aspects of the library from 1, for the lowest level of satisfaction, to 9, for the highest.

On average, all sections of the survey marked a 7% improvement in satisfaction with the library as a whole since the survey was conducted in 2011.

The "Library as a place" section of the survey recorded a 15% rise in perception of the library as a comfortable and conducive learning environment.

The Library Survey Team attribute this success to the recent library refurbishment projects and the opening of the Harry Fairhurst building.

Other notable improvements

## New Willow withdrawn

**Hennie Thompson**  
NEWS REPORTER

REGENCY RESTAURANT, the subject of speculation for a new disco in York has withdrawn its license application to operate as an "entertainment facility".

The application was met with immediate opposition from the local authorities.

Mr. Chong Hun Chun and Annie Peng, the owners of Regency Restaurant on 16 Barbican Road intended to extend the restaurant's opening hours until 3.30am. They had planned to "add entertainment facilities with a similar description to making music and dancing".

The move to extend opening hours was seen by some as an attempt to rival Willow, the club that has developed a local cult following.

The license applied for by Regency Restaurant was in fact granted, but it is believed that the owners may have been unhappy with stringent conditions, and so withdrew their application.



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# YUSU submit boundary proposal

**Gary Holland**  
NEWS REPORTER

CADAN AP Tomos, YUSU Community Assembly chair, has submitted a proposal to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) in reaction to YUSU's own submission. The Commission announced on the 23rd of October that it "needs information from people and groups across York to help it to produce a new pattern of wards to accommodate 47 councillors."

Kallum Taylor, YUSU President, published the Union's proposal on his blog on 14th January. It suggests combining the Fishergate and Fulford wards to create a new, three-member ward and moving Badger Hill and Newland Park Drive into the Heslington ward, which would become two-member. Taylor argues that this would prevent students from being artificially separated from nonstudent residents, creating a more integrated community. Any change to the boundaries of local government wards could have a profound effect on election results. If votes were cast along similar lines as in the last local government election in the proposed new ward, the Green Party would win all three seats, but Labour's three candidates would trail behind by 400 votes.



Suggestions made by Cadan ap Tomos stand in direct contrast with YUSU's own proposals

Taylor told *Nouse*: "Unlike a lot of the submissions, ours is genuinely independent of party political influence. I don't know which parties, if any, would benefit from our proposals, and I don't care either - it's about what's going to help us build a stronger community including both students and other local residents. We don't want a Councillor who'll always be on the edge of debate, side-lined as the 'Uni Councillor,' further marginalising students." Taylor first published a draft copy of the YUSU proposal by mistake on the 11th

**“Unlike a lot of the submissions, ours is genuinely independent of party political influence.”**

YUSU President  
Kallum Taylor

of January, which offered splitting Heslington East and West campuses up into separate wards as an option. Tara Annison, member of Goodricke College's

JCRC commented, "I'm upset that YUSU would even consider splitting students up in terms of wards too, because it would so obviously further increase the divide between us and those on the main campus."

YUSU's final proposal states that it represents YUSU's collective position. Ap Tomos, however, fears that the submission "may be taken to represent student opinion, despite only neighbourhood reps having been consulted."

He has therefore submitted his own counterproposal to "demonstrate the plurality of stu-

dent opinion".

Taylor responded to ap Tomos's counterproposal on Twitter, blaming the fact that only Neighbourhood Reps had been consulted on time constraints. Regarding time constraints, Taylor told *Nouse* that he was contacted by local councillors from all the main parties from mid-December to early January "urging YUSU to put in a submission," and that "there wasn't time to call a meeting" because the deadline was so soon after Christmas. "Instead, I wrote a submission based on what I believe is in the best interests of our students - as I have been elected to do."

Ap Tomos's proposal recommends joining Heslington village onto the Fulford ward and creating a separate University ward. The aim of this is to "create a situation in which campus students would be represented by a councillor that would give student interests and priorities a stronger voice on the council."

Both Taylor and ap Tomos have made it to make it clear that there is no tension between them and the YUSU President said he hopes that "more students will take an interest in consultations like this." All submissions to the Commission are to be made public in April.

**COMMENT >> Page 13**

## Students voice housing concerns

**Amy Blumsom**  
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY of York's Student Socialist Society has called a public meeting pressuring the University and City Council to improve housing standards. They also claim that nearly one hundred student houses could face eviction.

The society told *Nouse*: "We hope to build a campaign which will pressure the council and university into taking action to improve student housing standards...young people in Britain are facing attacks on multiple fronts, and the socialist society believes the only way to stop this government's ideological assault on education is to stand together and build the fight back."

In a statement to *Nouse*, the society has declared that "there is an unsustainable student property bubble waiting to burst" in York.

This has been fuelled by the expansion of the Heslington East campus, in spite of the falling number of university applicants. The quality of some student housing was also criticised, with some being described as "not fit for purpose". The society also expressed concern that housing prices "are being co-ordinated by an ever smaller clique of compa-

nies, meaning that the price of student accommodation in York remains on average the highest in the north of England.

The University defended its relationship with landlords, saying that "All properties advertised comply with the Code of Best Practise, which sets standards for safety and security and also covers management practises. If a student living in a Code property has a problem they cannot

**“Housing prices are being co-ordinated by an ever smaller clique of companies”**

Student Socialist Society  
James Ellis

resolve satisfactorily with their landlord, they should contact Accommodation Services".

The prospect of eviction is claimed to be looming for "up to 100 student houses" according to the society, as a result of the City Council's Article 4 Directive.

This issue will form one of the main discussion points at the meeting, with the society blaming "incompetent landlords not gaining the correct planning



permission". The society has condemned the University and Labour council for failing to tackle these problems, saying that "it is within the council's power to prevent this, but as of yet they have shown little willing".

David Garner, University Press Officer, stated in response, "If any student has a problem or query with private sector accommodation, they can seek advice from a Student Welfare Adviser at the Student Support Hub in Market Square. "So far we are unaware of any student raising this issue with Student Support."

The meeting will be held in room P/L/006 on Thursday week 5 at 6.15pm.

## Living Wage set for referendum

**Jocelyn Murdoch**  
NEWS REPORTER

A MOTION to start lobbying YUSU and the University to pay all staff the Living Wage, is to be put to a YUSU referendum. The motion signals another important step forward in the campaign begun by the University of York Labour Club in the last academic year. Cross-party support for the scheme at the University prompted the creation of the Living Wage society, free from political affiliation, and both groups are working together on the proposal. The Living Wage is a nationwide campaign encouraging businesses to pay their staff a higher rate than the National Minimum Wage. They have calculated that outside London, an hourly rate of £7.20 is a sufficient wage to work only one job and cover the basics for a family with two children.

York councillors and Dr John Sentamu, the Archbishop of York, have voiced their support for the idea. Despite the University's claims that they already

pay all staff the living wage, a Freedom of Information (FOI) request revealed that contractors, who include the majority of the cleaning and catering staff, are not paid the same rate.

The exact amount of pay is not known but may be less than the living wage. Some argue the new motion would not affect the university's ability to control the pay of its contractors, though supporters say it is the responsibility of one of York's most important employers to ensure fair standards for all its staff. YUSU will discuss if the idea is sustainable for them and whether the university can afford to pay more in wages, particularly when student fees are already so high. This next step in the campaign will make it clear if becoming a

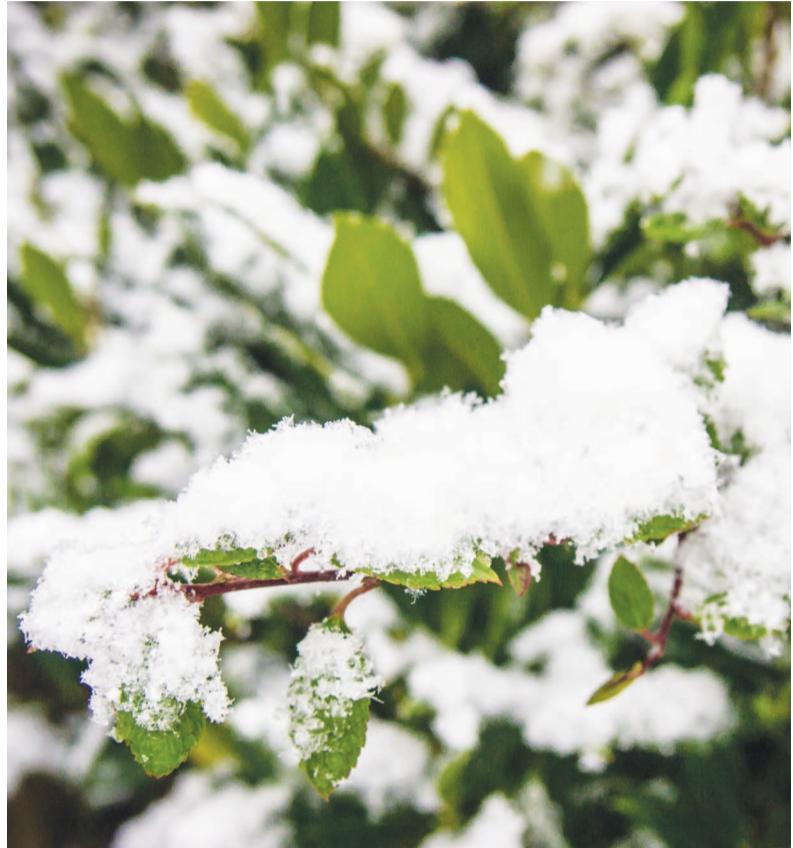
living wage employer is a priority for YUSU. Tom Morgan, treasurer of the University of York Labour Club commented: "The living wage ensures that all staff, even those employed by contractors get the fair day's pay they deserve."

**Referenda**

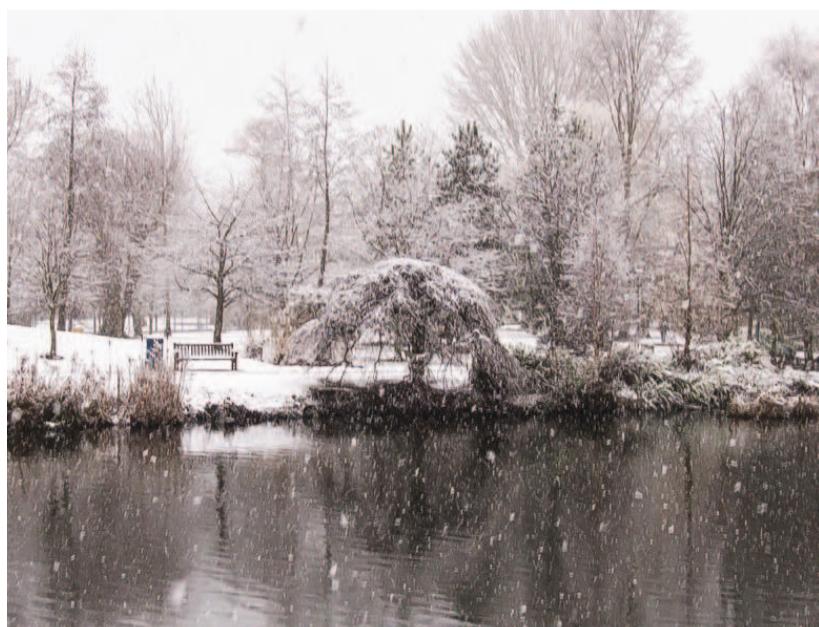


# It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas

While most of us have been hiding away from the snow, **Jonathan Neo** went out and battled the elements to capture some magical moments around campus



“Photos capture the beauty of the moment but make us delusional to the harshness of reality. Go beyond that fleeting facade to see the essence that lies within.”



# SocDrawer

The section by societies, for societies

ONE GUARDIAN journalist recently proclaimed, "I'm young, I've never voted and I probably never will". A bold statement, perhaps. But a quick scan of the leading UK newspapers unveils a barrage of articles bemoaning the apparent political apathy of Generation Y. To them, we say: "British media, oh how you underestimate us!"

At York Student Think Tank (YSTT), we believe Britain's youth have so much more to offer than passivity, and we're on a mission to get York's student population taking an active stance on current social issues!

A user of the popular site, thestudentroom.co.uk, recently suggested, "Politics is boring. It's all just a bunch of middle-aged men pouring out a bunch of lies, and we have to go along with it". It's comments like this which the work of our society aims to counter, so that we can proudly declare: Students of York – you don't have to go along with anything, you can engage!

We're dedicated to addressing the things that really matter, getting people actively involved in discussing and developing policy concerning, Human Rights and Equality in the UK.

December 6 saw YSTT host the first of many panel debates between the Conservative, Labour, Liberal Democrat and Green Party

society on campus. It allowed students to witness the major parties' chairs battle it out over their parties' policies on social equality, given the coalition government's recent landmark decision to raise tuition fees and abolish EMA; a move the Washington Post claims has kick started, "the most widespread university demonstrations since the Vietnam War".

There's never been a better time for students to begin actively participating in politics. We'd predicted the Panel Debate was going to get heated, and one glance at the Twitter hashtag '#YSTT' from the night, proves the success of our initial suspicions. Audience members sniping back and forth with provocative tweets such as "incentives for educating the worst off a 'massive waste of money', so conservative policies not hurting the lowest earning families then".

And we're not stopping there. This term YSTT wades into YUSU policy. YUSU have vowed that they are determined to put "the power in your hands" regarding policy, allowing students to decide what the Student Union should do, "by suggesting, deciding upon and prioritising the Policy that guides them". Given the uproar regarding the antics of Halifax's football team last year, it's clear that campus sports play a huge role in student life. Yet there is



York Student Think Tank is a society dedicated to involvement and addressing policy issues that really matter

concern over UoY's disabled student community, who are under-represented in most Sport Societies – the lack of sober committee members during socials cited as just one of the factors that actively discourage disabled students from taking part.

In response, we've decided to take YUSU up on their offer and – through applying to join our consultation team – we're bringing students the unique opportunity to produce a report on the role of disabled students in sport societies that will directly influence YUSU policy.

We're also now taking entries for our annual journal, composed

of articles submitted in accordance with this year's theme of, 'Human Rights & Equality'. So if you don't get a chance to join the consultation team, you can still have your opinionated (and well-researched!) say in our journal.

Submitting an article is an excellent chance to expand your research skills, develop your essay-writing prowess, and it's a great addition to any CV that employers value. Furthermore, the writer of the best article will receive a week's internship at the London office of the Institute for Public Policy Research. If that's not motivation enough

to get you writing, we don't know what is! We're inviting everybody, regardless of your degree subject or experience, to get involved and submit an article – so if you've got something to say about 'Human Rights & Equality', we want to hear it.

You can keep up to date with all our upcoming policy labs and events on Facebook, or by following us on Twitter. What's more, we're always looking for new, enthusiastic members so if this sounds like something you'd be interested in, we have just one question: when can you start?

Anisha Wilmink

## Society Diary

Work has already begun on the University of York's **Opera Society**'s next exciting project; a semi-staged production of Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*, to be performed with an orchestra in the Sir Jack Lyons Concert Hall this term.

The Society is not just for singers. Members get the chance to see Opera North's world-class productions in Leeds for just £10, along with regular trips to City Screen Cinema in York to watch live operas direct from the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden. Last term we were fortunate enough to see Opera North's entire cast of Don Giovanni performing the 'Gangnam Style' dance to the music of Mozart. The society is putting on a fully staged production of Offenbach's comic opera *Orpheus in the Underworld* in the summer term. Now is the time to give it a try! For more information, and to join the society – email us at [operasoc@yusu.org](mailto:operasoc@yusu.org).

**QUIDDITCH.** Do you remember that? The sport that Harry Potter plays on his broomstick. Well, now you can play it too! That's right; York University now has its own Muggle Quidditch team. Although the flying part is a bit beyond us, we take all the rest straight out of the books and onto the playing field.

It's more or less a cross between handball, basketball and dodgeball, only miles better than each! A typical practice session involves a fun warm-up (such as stuck-in-the-mud) followed by a few drills (maybe passing or shooting). We end with an intense game of Quidditch. It is hard to take yourself seriously when running with a broomstick between your legs so all anyone needs to bring is a sense of humour and a willingness to get a little muddy. Quidditch is now an international sport – have a look on YouTube! Run as a part of the University Harry Potter society, for an hour and a half each Saturday. We are a group of enthusiastic amateurs who will welcome anyone to the team. So come and give it a go from 1 - 2:30pm this Saturday behind the Hes West campus Sports Centre.

## OddSoc: Muggles

## What's On

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York Student Cinema  
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Bowland Auditorium

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# Comment

Hussein Kesvani



The YUSU President's role is not to unilaterally drive policy initiatives

## Pushing the boundaries of presidential prerogative

**A**nyone running for the YUSU Presidency this term will undoubtedly be writing up a manifesto promising better representation for the student body. And while the election period might allow candidates room to promise the undeliverable, they may find that elected office brings with it the sobriety of student politics, as well as a more profound understanding of what the role of President actually entails.

This problem is illustrated by a recent decision by the incumbent Kallum Taylor to submit a "collective position" to the Local Government Boundary Commission, with regard to boundary changes within York. Taylor's reason for submitting this proposal is his conviction that despite York students making up over one fifth of the total population, they may reside in local government wards in which they are disproportionately represented in comparison to local residents and non-students.

Cadan ap Tomos, YUSU Community Assembly Chair, submitted a competing proposal. While ap Tomos acknowledged Taylor's amiable intentions, his counterproposal argued that a fairer distribution of representation could be achieved by redrawing boundaries to acknowledge which areas have a high concentration of student residents, and those which have a greater proportion of long term residents.

The nature of this dispute inevitably brings up questions about the most efficient way in which stu-

dents can be represented outside of the University. YUSU's proposal argues that areas like Fulford and Badger Hill fail to provide adequate facilities for students, despite their indisputable involvement with these communities. Additionally, both proposals present the need to reconsider the relationship between students and locals.

Considering how big a part of York the University is, shouldn't its students be considered a part of the community? Or, as ap Tomos seems to suggest, is this making assumptions about the relationship between students and non-students?

Of course, the real debate here actually lies in the legitimacy of the YUSU president taking action on behalf of all students without a for-

mal consultation. Taylor justified his submission on the grounds that he had based it on what he believes is best for students, "as [he has] been elected to do". It's at this point that things become a bit problematic.

The YUSU website stipulates that while presidential manifestos are encouraged to present ideas that develop "off campus communities," the President's role is not to single-handedly drive policy initiatives. Rather, the remit of the President is much more managerial. He should be working with other elected officers on agreed projects, developing ideas from the various assemblies in YUSU and engaging with the student body. In this case, ap Tomos is right in that the YUSU President has no authority in taking on an ini-

tiative without any type of consultation. Furthermore, it can be argued that the President can only claim to know what we want on issues that were in his manifesto, or that he has been mandated to do through a referendum. Kallum Taylor's pre-election manifesto said little about possible changes to the electoral boundaries and the relationship between off campus students and residents.

While Taylor's intentions are praiseworthy, the game of YUSU politics unfortunately means he was wrong to submit the proposal without wider consultation. But more importantly, this issue goes to illustrate the limitations of elected office, as well accountability toward the entire student body.



Anna Godfrey



## FIRSTS come, first served

In a time where a first is becoming the norm, what could this mean for those who don't quite reach the grade?

**L**ast year, one in six graduates left university with a first class degree, meaning that the number of top grades scored has tripled in just over a decade. Most of us realise that anything less than a 2:1 probably isn't going to cut it when aiming for the best jobs and selective grad schemes, but the rise in Firsts is causing employers to only consider the very best, often screening graduates without the desired first class grade out of the application process before they've even reached the first hurdle.

16 per cent of graduates now achieve the zenith of academic assessment. Coupled with the Association of Graduate Recruiters' (AGR) statistic that an average of 73 students apply for each graduate position, this makes for a highly competitive market where recruiters can afford to be picky. Carl Gilleard, AGR Chief Executive commented,

"Degree classification has been described recently as a very blunt instrument to use, but when you have 100 applicants going for each job, it is quite understandable that employers are going to look at degrees as an obvious starting point."

This leads to an unwelcoming prospect that anything other than the black and white print of our degree classifications becomes irrelevant in the initial stages of an application. Does the enriching nature of the content of a degree even matter?

Students are actively encouraged to pursue interests in other areas to enhance our university experience, distinguishing us from every other student knocking on the door of the world of work. But isn't this taking time away from the essential pursuit of a first? Any extracurricular activities are rendered worthless if the employer bases choice interviewees solely on grades.

Students must bridge the gap between both aspects of university life: gain at least a 2:1, and manage to prove your worth as an active human being through societies, charity work and internships. Student life is a balancing act. According to High Fliers Research, students with no work experience at all stand little chance of gaining a job at a top firm, regardless of academic accomplishments. A First or 2:1 may be needed to avoid the recycle bin, but accomplishments outside of your degree are essential in the interview room.

So don't keel over and give up just yet if you've spent the last few months helping out at YUSU, or campaigning for the Amnesty society instead of sitting in your room 24/7, freaking out for a First. According to the Higher Education Statistics Agency, of those who achieved a first in 2009-10, 48 per cent were in full-time employment

six months after graduating. But the percentages for those with 2:1s and 2:2s are almost exactly the same. Small and medium enterprises will accept 2:2s and are a perfectly viable replacement for the dream of getting onto an elusive graduate scheme at a big company, providing you have the right experience.

For all first years concerned, reform may be on the horizon. The possible introduction of Higher Education Achievement Reports could mean that any extracurricular achievements would be printed alongside academic progress, giving a wider image of the graduate. For the rest of us however, if you want a well-paid job in today's competitive workplace, all you have to do is exhibit your own ability to combine academic excellence, dedicated involvement in various societies, and valuable work experience. A comforting thought, don't you think?



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BRANDON SEAGER

**Gary Holland**

Deputy Comment Editor



## The University must come clean on “tax haven” dealings

Students should demand more transparency from the University of York in all its dealings with private businesses

**W**ith so little information being made readily available by the University regarding their business dealings involving the Heslington East colleges, it's very difficult to discern whether or not they're doing anything wrong.

But here's what we know: they split ownership of Goodricke and Langwith colleges between two companies, took half of each themselves and sold the rest to another company which can be traced to Jersey (where they don't have corporation tax), without telling their students.

I wouldn't go as far as to accuse the University of hiding the fact that they aren't the whole owners. You can find this information if you snoop around in Companies House for long enough. But they certainly didn't go out of their way to make sure that we all knew.

They can't tell us enough about the £500m investment into the Heslington East campus from 2000

**“The University’s partner company is registered to Jersey, where there is no corporation tax”**

to 2010, or the further £60m which was invested over the last year. But they've kept remarkably quiet on the topic of who the profits of all this go to.

And there certainly are profits.

In fact, over £1m in profits was registered in 2012. What's more, the University's partner company, Evans University Accommodations Limited, is subject to Jersey's tax laws rather than UK's - though this doesn't necessarily mean they didn't pay any UK tax.

Certainly, some companies that are registered to tax havens do so for reasons unrelated to tax avoidance. It would make perfect sense, for example, for a Jersey-based company that provides tours of the island to be registered there.

We know Evans Property Group is not an island tourist agency, but we don't know why it's based in Jersey.

Drachs Investment No. 3 Ltd, the company which wholly owns Evans University Accommodation Limited, vehemently denies knowing why they share offices.

We'd like some clarity as to why they chose to be based in Jersey - because it might *not* be for tax reasons.

Now, even if it was, no laws have been broken. Tax avoidance is entirely within the law (or rather, within its loopholes). But it would oversimplify the matter hugely to say that this makes it morally permissible. In fact, tax avoidance is selfish and immoral.

Companies that avoid tax aren't just not paying any more tax than they're legally obliged to. Conducting business in this country, they're taking advantage of our stable market infrastructure and largely business-friendly legal system by receiving all these benefits but not paying full whack for them like everybody else does.

Of course, we don't know for

certain whether or not tax is being avoided in this case.

And therein lies the problem: a huge lack of transparency from the University. In an age in which increased transparency is being demanded of politicians, big business, and the banks, we should be just as concerned about our university's dealings.

**“I hope that as their students we won’t let the University get away with not providing an explanation”**

I want clarity from the University of York. With regards to who owns our accommodation, with regards to who gets the profits from what we pay to live here, with regards to whom they're working with, and with regards to exactly how these companies conduct themselves.

And I hope that as their students we won't let them get away with not providing it.

Then if it should turn out that anything immoral is occurring, I'd hope that York's students would hold the University to account. If the University is conducting its business in an unscrupulous manner, the fact of the matter is that we pay them, and so I think it's fair to say that they should be accountable to us.

## Know your candidates

**Sofia Geraghty**

**T**he beginning of spring term is a time of morning frost, bird song and of course seeing the hopeful faces of YUSU candidates taped to every lamppost, tree and kitchen window. Sadly, despite the obvious effort gone into creating such campaigns, many of us will be guilty of not actually reading any of the information accompanying what will likely be a humorous photo. As a result, when it comes to voting, without much reason to go on, it will be the current recognisable faces that will gain favour. Natural, but not necessarily right - and in doing so we are not using the student representative system to its full potential.

Last year, it was found that despite the University gaining an 88 per cent satisfaction rating from its students, YUSU was found to have a lower rate of only 61 per cent.

Many students have complained about the "clique" like nature of student politics. Although it is tempting to blame the Union for these statistics and indeed many people do and have done, it is important that the student population en masse must also take some of the blame, for their refusal to engage in student politics. It may be argued that it is the job of the YUSU candidate to make sure that they reach the students in the hope that they will vote for them. However, for them to fully demonstrate why they should win the vote, it is vital they are listened to.

Far from being an arbitrary organisation, students must realise that YUSU represents all students. If individuals feel that the Union currently doesn't do this to the full extent they would like, then surely rather than moan it would be much more constructive to take an active interest in the campaigns of all candidates and support the right one.

It would seem that, if he does re-run for his role of Presidency, Kallum Taylor would stand in a good position purely because students actually know who he is. As the face of YUSU, Kallum Taylor is the most well-known person on campus, a recent survey showed that 19 in 20 freshers know who he is (in contrast the 86 per cent who knew who Tim Ellis was at the same time last year).

This is not to say that if Taylor did run again and was re-elected it would only be due to the fact that people recognise his name. The last year has been a very good one for the YUSU president. Not only did he successfully pull off Live and Loud, but he also solved the Hes East bus issue and got more students to Demo 2012 than any other university in the country.

While it would be fine to vote for Taylor due to his noticeable accomplishments, it is of equal importance to also consider every other candidate. This ensures that YUSU actively fulfils the role it was made for and successfully represents what the student population need, rather than just who the student population know.

## Comment

Runner-up in Guardian Student Publication of the Year 2012  
**NOUSE**  
*Est. 1964*

### Our new logo: A word from the designer

The idea of using a Kingfisher came from thinking about how Nouse works and how it wants to present itself. Currently the Central Hall logo is rather stiff and institutional. Yes, it ties the paper to the University of York, but I felt that not only was it rather inherent anyway, but that it also declares that any writing within Nouse about events outside the University (be it international or domestic politics, art, music, science, human rights) is still labelled rather as a 'York' opinion – which it doesn't need to be.

When the Editor first approached me for a logo, she gave me a rather beautiful photograph of a bird and asked for (I quote) "this, but different". This logo is directly influenced by that picture, but I tried to keep a flavour of the old logo through the undefined boundaries and the stark black & white contrast, particularly in the wings where they hint at printed blocks of text. Why a kingfisher? Because among all other birds, I felt it best conveyed the message of Nouse. It avoids the clumsiness of ducks, and the aggression of geese and swans, our university's token birds which have subsequently become derivative and over-used (as have owls in the world at large). The Independent has dibs on the eagle, and while other birds of prey were possible – falcons, kites, sparrowhawks – it still felt rather done, and perhaps overly predatory. Clearly no poultry was going to do the trick, nor anything hunted or symbolic of a particular class, such as pheasants. Kingfishers are predatory, but they are also beautiful and graceful, and crucially do not pick at bones – they swallow their prey neatly and whole.

I hope that the kingfisher I've made captures that sense of freedom that the concrete of Central Hall doesn't. They're incisive, able to get where others can't, and still special every time it is seen. And, of course, the kingfisher is revered as rather a king among water birds – which tied it in nicely still with the lake – who quite literally 'get the scoop' as they pluck fish out of the water. **Seb Brixey-Williams**

### Student services should not be sacrificed

Recent news that the University's debt levels have increased to a total of £127m has serious and worrying implications for students. We have already seen the impact that decreased funding has had upon research income. Both the fact of the University's ever increasing debt and their increasing dependence upon tuition fee income indicate that not only will research development continue to suffer, the student experience will too.

The rise in tuition fees means that value for money has become more important than ever. We are not only students – paying £9000 a year for the privilege of being here means that we are also consumers. We have a right to ensure that our money is being spent both prudently and in our best interests. Rapid expansion is not the best way to serve the student population when it is not coupled with an assurance that the student experience as a whole will not be harmed.

Is the future of student services being sacrificed simply for the sake of a few new buildings? One thing is certain; if the university's descent into debt does not slow down, it is students who will suffer.

### Democracy is key

Ted Brown, the Council Chair of the Graduate Students' Association, has expressed concern over the lack of democracy when appointing new members. The Principle Officers have decided to personally appoint a new Academic Affairs Officer from within themselves, rather than opening the position up to the student body.

This is not the way groups of students at the University should conduct themselves. In order to be representative of the student population, and in order to maintain a healthy relationship with the students here, societies and organisations alike should endeavour to remain transparent in all that they do. There is little point in hiding activities from the student body, as this will only cause students at the University to lose faith in said organisation.

Furthermore, the organisations should endeavour to remain as democratic as possible, in the hopes of encouraging more and more students to participate in student life and student activities. The success of these organisations is entirely dependent on the amount of students involved.

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## Accommodation: Are we getting what we pay for?

Amy Blumsom



**A**s students across the University begin searching for second year accommodation, I find myself wondering whether first year accommodation is actually worth the money we pay for it. Most of us are paying for this out of our student loan. Will we still feel it was worth all that money, ten years down the line?

The snowfall this week covered campus in a frosty blanket. As freshers living in university-owned accommodation, however, we found ourselves in need of actual blankets.

The settling of this icy precipitation coincided with our boiler emitting some spectacular grumblings and spewing water across the kitchen surfaces. The next two days were spent in near arctic conditions and, I regret to say, showering was kept to a minimum. Not exactly the warm welcome back to York we were expecting.

This in itself wouldn't be a problem, if our flat hadn't experienced such issues before. Our first problem arose on arriving in Fresher's week: a broken oven. It's not the end of the world, and pretty easy to work around, considering as students we subsist primarily on pasta. It also allowed us to inform the porters with childish delight that "our knob had fallen off".

However, almost a month of being ovenless was frustrating. After our oven was replaced, our freezer decided to take a last stand. Many in my block, myself included, have also had to suffer from the faulty door locks (which lock automatically).

This isn't a problem if you remember to take your room key every time you venture out into the kitchen. But no-one remembers this when rushing breakfast before a

9.15 lecture. Being locked out on a weekly basis gets pretty tedious. It's even more irritating when you have to trudge to the porters in the middle of the night, clad in spotty pyjamas and slippers.

I'm not for one second suggesting that we are the first freshers who've had to deal with the trials and tribulations of campus life, but tuition fees are rising and quality doesn't seem to be improving.

When going extended periods of time without the facilities that were promised when signing up to accommodation, you do start to ask yourself: are we getting what we pay for? Of course, there are plenty of benefits to living on campus that I'm going to miss next year. I consider myself lucky in having a 33 week let, saving some money, which isn't going to be possible when I live out next year.

Living in university accommodation is comparatively stress-free. We don't have to worry about inter-

net, heating or electricity bills. We have our lovely cleaners ensuring that we don't stew in our own grime for too long. The library, Costcutter, and sports facilities are sitting on our doorstep. There are a lot of benefits to living on campus that we don't always appreciate.

But when you're paying for an oven or heating you do expect to have these facilities. If it didn't take copious amounts of verbal and written complaints to resolve a problem, I don't think that I would have reason to grumble. The truth is, we don't get exactly what we pay for. Yes, it would be great if everything ran more smoothly and the allocation system was fairer.

At the same time though, I don't think that in ten years time when I'm still paying for it that I'll regret choosing university accommodation. I'll just be remembering the great memories and stories to tell that living on campus has given me.



KATE MITCHELL

## Eat, Neigh, Love.

Ellie Rice



**G**ranted, I'm somewhat notorious for my "anything that sits still" attitude toward food, so perhaps my views on the horse burger scandal are slightly askew, but I think almost every student at York would admit to eating at least a couple of dodgy prawn crackers in their time. Maybe it's the leftovers from teenage years and a little rebellion, or maybe it's a sense of adventure.

They might say that curiosity killed the cat, but I maintain it was never proven. So get curious and if someone offers you the chance to try something new, jump in. We're held back by social conventions, especially British values, but as the world becomes increasingly homogeneous we need to open our arms (and mouths) to the array of food the world has to offer. Horse meat has always had that association with the French, our long term frenemy. French values were originally one of the things we use to define our national culture: we did our best to be their exact opposite. But times have

changed since then and we accept more aspects of their culture. We soon got over that whole 'who owns Calais' thing, right? Let's move on from the division and set sail across the Channel into a world of snails, frogs' legs, and horses. And not just horse meat in France, but guinea pigs in Peru, and cats in China. Even beyond meat into the realm of the vegetarians this idea still applies. Okinawan purple sweet potato, anyone? But sorry veggies, that is all I've got for you. Back to meat.

To help us on the path to a more interesting life and diet, we have to stop sentimentalising animals. I'm a massive fan of cute animal Twitter pages and I've always had pets but we should draw a line and realise traditional pets are just as much part of the food chain as the average chicken. I'm in no way suggesting you go down to the RSPCA and bring Mr Pickles home for dinner, but there are ways to detach and divide here to bring you all the benefits of a liberal diet. So, why would you ever want to change like this?

What are these benefits? I've mentioned it as a little rebellion and exploration but further to this, it's also a route to finding something you really love.

Take me and peanut butter for example. We're as thick as thieves now but had never even met before I came to university. Finally, it saves you masses of money. I love offal of all kinds. Full of iron and protein but as half the price of steak. It's healthy and cheap: what more could a student want? It might not go down well with my vegetarian housemate when I put the odd lamb's heart in the fridge, but I'm willing to look past this and I think more people should - for the money, health, life experience and for the chance that you might find something amazing. So yes, those retailers should not have ever lied about the contents of their food, but turning the negative around could lead to you discovering something you love. Go out there and embrace some new food.

You never know, it might just be the dog's bollocks.



George Wood

Companies should not be required to accommodate beyond the religious needs of their employees

**R**eligion has never walked hand in hand with the field of work. Globalisation and the cumulative effects of diversity, tolerance, and political secularisation have left religion in an awkward place when it comes to UK public debate, complicated further at a time when religious extremists gain a disproportionate hearing in the media and fail to represent the true values and ways of life of religious communities.

Using the workplace as an indicator, it is clear that there is an increasing pressure for faith to be privatised. But a seemingly breakthrough case was made recently when the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) ruled that rights of Nadia Eweida, a Christian British Airways employee who refused to stop wearing her cross at work, trumped the argument that it would affect her employer's public image.

Miss Eweida's victory makes it all too easy to paint companies as the villains when it comes to the right to express one's religion. But while I firmly believe that no one should be discriminated against on the basis of their religion, companies shouldn't have to accommodate beyond this. It should be noted that similar cases of claimed discrimina-



BRANDON SEAGER

tion presented to the ECHR were dismissed; Miss Eweida only won because it was deemed that a discreet cross would have no effect on the public image of British Airways. She didn't win on the assumption that she could freely express her religion at work.

In reality, the workplace is not a suitable arena for discussing the place of religion in society. I'd argue that wearing the cross is almost exclusively an expression of faith, and while I struggle to see how such a small piece of jewellery can affect a company's public image - and certainly the ECHR couldn't - I also struggle to see how it symbolises the right to religious freedom, when surely it is the actions of an individual that should represent Christian values rather than anything mate-

rial.

Conversely, I see the Islamic concept of hijab, or guarding one's modesty, as more than simply religious expression, and as potentially fundamental to one's faith. But I can also understand the potential difficulties that such a concept brings to the workplace, concerning safety or security.

To employers, these differences are inconsequential. Unfortunately, if a person feels they should be able to express their religion freely in spite of professional codes of conduct, or they feel that their religion dictates how they dress or act in public, then frankly they are not suited to certain workplace environments.

Employers aren't to blame here - the differences between religions

and interpretations within faiths makes the issue far more complex than what employers can handle.

If employers have to treat all employees the same, then everyone is entitled to equal rights. So companies are faced with an all-or-nothing approach for the code of conduct regarding religion. Either everyone can express their religion, or no one can.

The Queen may be both head of state and head of the Church of England, but regardless of such religious formalities in Britain, businesses here must operate outside of the context of religion.

Where we should be coming up with solutions to issues of religion in society is here, at university. The university environment is far more accommodating towards the differences between our values and beliefs than the workplace, and instead of trying to end issues in some legal fiasco, universities encourage such debate.

So now's the time to question how a belief in equal rights can still support the promotion of religious freedom, or the freedom to any particular freedom or way of life.

If we ignore these issues altogether, in the future we may find ourselves in the same position as Miss Eweida.

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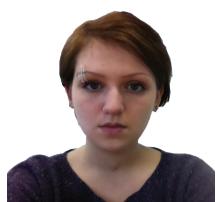
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## Comment



Sophie Miller

# You have no right to abuse your freedoms

Using a privileged platform to attack others does more harm than good

A few days ago, Julie Burchill, newspaper columnist and troll extraordinaire, wrote an article for *the Observer* that was quickly identified as a completely vile tirade of abuse and intolerance towards transgender people. Burchill's article was taken down, but later republished by Toby Young, fellow bastion of the commentariat, bridge dweller at *The Telegraph*, in a

**“Here at York, we love a good fight over freedom of speech”**

show of support for – you've guessed it – Burchill's “freedom of speech”.

Incidentally, this week also saw the legalisation of public insults, in an amendment to Section 5 of the Public Order Act 1986 - you're now free to legally insult each other. Congratulations, you may kiss the Crown Prosecution Service.

Now this interests me because, here at York, we love a good fight over freedom of speech. If I had a cookie for every time somebody has barked that Voltaire quote at me during my time at university, I'd be in a diabetic coma. Our excitement over this issue flared up again recently, with the argument over the now infamous 'Spotted: University

of York Library' page.

The page's creators stopped posting in response to accusations of sexual harassment. The ensuing furore involved a lot of shouting about people's right to freedom of speech having been violated, as well as some hilarious suggestions that we might be living in some kind of totalitarian state.

I would like to assure all the wannabe Bradley Mannings that our freedoms are perfectly intact, which I am actually demonstrating by writing a comment for a student newspaper.

What I would like to ask, however, is what exactly you intend to do with those freedoms that you fight so valiantly to preserve. Because, last time I checked, the right to freedom of speech is a valuable tool for calling authority into check and for ensuring that we are all free and able to live the way we want, so long as we don't pose harm to others. That seems to me like a pretty important right, and that's what I want to fight for. That's what Voltaire was willing to die for.

Fighting for the right to offend, insult, marginalise, and outrightly scare people who are less privileged than you is a somewhat less noble calling. George Orwell didn't write Winston Smith into existence to demonstrate the perils of being prevented from telling your opponent to get back in the kitchen, or

whatever is the misogynist joke du jour.

It is often observed that the people who screech about their freedoms being taken away when they are challenged on the internet are conspicuous by their absence at Amnesty International Meetings, campaigning against the incarceration of Pussy Riot, or the fact that far too often in everyday life we are still asked to define as either men or women, preventing many people from properly expressing their identities. These are freedom of speech issues and they are worth challenging.

**“What exactly do you intend to do with the freedom that you fight to preserve?”**

So yes, freedom-of-speakers, you do have the right to do those other things. You do have the right to call someone a “tranny”, or to publicly humiliate someone on a social network. But why would you want to? It's a cheap shot, it's not funny, and it doesn't make the world a better place.

Freedom of speech is a human right, but rights bring with them re-

sponsibilities. It's a right predicated on an equal platform for all voices - if you already have a significant platform because of, say, your gender, your ethnicity, your class status, or even your access to a column in a national newspaper, then using that platform to attack minorities is not a use of this freedom, it's an abuse of it.

Perhaps we should treat freedom of expression like the infra-red helicopter I got my dad for Christmas - it's brilliant, and everyone wants to use it, but it only works if it's used properly. Repeatedly fly in into Grandma, and you'll probably break it. And Grandma. If you care about your freedom of expression, the only way to preserve that freedom is to use it properly. Anyone wishing to defend their right to scare, upset or silence others is standing against the values of universal freedom of expression.

By silencing others like this, by ensuring that our university is not a safe place to express oneself, you are not supporting that freedom. You're only acting out of self-interest, ensuring freedom of speech for yourself, and those with the same privileges as you. You are devaluing, damaging and curtailing the value you claim to uphold. If we really find these freedoms to be as important as we say, why denigrate them by using them to mock the weak rather than challenge injustice?

## Topical Tweets from the Twittersphere



@sickipediabot  
sickipediabot

20 Jan

I was made to sit through Les Miserables last night. I still have no idea which one was Les, or why he was so unhappy.

20 Jan

@Mike4nstey  
Mike Anstey,  
ISA President



Do geography lecturers know they could literally be replaced with a detailed map?

@ArjunKharpal  
Arjun Kharpal  
Student at City University

15 Jan

I can't help but think that Cameron's speech on #Europe is going to leave the UK more confused than it already is #EUReferendum

14 Jan

@ByrneT0ff  
Thomas Byrne  
University of York Student



I will personally be campaigning for Inanimate Carbon Rod to be NUS President.

## Exposure doesn't pay

Rohan Banerjee

Deputy  
Comment  
Editor

**H**ow competitive the journalism industry is may fall short of breaking news, but it is not about how difficult it might be to get paid for your work, but rather, how easy it is to not be.

*The Huffington Post* (UK) now claims to have over 5000 registered freelance bloggers, of which over a third are aspiring student journalists, and all of which are unpaid. The publication markets itself as a “platform for anyone who wishes to use it”, while the similarly claimant Comment is Free section on *The Guardian* assures any wide-eyed optimists that “several of our bloggers have gone on to write commissioned articles for which they have been paid.”

But while it might be nice to name-drop and mention you've been published, I'm starting to wonder if this exposure should be viewed as any more than exploitation. In writing for these publications, you're doing them a service. And for what? A neat nonexistent income and an extra line on your CV.

The same goes for internships. Now, before you all start writing in to smugly inform me that your internship at *The Times* was paid and that you didn't have to make a single cup of tea – yes I am aware that

some of them do pay. However, the great majority of internships are unpaid and touted as an “educational cost that you'll be able to pay back later”. And the ones that do pay are usually afforded only to those privy to an inside contact.

What's worse is that newspa-

**“I'm starting to wonder if this exposure should be viewed as any more than exploitation”**

pers don't even need to promote these placements. We're ransacking every nook and cranny of the internet to uncover the editor's favourite TV show or even food, just for that ultimate reference in a covering letter.

Journalists aren't getting jobs without experience and interns aren't worth paying when we're so desperately prepared to do it for free.

So should we be calling for new legislation to force employers to pay out? Well actually, no, because what many people don't realise is that it

already exists.

The National Minimum Wage Act is quite clear that anyone who is performing work or offering services personally to an employer is entitled to the NMW. Whilst “work” is not strictly defined, it does condition that if “you do a placement that does not involve any work being performed, such as watching, listening and questioning, you are not entitled to the NMW.” By implication therefore, anything that involves completing set tasks for the benefit of an organisation counts as work and must legally be paid.

Certainly, it is disheartening when your efforts are not rewarded. Despite initially reveling in my “position” at *The Huffington Post*, the stark reality that I would not be paid, regardless of any quality writing I might produce, soon killed off the novelty of exposure.

But to radically change the current culture of misuse in journalism, it will take more than a few strong-headed would-be writers. The gusto should really come from the government, who ought to take a stronger position on the issue and crack down on those naughty papers and periodicals unscrupulously dodging employment laws.

Remember, exposure won't pay our student loans.

## License to Kill

Ex Special-Ops sniper, Damien Mander, explains how drone technology is taking the fight to ivory poachers.



### M22.

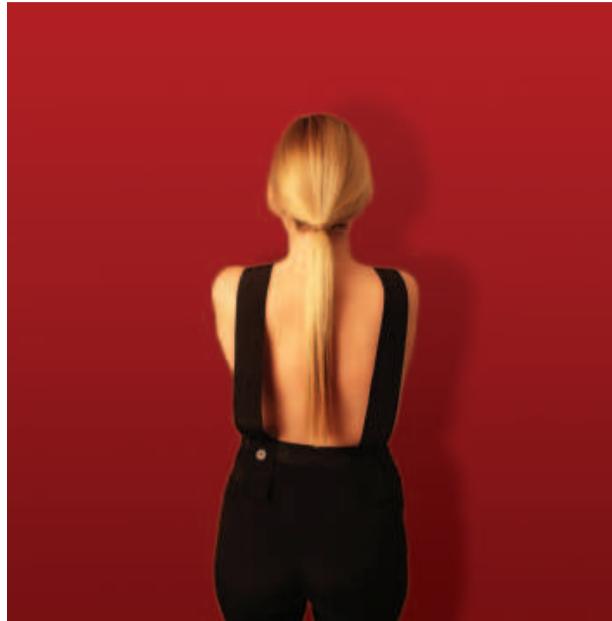
York student, Jack Martindale, having survived a near fatal car accident, explains why you're taking life too seriously.

### Film.

We give you the low-down on this year's Oscars nominations.

### Food and Drink.

Celeb chef Brian Turner talks brunch, and we reveal our top drinks for winter warmth.



**M12.** The Muse Shoot brings monochrome and colour together in a celebration of SS/13's arrival on the High Street.

**M22.** After a near fatal accident, **Jack Martin-dale** tells Tom Witherow why he is continuing from precisely where he left off.

**M14.** **Hamja Ahsan** is in a desperate battle to have his brother returned to the UK to face trial. He talks to Laura Hughes.

## Arts.

**M4.** Artistic director, **Neil McPherson** talks about his work at the Finborough Theatre and the future of fringe.

**M6.** Dali-lover, Ben Cross, explains the bizarrities of the **Surrealism** genre.

## Fashion.

**M8.** Fashion takes a look at the breaking trends of Summer-Spring 2013, and gives you some ideas for dressing for Burns Nights.

## Music.

**M16.** Sibling duo **Knox** talk to Chris Morris about weird genres and making music in the Facebook era.

**M17.** House sensation event **Milli Vanilli** comes under our spotlight.

## Film.

**M18.** Stephen Roberts takes us through the runners and riders for this year's Academy Awards.

## Food & Drink.

**M21.** **The Naked Baker** runs through the recipe for the weird yet wonderful Chocolate and Guinness Cake.

**M21.** Bronwyn O'Neill looks at the spicy jewels Tunisia has to offer with her Harissa Chicken.

## Image Credits.

Cover: Courtesy of IAPF

M3: Courtesy of Steve Redgrave

Cartoons (M2 & M24) : Brandon Seager

## Muzzy's Musings...

### Taxi Driver



With a bored drawl that draws all callers to be sure they're a chore,  
She paints each pained phrase with a taint of plain complaint.  
Mumbling the company name with disdain, as if with an aim to maim  
Her employers. Not so joyous, gives the line – six-five-nine.

In between swigs, sips and swills of not quite fine dry white wine  
And 'two for a fiver cider' we decide a time for the driver to arrive.  
'It's on its way' she says in the same grave voice of pale grey then fades.  
Six minutes, a missed call, we trip, fall and slip quick dipping out the door.

The driver's opening line sets the tone of downhill slope to decline,  
We descend the trend of conversation to end in a blend of odd summations,  
"So... lads, you're out to munch on badger?" - he slyly inquires,  
Sideways glances, a lack of answers, the guy's quite strange it transpires.

Late fifties, straight shifty he swiftly switches gear  
His best lines were 'too rich' to be tipped in here...  
But he slipped in "I once sipped a beer with Richard Gere,  
And I don't pull women since I trimmed me beard."

"My favourite films are Jurassic and them,  
And I proper vibe out to Classic FM,  
I go down Spain to be watching the birds,  
But not like Bill Oddie, I mean ones with the curves."

We arrive, and depart, this weird cab's survivors,  
Wave goodbye to that unique breed...York's taxi drivers.

## Steve Redgrave.

### 5 times Olympic gold medallist rower. Charity founder

The Olympics is about the youth of the world coming together to compete in sporting harmony. Because of the coverage the Olympics gets, and the wide range of sports that are on offer it does inspire people to try and compete at this level. Seeing top athletes compete and enjoying their activity also inspires people to be more active. Most won't become Olympians, but people still want to give it a go.

The volunteers have been recognised worldwide for being enthusiastic, friendly and are one of the differences that has made the London Olympics so special for everyone.

In 2016, cycling and sailing will probably be our top performing sports again. Equestrian and athletics will still be successful. Hopefully we can sort out our swimming sports to add to the success of our others. In rowing, we have a very strong team for both male and female categories, and for the next few years, I don't see this changing.

When you train day in day out for 11 years, 49 weeks a year, with a day off once every 3 weeks, for 2 to 4 training sessions a day, you are going to get very close or sick of the sight of each other! Rowing is a close knit team sport and it is likely to set up friendships which will last a lifetime.

Rowing has not been an elitist sport for a long time, but media-wise it still carries that stigma. But really, wherever there is a river or a lake that is rowable, there is a rowing club.

In four years time I can see our team still doing very well.



I hope that in 2020, Team GB can maintain the results that they are getting at the moment, but this does come down to finance. If we keep funding we will keep achieving. My gut feeling is that from 2016, public funding will reduce and our overall performance may deteriorate as a result.

I wish politics was outside sport. But unfortunately, once a fair amount of money is spent, it becomes political. Sport is very media friendly so political statements are easier to make when there is a media frenzy going on.

Most rowing clubs are at capacity with waiting lists. For some reason the sport of rowing, with its success at the Olympics, captured the im-

agination of the audience. We have World Championships every year, but this doesn't really attract the public's attention. We, as a sport, need to come up with solutions to help bring in new funding. Maybe new events to capture this imagination of spectators and rowers alike.

I find it difficult to do consistent exercise nowadays, but I am doing a fair amount of kayaking. I guess I'm still out in a boat, I'm just travelling the wrong way!

I have no regrets. Rowing requires a huge amount of commitment, but if I had my time over again, I would do the same, even if I was not so successful.

Interview by Fiona Parker

## The Lonely Smoker

### Rose Troup Buchanan

(shout out to the girl who left a pair of lacy knickers on the doorstep of next door. Classy bird.) The game 'Hungry Hippos' didn't go down particularly well either. Apparently hearing a ball kicked repeatedly against a wall, accompanied by barely articulated drunken slander, isn't the way he wants to spend his Tuesday evening (Who knew?). Another – and this one was just weird – gripe was that he could hear us running up and down the stairs. Not quite sure what he expected us to do about this; there was no way – however fun they look – that we were going to get a stair-master installed.

Not with smoking – obviously – but with why exactly I chose to live in this country and more specifically in York, where every year since starting here it has spouted white crap from the sky, reducing the entirety of this city to a comically picturesque death trap. I might worship at the shrine of Tilda Swinton, but unlike her, I don't have a dwarf to ferry me around in a furladen sledge. Neither do I have a wand. Both factors contribute to my foul temper around this time of year.

Personally, I blame January. There are exams; everyone's come back with some kind of idiotic statement about 'changing themselves', and campus appears to be covered in this white stuff. Although, if you read the rest of this paper you'd be forgiven for thinking it was rather more exciting powder, which does go some way to explaining why everyone looks so miserable at the moment. Even the ducks look pretty despondent, and they must get some laughs watching some truly depressing walks of shame shamble past early in the morning. Poor bastards. (The ducks – not the walks of shame.)

My comically miserable state is not helped by people who have either a) decided they like snow, b) decided that they are going to radically alter some part of themselves. I made friends with you because you didn't go to gym (and yes, you probably should go), you did smoke and drink too much, (yes, it is bad for you, and no, you didn't have that beer belly when you started uni) and you were committed to failing your life right alongside me (another grad scheme. Another grad scheme?!). You bastards. I thought we were friends.

My next door neighbour has also gotten involved with this. Previously this man, who bears a strong resemblance to Gollum and had a temperament to match, bore feelings towards my house that compares to members of the NRA's very publicly expressed sentiments regarding Piers Morgan. With the difference that his attempted eviction occurred in our sitting room rather than via the internet.

Admittedly Dave had a couple of valid points. We've had some friends round, which apparently doesn't endear us to the immediate neighbourhood



ARTS.

# On the Pulse of London

Award-winning artistic director **Neil McPherson** tells Jordie Licht about working at The Finborough, *Somersaults* and the future of fringe.

**N**eil McPherson is fringe theatre's Top Dog. Recently inaugurated into the Hospital Club 100, a shortlist of "the most influential, innovative and interesting people in the creative and media industries", McPherson's work has gained consistent acclaim. His HQ, The Finborough Theatre, is no less adorned. Since its opening in 1980, the theatre has won numerous awards, just this last year, winning London Theatre Reviews' The Empty Space Peter Brook Award 2012. The theatre can also boast helping to jumpstart the careers of many of the industry's big names including actress Rachel Weisz, as well as playwrights James Graham and Laura Wade (who rose to fame with her sell-out production *Posh*, and who recently gave a talk on campus). All this is pretty remarkable for a theatre that's entirely self-funded, off-West-End, and about the size of a large two-bedroom flat. But don't be fooled by its size; this matchstick-box theatre has one of the most exciting line-ups, encompassing everything from race relations in Leeds to homosexuality in the British army.

I spoke to Neil on his way home after a performance of *Somersaults*, one of the current productions at the theatre. Although now boasting 14 years' experience at the Finborough, Neil's directorial path wasn't always as set, as he began his early career acting, with notable appearances "dressed as a polar bear in front of 500 screaming children." Evidently, a change was needed, which propelled him towards directing, (which he admits, he initially "absolutely hated,") and eventually into the lap of the Finborough. It's just as well. As it quickly becomes clear Neil thrives on the unpredictable and versatile nature of his life at the small theatre, saying that, "the nice thing about the Finborough is if you get bored of reading plays you can go do the accounts, if you get bored of those you go do the painting, you get bored doing that you just 'box office' or clean the toilets...there isn't an average day... it's a little bit of everything."

With the task of filling 24 plays a year, Neil is surprisingly evasive when I ask him about his favourite types of work, as he exclaims "Eeeehhh no. Probably not. There are favourite playwrights and favourite plays, probably not one above all others." He is however, more specific about the type of work he doesn't want to see. In fact, he goes on to describe his feelings of virulent 'hatred' towards those plays which feature "the urban middle class twenty-something 'I'm in a flat, moaning that my life is meaningless, my parents promised me I was special, and my boyfriend's just left me' plays, coupled with child abuse in Act Two." Instead, for him it's about making "genuine discoveries and rediscoveries", which are realised in the theatre's practice of staging plays that are relatively new to the London scene, namely in that haven't been staged "within the last 25 years," with this being crucial to striking the right "balance between new writing and rediscoveries." On the topic of new writing, Neil



The Front of the Finborough Theatre

PHOTO CREDIT: ©MATTHEW TURNER, 2008

Richard Teverson and David Carlyle in *Somersaults*

PHOTO CREDIT: ©RICHARD WALKER



is demonstrably passionate, particularly with the use of the term 'young', instead preferring 'new', and reasoning that "the problem with the whole of British theatre is that it's all young. So let's say you're a new writer and you're starting out and your 25, it's practically impossible, if you're over 30 totally forget it, if you're over 40 you're having a laugh. Whereas *Pack* [a recent play at the Finborough] was written by a 52 year old housewife, and that was her first play. So we really strongly feel 'new' shouldn't mean just 'young'. It's about any age group and background whatever, without just being 'Royal Court-y', 'we only take you if you're 16-24' type of thing".

This talk brings us nicely to discuss *Somersaults*, one of the Finborough's current productions, which is unusual because of the play being partly performed in Gaelic. Neil is keen to stress the importance of this, particularly in relation to other language driven works, elaborating "it was very important to do that play...If you look at, say, the Globe's World Shakespeare Festival, they did every single language in the world practically, except Gaelic or Welsh or Irish or Manx or Breton or Cornish...you know, all of the indigenous languages of the British Isles didn't get a look in. And in London you never get it, I mean, the Welsh play practically sold out. We've got Hugh Edwards and the First Minister of Wales tweeting about it madly just because nobody ever does that, so from a political point of view we thought it was important to do it." And the Gaelic language isn't the half of it, *Somersaults* also plays with other

conventions with its inclusion of a 5 minute long drinking scene, and a rather raunchy sexual encounter. I wonder at this point if such boundary pushing is an exclusive luxury of Fringe theatre, and one which West End theatre is not privy to. Neil disagrees, citing the West End's very different nature as the reason for their avoidance of such risqué material, saying "I think you could do all that in the west end to be honest, they probably don't because the plays that have all that kind of stuff in them don't get to the west end, but I think you could do it." Something that's really striking about the Finborough is

such achievement is possible, to which Neil responds with characteristic gusto, saying "oh, well, you just do good plays! There's no magic tablet for it... you do that and you do it consistently. It's quite easy on the fringe to kind of have a huge big success and maybe keep that going for a year, but then reality kicks in and you start diluting it so why we've done well I think is because we manage to get to a level and keep it there."

And the Finborough certainly has. With a future line-up consisting of a play entirely in Welsh, to a play examining the life of women office workers in the 1930s, to a murder mystery involving two detectives – one Israeli, one Palestinian – working together to solve a murder case in the West Bank, the Finborough holds true to its claim to diversity and looks confident to win another wave of awards. Later this year, 'Vibrant', the Finborough Playwright Festival, will also celebrate its

5th year.

But it hasn't been easy. Being entirely self-funded means surviving on tight budgets, requires round-the-clock commitment, and a constant stream of interns. The pressure on small enterprises is perhaps symbolized by the fact that the pub below the theatre has just shut down. But, despite these upsets, somehow, life at the Finborough goes on as usual. Passing by the theatre, one has the distinct feeling that even if the building's foundations were to collapse beneath it, the Finborough would somehow still keep going. As

## "I hate the urban middle class twenty-something 'I'm in a flat, moaning that my life is meaningless, my parents promised me I was special, and my boyfriend's just left me' plays, coupled with child abuse in Act Two."

the intimacy of the space and the audience's proximity to actors, that you only really get in fringe theatre. The risks that the Fringe's actors and directors take are heightened by this intimacy, which is also picked up on by Neil, who remarks "if you get spat on by Dame Janet Suzman whilst she's taking her socks off and she's close enough to touch, you don't get that anywhere else."

The Finborough Theatre has won a plethora of awards, which might seem extraordinary for the small size and self-funded institute that it is. One wonders just how

**The Turner Prize turns it up a notch**

**Jordan Licht**

Critics applauded earlier this month as the prestigious £25,000 Turner Prize was presented to Elizabeth Price by none other than the celebrated art expert, Jude Law. Wait, what?! Yes, it seems we have run out of artists and must rely on famous actors to present the most acclaimed contemporary art award. Poor Jude probably had no idea what he was there for... But luckily, this publicity stunt is a pretentious facade to an otherwise worthy cause. This year's Turner Prize nominees are exciting, diverse practitioners, promising an eclectic 2013 brimming with creative overflow.

I was initially sceptical. In the first minute of watching Elizabeth Price's *Seductive* I felt slightly nauseous. I thought this is exactly why the Turner Prize has a reputation for being pretentious. But soon I was sucked in by the hypnotic clicking sounds, flashing lights and block lettering. *Seductive* is a video which fuses documentation of a 1979 church fire which killed 10 people with 60s pop videos to create a hypnotic experience, which is both captivating and sinister. It moves from "something that looks like a powerpoint lecture to something ...that feels like a cinematic melodrama". Price makes us consider the validity of multiple perspectives. At the same time, by "appropriating rhetorics of propaganda, qualities of cinema and advertising that are intended to persuade you", Price asks us to question the visual information we receive on a daily basis before we surrender to sensory appeal.

A world apart from Price's digital frenzy are Paul Noble's drawings. Huge and painstakingly drawn, they are a throwback to a time when artists still had decent attention spans. His process is intriguing: "My drawings begin with their title. The words are written in the centre of the page, the name then become a place... what was writing on a page becomes a building or a place on a pictorial plane." The places that emerge are surreal labyrinths of personal codes and symbolism. Some of the fruits of his subconscious are fascinating, some are a little less, like the recurring motif of 'organic forms' which look suspiciously phallic or just like piles of poo.

More interesting are Luke Fowler's series of photographs which juxtapose images of muted everyday scenes to create captivating, cinematic mini-narratives. Fowler uses modes of photography and film to make pieces that "try to understand the world around us". Intriguing too is his film discussing society's perceptions about schizophrenia put together from old archive footage from the 1970s.

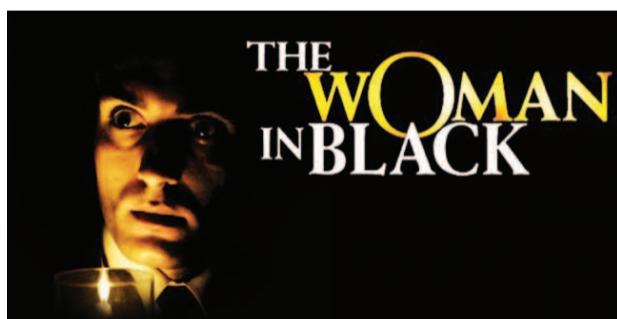
But by far the most exciting nominee is Spartacus Chetwynd. The rebel darling of the art world, Chetwynd's carnivalesque, eccentric, impulsive performances recall everything from medieval morality plays to pagan rituals. Entering the space covered in a tessellation of hastily assembled posters and ripped wallpaper, I felt like I'd entered a bizarre world where normal codes of conduct don't apply. Anything could happen at any moment. The space is composed of two stages, where live performance take place at regular intervals. I couldn't resist having a little dance when the coast was clear. It's this feeling of liberating fun which differentiates Chetwynd from the 60s performance artists by whom she is so clearly influenced. Rather than being driven by militant desire to break boundaries, her performances are powered by a sense of curiosity and experimentation. Fun for fun's sake!

## Get Your Fix

*The Woman in Black* by Stephen Mallatratt

**York Theatre Royal**

Highly acclaimed nerve-tearing drama



*The Quest for the Man on the White Donkey*  
by Yaakov Israel

**The Impressions Gallery, Bradford**

Photography documenting a journey through Israel

Now - 13th April, Free



*Divisions* by James Capper  
**Yorkshire Sculpture Park**  
Interactive outdoor sculptures  
Now - 14th April, Free

# The Movements: Surrealism

Ben Cross

Our York's current chill seems constant, toes cold and face chapped 'till exams come. Us indolent English students only have one annual set of exams, when the sun smirks at those forced inside.

How glad I was last year to leave York's frosted crunch-crisp air for the green vines, fine wines and hot, hot heat of Rome. Surprisingly, I didn't just spend my time basking in piazzas clutching a vino rosso. That's because I went to an exhibition of the mad and brilliant surrealist Salvador Dali.

To generalise any genre is tricky, particularly one like surrealism, typified by the unpredictable and categorised by its amorphous avoidance of a rigid format. But let me explain why I find Surrealism so exciting.



René Magritte, "La Trahison des images," 1928-29

Surrealism is a form encompassing the shocking, the surprising and the non-sequitous. Born in 1920s Paris, Surrealism has a beauty and brutality that is reflective of its painful roots in the anti-war movement of Dadaism. Although its famous legacy is that of visual art, its waves ripple deeper than this, affecting literature, music and film.

Both a product and an act of philosophy and politics for many of its practitioners,

Surrealism isn't confined to the arts. André Breton, the movement's father, described it as "the real functioning of thought. Dictation in the absence of all control exercised by reason, outside of all aesthetic and moral preoccupation. Surrealism is based on the belief... in the omnipotence of dream, in the disinterested play of thought."

Freud and the exploration of the subconscious, often attempted through spontaneity, essences much of surrealist work; this defines the fundamental difference between Dadaism and Surrealism.

The early 1930s was the decade when Surrealism entered the mainstream and its golden age. Exemplifying this, in 1931 numerous artists created revolutionary and memorable pieces, including: Dali's *The Persistence of Memory*, exhibiting his now trademark manner of liquefying objects, and Magritte's *La Voix des Airs*. Throughout the late '30s and



Salvador Dalí, *The Burning Giraffe*, 1933

into the '40s, Surrealism continued to flourish.

It wasn't until '66, when Breton died, that Surrealism as an organised movement was said to have ended, although Dali himself died in 1989.

Surrealism concepts will perpetually exist and interest. Consider surrealist influences on the master of colour, Rothko, and the movement he belongs to, abstract expressionism. In 2003 a collaborative film, now available on

Youtube, between Walt Disney and Dali entitled *Destino* was released.

For me, Surrealism is hilarious. Stumbling around the Dali exhibition sun-drunk and cackling, people must have thought me a little mad. From Monty Python's *Hells Grannies* to Noel Fielding's *Mighty Booshery*, comedy must give a thankful nod towards Surrealism. This movement still characteristically subverts and upsets the norm and should not be forgotten.

## Students and the Arts: Poetry Society

As I write, my laptop hums under the strain of programmes, layering a bright papier-mâché paste over the screen. iTunes plays an album released today, a sheaf of internet tabs born from whimsical interests flash neon delectables, a calendar shortcut bobs merrily in the corner, and several mysteriously lurking Word documents evoke a guilty reminder of incomplete work.

In a world that constantly buries you under a rainbow avalanche of media interaction, it is easy to forego the simpler pleasures. I explored the lulled respite of Poetry Soc, a society where the written word replace the wan glow of a screen.

There is a sometimes unavoidable issue with societies, that their close nature garners a cliquey gang comprised of students studying the same single subject, that which is most relevant for the society. This is not the case with Poetry Soc however, the Chair being a chemistry student. Having a mix of subjects helps to foster a more diverse response range.

Fielding and Lydia, Secretary and Treasurer respectively, speak passionately about the society's fruits.

F: We make a lot of effort to include all kinds of people. It's not for those who are interested in talking (making speeches) about it, you have to be engaged and have discussions. But I think that a lot of people, even those who aren't that interested in poetry, would enjoy it if they came along. It's an especially great place to learn about contemporary poetry, as most people probably haven't read much.

L: Conversations are never contrived, there's never this seminar-like pressure for you to say something really profound. It's a genuine response. It's an opportunity for you to be introduced to an environment where you can get across a powerful sensation of what poetry can mean to people.



F: It's really non-judgemental, you can bring anything you like. For example we encourage people to find spoken word poetry on Youtube.

L: By attending just a few sessions I feel I have a much greater knowledge about the scene and landscape of today's poetry, and what it can mean to people.

F: The other fun thing we do is play poetry games. Usually we concoct them and they become sporadically alive, or play our staple game of Poetry Consequences.

L: We play off each other's creative outbursts. Gone are the romantic days of port-smoothed candlelit readings of Byron; biscuits are now the choice aperitif, but the group's work has evolved considerably in recent times.

F: We picked up the mantle this time last year. It was pretty insular then, they didn't do much promotion outside the society, we wanted to expand and get more people involved.

Last term's 'Poems and Pints' event enjoyed great popularity. Students have a rare opportunity to read their poetry to a large but casual audience. There's another one in the pipeline, on top of poet Anthony Dunn's forthcoming February visit.

L: Fielding has had several poems published in Magma and Cake magazines, and Poetry Soc's last Chair has even had an entire collection published. Their meetings provide an exceptional soap box for student poets to test their work on a sympathetic audience.

Often people are afraid to write, or afraid to show people what they've written. Not to say that we don't have people who come in and just read what they've written... like me!

Interview by Tom Cox

## Portrait of an Author: Jane Austen

Jane Austen's 'darling child' celebrates its bicentenary. **Heather Stewart** uncovers the reasons for Austen's continuing popularity 200 years on.



**P**ride and Prejudice, one of Austen's most popular and arguably best-loved works, celebrates its bicentenary this January. So arises the question, why are we recognising this 200 year anniversary? What makes a novel, deeply rooted in a time of traditional nuclear families and gender restrictions, still relevant to us today: in a world of increasing diversity, and single-parent families?

The playful wit and social commentary of 19th Century Regency England are imperative to critical scholarly debate, contributing significantly to many of Austen fans' admiration, without, crucially, seeming anachronistic. As evidenced through the number of homages, film adaptations and abundance of sequels, there is undeniably something timeless about her writing.

Her plots still feature in many of the nation's favourite love stories and 'chic flicks' today - think *Bridget Jones' Diary*. The strength of this novel and its appeal must be partly derived from the happy ending, the perfect love story.

Still, *Pride and Prejudice* includes an awareness of hierarchical superiority, marital necessity, and the plight of the poor. Perhaps it is thus the realism, particularly with regards to the obstacles to love or happiness, which makes for a novel that is still relevant - explored afresh in *Bride and Prejudice* (2004) with the introduction of a cultural hurdle.

Austen also includes a variety of stereotypes - caricatures, even, that live amongst us in society today. We have the conceited Mr Darcy juxtaposed

with the benevolent Mr Bingley. Bingley respectively is man who is 'too nice', alongside the 'bad boy', Wickham. Elizabeth's passion is contrasted with Jane's seeming reserve. The affecting and occasionally disconsolate emotions evoked in the love story are interposed with comical Mrs Bennett and even Lady Catherine De Burgh - the archetypal villain.

If that wasn't enough, Mr Collins, the sycophantic skin-crawl inducing man, is depicted so vividly as to surely make him a contender for the least agreeable literary husband of all time. Essentially, what is revealed is Austen's greatest skill: the formation of believable, three-dimensional, and timeless characters.

Even the National Curriculum has failed to put off a generation of students from these books. True, there are many who aren't so enthusiastic and criticize Austen's sparse plot line in which 'nothing happens', but this does little to overpower the popular admiration for the author and her works.

It seems that Austen's works are here to stay. Celebrations have been organised across the country. The city of Bath is fully embracing its connection with her and her books by hosting a 'Readathon' on the 28th January in which celebrities, authors, politicians, and school children will read 10 minute excerpts of her text. 2013 also boasts a number of biographies as well as new editions of the novel.

Jane Austen 200 years later, lives on not only in legacy, but in the constant reinvention of her plot and the regeneration of her characters.

## Review: Is It Just Me?

Author: Miranda Hart  
Review: Rebecca Schofield

**M**iranda Hart has fast become a star of the British comedy scene. Capitalising on this success, Hart recently released her first autobiography: *Is It Just Me?* Far from a traditional autobiography, this is a romp through all those awkward moments that you just really hope don't happen to you (and normally they don't). From talk of her attempts to avoid awkwardness at posh parties by mimicking people more intelligent than her in a voice that suggests "don't get me started on that one" (ending in her shouting with shocked outrage "Where is the loo?") to discussions of meeting French and Saunders with a distinctly moist upper lip, reading this book will certainly not give you a blow by blow account of Hart's life but it will leave you with the feeling of had a good long chat with a close friend whose birthday you don't know but whose bra size you do.

Narrated (and illustrated) fondly by Hart to her teenage self, this is nostalgia in book form. Unfortunately, it's not faultless. Although the style of writing is so similar to her spoken comedy that it is impossible not to imagine her voice, it fails to translate successfully onto the page. Scenes which might be hilarious in her sitcom leave a feeling of a GCSE creative writing student, not an award winning comedian. That said, as light reading goes, it's sort of like a soothing cup of tea for the brain. Peppered with awkward checklists and missions for embarrassment, this is the sort of book that you can't put down and you're just not sure why. It holds a wealth of embarrassing moments you thought you'd forgotten, spun with the self deprecating wit that is so distinctive to Hart.

Although it might not leave you a changed



person, it provides a smile and the knowledge that there is someone in this world more awkward than you. Reassuring as a hug from your mum after you just face planted in front of the whole school, it will leave you cringing and giggling along, and if that's not what every student is looking for, then maybe it is just me!

## Review: The Horologicon

Author: Mark Forsyth  
Review: Poppy Bullard

There has previously only been one witty, loquacious and articulate wordsmith. But Stephen Fry, I'm afraid you shall have to eat your heart out. And when you're eating it you should do so in the cenacle, you mustn't be anything but a halalcor and if you're hosting, for goodness sake, don't get bumpsy. Mark Forsyth's latest endeavour into the world of etymological abnormalities presents us with *The Horologicon*, a book entirely devoted to unearthing the long forgotten, widely-unused, and just plain weird words for the mundane and quotidian.

Rather than format his lexicographical pursuits in a dictionary-thesaurus setting, as many of his predecessors have, Forsyth creates a linear pseudo-narrative whereby his treasure trove of words are all given a context. The book tracks the progress of a generic day, so generic that narrator, characters and plot are dispensed of. Only the words and their definitions create even a sense of temporal shift. It is a stroke of structural genius, to ensure each word is placed in its correct situation.

It is, however, not a book to be ploughed through like an ox, with the intention of self-improvement and instant gratification. Attempting to read this book in chunks of more than 10 pages is to drown yourself in words. No, this book is written to be savoured. As Forsyth notes in his introduction: he is not responsible for any madness that would ensue should the book be



pursued from cover to cover without a break. Thankfully, for those sensible, cautionary, mental-health-aware readers, Forsyth's explanatory voice subtly guides and aids the reader through the linguistic journey and provides a witty commentary alongside the words themselves.

The book is well researched. It is unashamedly broad-reaching in its diversity and free from the manacles of a specifically historical or social book. Forsyth has drawn evidence from sources as wide-ranging as *A Classical Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue* and *The Dictionary of Obsolete and Provincial English*. This multi-background referencing avoids the book becoming a tool for research. In fact, the menagerie of sources enhances the evident joy Forsyth takes in the sheer playfulness of words. His delight means it can be enjoyed for what it is: a wholeheartedly frivolous endeavour, but a nevertheless enjoyable one.

## Horologiconic Lexicon

All fans of reading, literature and words will understand perfectly the sense of accomplishment that comes with producing a Word document free from the red and green squiggles that symbolise the condemnation of spelling and grammar. This next section, then, is a hideous literary paradox. The sumptuous words will simultaneously tantalise your etymological taste buds whilst engendering that overriding, gut-wrenching need to hit right click, ignore. Here are just a few of the words from the fabulously rare and deliciously specific lexicon of Mark Forsyth:

**Snollygoster** - A dishonest and unreliable politician. This sublimely eloquent word will solve all of your political angst. Just as Boris Johnson can be seen shouting "OIKS!" from his eponymous bike, so you too can be seen to shout back: "where are my taxes you snollygoster!" (or something equally ignorant).

**Whiffler** - 'a body of attendants armed with a javelin, battle axe, sword or staff, wearing a chain, employed to keep the way clear for procession'. Never before can your short trip to campus hold such potential. It may be worth while to exploit freshers in order to minimise cost (we are, of course, only students).

**Earnder** - a good old Yorkshire saying for a morning drinking session. Never more will you be harassed by well meaning tutors when you appear at 9.15 on a Thursday morning reeking of Tropical VK. Simply explain that there has been a misunderstanding, and that you have actually been attending your regular, weekly 'earnder' - possibly the addition of a pious tone might legitimise this claim somewhat.

**Ultracrepidarianism** - the act of giving opinions on a subject you know nothing about. Actually, this may be a synonym for 'degree'...

**A Parliament of Smokers** - none of these words are in any way particularly interesting, but Forsyth also dabbles in collectives. This collective for smokers is evocative of a hardened group of fume-gallants (a really excellent word for 'smoker'), who use their illicit fag breaks as an excuse to set the world to light. No, wait, set the world to rights.

## FASHION.

# Men's Fashion Week



## TREND: ORANGE

Orange was a big trend last Autumn/Winter, and it's back again this year. 'Safety orange', or 'inmate orange' as some have called it, was seen everywhere from Rake to Jonathan Saunders. Topman Design went for full impact orange with a head to toe vibrant orange ensemble. Obviously Topman Design's look is not for everyone; wearing orange from your scarf to your socks and shoes isn't really suitable for a seminar, nor the supermarket shop, or many events for that matter, (apart from Halloween, perhaps). However, don't worry, you can still be on trend without having to wear an outfit that makes you look like a pumpkin. Many designers showed us how to work the trend cheaply and simply. E. Tautz showed orange socks. Oliver Spencer provided a pop of colour to his collection with orange accessories, a peek of an orange jumper under a shearling coat, and some brilliant burnt orange hold-alls. Frida Giannini at Gucci also let orange provide an accent to her collection with a fabulous orange jumper - I think every man's wardrobe should include one. It wasn't just single colour pieces, Jonathan Saunders, 'King of Colour', showed colour blocked coats in gradients from black to taupe to deep orange. With easy to wear items like Rake's orange trousers and Richard Nicoll's neon beanies, the orange trend is sure to hit the high street in a big way. *Francesca Butcher*

RICHARD NICOLL  
AW13



## TREND: "GIRLFRIEND DRESSING"

We girls love our fashion, dressing up, donning frills and wearing some floral ensemble and it seems men are now following in our footsteps. Designers such as J.W. Anderson, Christopher Kane and Katie Eary all adopted the trend dubbed 'girlfriend dressing'. These designers are taking inspiration from the ladies in their lives, or rather their womenswear collections, and feeding them into their menswear offerings. Prior to Eary's runway show I don't think many of us could believe that fuchsia flowers could adopt a dark undertone; let alone be a masculine statement. But incorporate sharp, stern cut shoulders, the occasional black leather sleeve and a flash of vampire fang and you have the winning combination of boys in petals and looking pleasing. Kane's incorporation of the 'Girlfriend trend' opposes that of Anderson's obvious feminine touch. He uses the style of women in his new collection but avoids obvious cuts. They are on a literal no-frills basics: the t-shirt, the sweatshirt, the peacoat, the bomber jacket, the skinny jeans. His new 'mensline' looks use the same decorative motifs as the women's collection, from leopard print to Frankenstein images. Anderson's man is masculine despite the frills. He has created a beautiful body with the pinched crewneck sweaters and ruffled knickerbockers. But perhaps don't expect to see them down the local pub... *Rachel Thompson*

CHECK OUT MORE  
OF OUR TREND  
REPORTS ONLINE  
[@NOUSE.CO.UK](http://NOUSE.CO.UK)

## Bird on the Wing

Agatha Torrance talks to model

**Jacob Mallinson Bird** about the thrills, spills, and celebrity encounters of MFW.

**AT: What was your favourite show to walk in and why?**

**JB:** Definitely the Raf Simons show in Paris. I've always been a huge fan of the brand, and of Raf's work in general, so to be a part of the show was phenomenal. The clothes were beautiful, and the styling/hair/makeup was impeccably conceived and executed. It really was a dream job. Plus, Kanye West was sitting in the front row, which is always exciting!

**AT: What were the most difficult pieces to walk in?**

**JB:** Most difficult piece to walk in this season was a mask that I wore for Craig Green in London. My mask was essentially a jagged plank of wood, with pinpricks around the eyes so you could at least see something. I had basically no peripheral vision, which was just a little disconcerting... But, it did look amazing. My mask was one of the easier ones though - other boys had these huge 3 foot by 3 foot jagged structures over them. They were really stunning.

**AT: Which was your favourite collection of this season and why?**

**JB:** I'm not sure if I really have a favourite. My personal style is quite changeable, so there are quite a few that I like. Obviously, as I've said, the Raf Simons collection was beautiful, and I'm already saving for

some pieces. The Rick Owens collection was also brilliant, and the show had a really great atmosphere. The jewellery and accessories from John Lawrence Sullivan were some of my favourites, with these large statement pieces with geometric shapes and designs. Louis Vuitton had some stunning fur outerwear, as ever. But, I think my personal must-have/most covetable item is the Valentino cape - I'd die for it!

**AT: What was the most surreal moment?**

**JB:** The whole thing is quite surreal! But I think the most surreal moment this year was in Milan at the Calvin Klein party. I was waiting for a friend of mine to come out of the bathroom, when I saw this blonde girl from the back, wearing an amazing Calvin Klein dress. I tapped her on the shoulder to compliment her, and when she turned round I saw that it was Ellie Goulding. Somehow I managed to quell the fangirl within and we had a nice chat about London. Then at the end of the night she came over and said goodbye to me. SO surreal! She even follows me on Twitter now!

**AT: Anything you didn't expect from the week?**

**JB:** I really didn't anticipate how stressful and tiring it would be. You're running around all day, queuing for hours on end for a 5 minute casting, and you might start at 8am and finish at 2 or 3am. But it's still fun because you're excited, and get to meet all these amazing people, and you're with your friends - and the glamorous side is there as a reward afterwards.

**AT: Will you be returning to Fashion Week next season?**

**JB:** Definitely! This season I did London, Paris, and Milan, and I plan to do the same next season, if it sits well with university. Because university is such a time commitment it's hard for me to do lots of editorial during the year, but luckily fashion week fits nicely into my vacation time. Plus, it means I get to see model friends who live abroad, so even if work goes badly during FW you're still with all your friends.



# Dressing for... Burns Night



VIVIENNE  
WESTWOOD  
SS11



VIVIENNE  
WESTWOOD  
RED TROUSERS,  
£350.

If you spent a large portion of year 11 laboriously pouring over the works of Robert Burns as I did, then you might not feel particularly enthusiastic at the thought of celebrating any thing to do with him. Burns Night however, is fast approaching, and even if you aren't one for munching on minced sheep's pluck (don't look that up if you are intending to have haggis) or reeling, it's still an excuse for whisky and dressing to make 'the hearts o'men (and women)adore thee'.

With temperature highs of zero, wearing a kilt might prove fatal for anyone brought up south of the border. However, Derbyshire's own tartan

queen, Vivienne Westwood, offers up a Summer Tartan treat in the form of low crotched trousers, which should see you through into next season effortlessly and with your genitals still intact. In the rather likely event of the student loan not stretching to £350, despair not. Bizarrely, Nike has some great chequered numbers, and Jigsaw currently boasts herringbone tartan shorts in royal blue and peat (it'll take a lot of Scotch to stop your knees from shaking with cold but that's your shout). Of course tartan is a pretty ostentatious pattern to pull off - even if it is only for one day, so if walking around in pattern pants has you feeling like Rupert Bear, perhaps a dash

of tartan is all you need. Hackett has some great chequered ties, from standard red tartan to a pink summer plaid.

For bonnie lasses however, you might want to channel the country's 'fashion icon' Kate Middleton who last term went for head-to-toe McQueen tartan on a visit to her old prep school. For mere mortals however, ASOS offers a real plethora of tartan items, including magnificent chequered wide legged trousers with matching peplum top - more is more as some people say.

If one night just isn't enough to showcase your best plaid pieces, you might want to pop along to York's very own Caledonian Society. But remember, all things Scottish aside, there's always an occasion for bringing out the tartan, and that's Pub Golf.

*Miranda Larbi*



ASOS PEPLUM TOP, £30.



HACKETT TIE, £45.

## Nail Biting Stuff

January is a month of broken promises. Those of us who publicly renounced our lives of excessive hedonism on J-1, have already been found stumbling home from the Willow - Oki's in one hand, fag in the other and reeking of Vodkat. That's fine - resolutions are made to be broken and in this temperature you'd have to be crazy not to don the beer jacket when leaving the house (I mean after dark, obviously) and resort to hot carbs like there's no tomorrow. But there is one truly horrid habit that really deserves to be kicked with immediate effect, and that is nail-biting. Eyes may be the window to the soul but nails are mirrors of one's mental and physical health, so you might want to try keeping them in a reasonable condition. Fear not, however - if being under the weekly seminar spotlight sends you into frantic fits of gnawing or you're simply a prisoner to a lifelong habit, help is at hand (quite literally). 2013 is the year to finally say adios to neurotic-looking nails and hello to pretty fingers.



SALLY HANSEN MIRACLE NAIL THICKENER, £11

The first step is to make it more difficult to get your teeth through your fingernails. This calcium and ceramic gel instantly seals weak, thin nails, protecting them against splitting and breaking. Filling in any ridges, nails will look smooth and healthy, hopefully to the extent that you won't want to ruin the effect. Apply daily for up to four days for ridiculously robust talons.



CIATE PAINT POT IN BUTTERSCOTCH £9

Ciate's nail varnishes are probably the best I've ever used. After a week of bashing my fingers against double bass strings and rowing oars, my nails remained unchipped and shiny. This shimmering butterscotch beige is subtle enough to avoid bringing too much attention to fledgling nails yet it's so pretty that you'll be admiring your fingers at every given chance.



NAIL ROCK 'ROCK BOOK' £9.99

So after a few weeks of applying hardcore thickening conditioner to your nails, they've grown back to a reasonable size and stronger than stone and it's time to show them off. This Nail Rock pack includes three rather outrageous wrap designs - Tribal Gold, Jade Quail and Seeing Spots Red, which are guaranteed to get you an endless series of compliments. Dead easy to apply, they'll last for up to ten days. *Miranda Larbi*



## Rollercoaster Fashion Year

The flurry of Men's Fashion Week heralds the latest cycle of 2013 Fashion Weeks across the globe, and London's offerings didn't disappoint. Whilst the emerging British talent from the likes of Topman Design and JW Anderson aren't quite on a par with the New York, Paris and Milan powerhouses (yet), London is looking hot on their heels. Looking back on the ups and downs of British Fashion, 2012 was a bit of a rollercoaster to say the least.

2012 dawned bright in London, but the initial high of LFW was soon overshadowed by Olympic fever. Way back in February 2012, the Autumn/Winter shows set the fashion commentators abuzz with talk of how London was finally entering the same league as the Big Three. Hotly tipped talents such as Christopher Kane sparked in the limelight, and Alexander McQueen showed again on British soil for the first time in years.

However, this positive mood soon dissipated in the face of the backlash against the now infamous 'fashion section' of the Olympics closing ceremony. Journalists and Internet commentators alike rushed to slam the decision to include one of the UK's leading industries in the show. What should have been a celebration of our country's new design



talent turned into a mean-spirited diatribe against the models in comparison to athletes.

People seemed to feel the 'positive' body image of the latter category alone should belong in the spotlight. Whilst it's true the fashion industry still has serious issues with underage and underweight models, the sports sector should perhaps concentrate on their own problems - the recent doping scandals being a good example. The models in question were positively mature for their job, and it was as much about the clothes and what they stood for as it was about the iconic faces of Moss et al. Sadly, this message was lost in the furore and left those with a deep love for fashion and an antipathy for sport, feeling a bit like being the last picked for the team (again).

By September, the UK seemed spent by the double whack of Olympic and Jubilee festivities, and LFW Spring/Summer 2013 faded into the background. New York and Milan hogged the attention and trend forecasters passed over the London catwalk offerings. But all is not lost - 2013 is shaping up to get British fashion back on track and back on the map.

The decision to include Stella McCartney in the New Years' Honours list was an incredibly positive start. Awarding her an OBE, alongside sporting talents such as Bradley Wiggins and Jessica Ennis, was a tacit acknowledgement of the substantial role her team of designers played in collaborating with Adidas to create over five hundred pieces of stylish and functional sportswear.

With LFW Autumn/Winter 2013 just around the corner in mid-February, I sincerely hope that the British fashion scene can recapture some of the hype that was generated last year.

All the positive signs are there; The British Fashion Council have named their NEWGEN Winners, and having seen their previous offerings it would be criminal if they didn't achieve the attention they deserve.

I attended J. JS Lee's presentation in September and her collections streamlined use of a minimalist colour palette is already having an impact on the high street. On the catwalk J. W. Anderson and Simone Rocha are safe bets, without compromising on the potential of original and inspiring designs. The BFC have a knack for cherry picking the best of this country's new talent and raising them higher, hopefully their choices can only propel British fashion further into the forefront of this global industry.



# License to Kill

With demand for ivory in Asia booming, rhinos have never been so vulnerable. Damien Mander talks to Bella Foxwell about hunting poachers with the latest drone technology.

**O**n 5th January a family of 12 elephants were gunned down before their tusks were hacked off by a group of ruthless poachers armed with automatic rifles and machetes. This incident, which took place in Kenya, is the worst single loss on record for 30 years. But sadly, it isn't unusual.

We are all familiar with the adverts on television, pleading for donations towards anti-poaching campaigns, but they wash over most of us; a few fleeting moments of guilt and shock are soon forgotten. This is what is at stake. There will no longer be elephants or rhinos if poaching continues at its current level. The battle is raging more fiercely than ever and it's easy to forget that poaching is still rife in certain parts of the world, with China seizing a total amount of 41,095.5kg of ivory in the period from 1989-2011.

Damien Mander is the founder of the International Anti-Poaching Foundation (IAPF). "The illegal trafficking of wildlife is one of the world's largest criminal industries. Hillary Clinton told us this recently prior to dedicating only \$100,000 from the US to fight this. This is a joke - how does this compare to their efforts in fighting drugs?" The IAPF is an organisation that is training rangers, implementing new technology and tactics, and educating children and communities all in a bid to help bring a stop to poaching.

Prior to setting up the IAPF, Damien served in the Australian military Special Operations unit as a sniper. Upon completion of his military service, he then trained police with a private military organisation in Iraq for three years. After returning home to Australia, Damien decided to travel around Africa. That was when he realised what he wanted to do with his life.

"I arrived in Africa at the beginning of 2009, aged 29. It was in Zimbabwe where the purpose of my journey through life hit home. I was face-to-face with the harsh reality of rangers on the front line, with little resources, trying to defend a global treasure from a determined enemy. It was not something I could ever turn my back on. I gritted my teeth, liquidated my assets and set up the International Anti-Poaching Foundation." This was a far harder commitment than the army, where Damien was well paid and had a handful of militaries behind him, as opposed to having to beg, borrow and steal equipment to use for conservation that most militaries phased out decades ago.

Among the wildlife that Damien is fighting to protect is the Rhino, and IAPF has an interesting way of trying to protect these creatures: dehorning. The idea behind dehorning is to take away the value of the horn in a desperate effort to protect the rhino, and place them in a secure vault. With less than 2,500 now left in the world, the situation is desperate. De-horned animals are still killed by poachers out of spite, however their chances of survival are far greater without the horn. "The rhino will feel no pain because it's the same as clipping a toenail or cutting hair, and it will grow back. So every three years, we have to recut that rhino horn. They feel no pain whatsoever. Rhinos do use the horn to defend their young, particularly the black rhinos who use it to push through the thick scrub. But when you look at the alternatives as to whether you cut that horn off or not, until we have better funding for better training and equipment for our people, these sort of solutions, as radical as they may seem, are the only ways we are going to give these rhinos a level of protection" explains Damien.

The reasons for poaching are numerous. In certain South African provinces, elephants are considered vermin and locals believe that poachers are doing them a great justice when their crops are raided or loved ones are killed by getting too close. Another reason is that rangers are given orders from those at the very top of organised crime syndicates who want ivory to sell on the black market. Above all though, the major obstacle to wiping out poaching altogether is Asia's desire for the mystical powers of the horns, which is embedded in their culture. The Rhino's horn is hugely sought-after because of its alleged healing powers. It sells on the streets of Vietnam for vast amounts and with this country being the hotspot destination in the Far East for rhino horn trade, it doesn't look like the desire for this item - fuelled by cultural heritage, economic growth, social status and the need to cure disease - will slow down anytime soon.

After setting up IAPF, Damien headed to Vietnam to investigate the history of Traditional Vietnamese Medicine and the cultural beliefs. Damien explains how he met with Stan Gunn, CEO of Vietnam's largest media company. We spoke at length about the use of traditional medicine and the millennia long culture, which is almost set in concrete. He said a well-structured country-wide campaign against the use of rhino horn would cost in the vicinity of 40-50 million US dollars annually. "Do you think spending the same amount in the UK could convince Manchester United supporters to become Manchester City supporters?" The answer was obvious. He went on to highlight, "This is not just thousands of years worth of culture, this is thousands of years of ingrained DNA we are talking about and no amount of Western-based media cam-



**"We no longer live in a society, we live in an economy"**



ALL PHOTOGRAPHS SUPPLIED BY DAMIEN MANDER

paigns would alter this. Asians just have different cultures and norms to Westerners and find our concerns about the preservation of wild animals curious and funny. To most Asians, wild animals simply represent food, medicine and money."

With this in mind, I asked Damien if he thought that the recent Memorandum of Understanding between South Africa and Vietnam to improve cooperation between the two states on biodiversity conservation and protection, including tackling illegal wildlife trafficking, would make a difference: "It's great that they are thinking along those lines and it is being discussed in a public forum but Vietnam is not a conservation focused country and I don't think the ministry on their side will get the support it needs." If Asians express little compassion for captive animals in their own countries – visit a Vietnamese market and you will see the ubiquitous caged hen ready for on-the-spot slaughter – then why would they care about a rhino's welfare on the other side of the planet? "At the end of my travels I realised that it is not just the Asians directly killing the rhino. They are happy to take the horn from animals dead or alive, wild or domestic. The rhino is being killed by people that sit behind desks on the other side of the world, who decide that wildlife managers in Africa cannot utilise their own natural resources sustainably. They are fuelled by Facebook petitions signed by people who have never seen a rhino – sold on a one-liner about how things need to be done on the ground."

For landowners in South Africa, the reality is that if they cannot utilise rhinos to attract tourists then the animal is useless to them. Selling the rhino would bring great profit and therefore it is a constant target when living in a protected park. "Anti-poaching units can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars a year. Where is this money supposed to come from?" Damien asks. "Without sufficient protection, a landowner holding ten rhinos may lose two or three a year. However, with the harvesting of just one horn each year at the current market value, the landowner can now invest what is needed into anti-poaching efforts and reduce the threat to the population. With the harvesting of just three horns annually, they can buy more land and breed more rhino, and overall, protect more biodiversity."

Aiding Damien in his efforts are drones, which allow IAPF to have their eyes on the target, to see things out in front of them and in places that they don't have the resources to get to on foot. Before, the team would spend hours walking around waiting to bump into something whereas now, with thanks to the drones, they are provided with day or night aerial intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition, and reconnaissance. "Real-time intelligence is everything in an operational environment. Having this far exceeds locating a two-day old footprint, or worse still, the mutilated carcass of an animal. Having the resources to follow up on intelligence is critical too. If we can cover with a drone in a few hours what a ground team covers in a week then why not extract some of the rangers from the field. They can then be trained as a specialist reaction unit and on constant standby to respond to real-time intelligence."

Having witnessed first hand, through experiments and trial runs, how hugely beneficial these drones are to the anti-poaching cause, Damien now wants a full time drone with a long-range capability. "I envisage a drone, with a 20-hour endurance, flying endless grids across the Reserve – the 'unblinking eye.' Live feedback is channelled through computer recognition software, which is programmed to alert staff of any incursions. This type of capability will cost around \$130,000 and many will argue that the money could be much better spent in other places. I couldn't think of a more worthy place. But I'm biased. Now imagine the capabilities of this technology injected into the Rhino Wars raging further South." Damien told me that by the end of 2013, he hopes to be deploying affordable, military grade UAVs: Unmanned Aerial Vehicles that routinely patrol the skies anywhere the USA has an interest in.

Damien's final words express his unconditional affinity with the anti-poaching cause and how desperately he wants to open our eyes to the very real threat these animals that we share the planet with, are facing. "I'm often asked how I can focus so hard on protecting animals when there are people suffering around the world. I ask them if they would have more of a problem with a dog digging up their flower bed, or a terrorist launching a chemical attack in their city centre. Both are at about the extreme levels of what animals and humans are intentionally capable of doing to really upset your day. Over the past few years I have really started to struggle on a personal level with the way things are unfolding on a global scale. We now share a planet with seven billion other people, all fighting hard each day for a better job, to build a grander house and drive a faster car. We spend each waking moment to advance, to grow bigger, faster and stronger. We spend more protecting our own species than anything else on the planet. We no longer live in a society; we live in an economy. In the short-sightedness of our quest to advance, we have foolishly pushed ourselves to a point where we are scrambling for solutions. We need to decide what is important and then make decisions that matter. We are doing our best to hold back the tide of human encroachment, the unbalanced challenge between dwindling wilderness areas and rapidly increasing human populations. If we all don't begin to respect this planet, and I mean whole-

# MONOCHROME .

Black and white. Expect little else this Spring/Summer according to Roland Mouret. White has always been a summer staple, but this season saw head to toe white looks opening shows from Jil Sander to Roberto Cavalli. White was taken all the way from minimal to graphic with Marc Jacobs and Louis Vuitton, who lead the pack with monochrome checks and stripes.

Wintry winds and snowy fields mean that we're feeling a little more woolly jumper than frilly dress (and in an all-white outfit you might just look like you're wearing arctic camouflage!). But, beware, black and white is hitting the shops now and can be pulled off all year round. Don't end up in a grey area this Spring and Summer, be bold and grab some monochrome now.



Dress, £19.99, H&M. Sunglasses and Jewellery, model's own.



Creative Director: Francesca Butcher, Photographer: Agatha Torrance, Model: Phoebe Reith, Video: Hoagy Davis-Digges, Hair: Bang Hair, York, Make Up: Benefit at Boots, York.

Above: Playsuit, £70, T-Shirt, £18, both Topshop. Shoes, £29.99, ZARA. Bag, £139, Cambridge Satchel Company at ASOS. Jewellery, model's own.

Below Left to right: Black Coat, £89, M&S. Playsuit, £60, Sunglasses £16, both Topshop. Shoes, £29.99, ZARA. Necklace, £7.99, H&M. Jacket, £35, M&S. Shirt, £39.99, ZARA. Jewellery, model's own.



Check out [www.nouse.co.uk](http://www.nouse.co.uk)  
for behind the scenes  
footage of the shoot

## Hamja Ahsan talks to Laura

Hughes about his family's fight to have Talha, his brother, tried under British law and his fears over the long-term consequences of prolonged isolation.

**S**yed Talha Ahsan is a British citizen. He has served the equivalent of a twelve year prison sentence without trial. Despite suffering from Asperger's Syndrome, he is a Platinum Koestler Award winning poet and translator. In pretrial solitary confinement in a Supermax security prison in Connecticut, his work continues to be projected across what he thought was his home.

Talha was arrested on 19 July 2006 without *prima facie* evidence. The British arrest was a response to a request from the USA under the 2003 Extradition Act. On 6 October 2012, Talha was extradited to the United States where he pleaded not guilty of conspiracy to support terrorists in Afghanistan and Chechnya. He is accused of involvement with a series of Azzam websites, which have been denounced by authorities as part of a conspiracy to provide material support and communication links to people engaged in terrorism. One of these websites was located on a server in the United States.

He has never been arrested or questioned by British police, despite a number of men being so from his local area in December 2003 for similar allegations, all of whom were released without charge. Talha will stand trial in America on terrorism-related offences; if convicted he will spend 70 years in supermax solitary confinement.

Hamja Ahsan, Talha's brother, has subsequently dedicated his life to the fight against his brother's extradition. I wanted to know about the man who had perhaps been lost in his Government's war on terror. "He was ironically concerned with civil liberties' erosions himself, and campaigned for the British Guantanamo bay detainees and against torture, illegal detention years before it was fashionable and mainstream - as well as the Babar Ahmad extradition, attending a demo at Royal Courts of Justice - just imminently prior to his own arrest."

"He remained concerned about other British injustices such as deaths in Hillsborough, the police custody campaign, right until his own extradition in his family prison conversations at visits. He had a job interview to be a librarian on the day of his arrest, and that is the type of person he is, he still talks of his imaginary PhDs he would like to do. He gained a 1st class degree in Arabic at SOAS whilst teaching himself the language from a book at the age of 16."

How did he respond to the US allegations and US indictment against his brother? "The US indictment from the state of Connecticut concerns allegations from 1997 - 2004 relating to an obsolete website (obsolete since 2001 in US servers and 2002 in UK/Asia servers) and a London-based publishing house concerned with conflicts in the Bosnia, Chechen independence and the Afghan Islamic Emirate government with assorted articles on Iraq sanctions, Palestine and Dagestan. Whilst claiming to be an independent news service about foreign and historical Mujahideen - the US indictment alleges "conspiracy to material support" and "aiding and abetting".

The "aiding and abetting" concerns the distribution of a video in Bosnia which has already been cleared by a British anti-terrorism judge as a historical document and not terrorist material. "Unfortunately, precedent in British law doesn't apply in US cases. The use of pseudo-experts, such as the notorious Evan Kohlmann, a terrorism expert who doesn't even speak or read Arabic, inflates claims that it is used by US prosecutors. It means a US judge may look at the same facts differently. Talha denies all charges and simply said, put me on trial in the UK for the six years of my detention without trial or *prima facie* evidence."

Why did Hamja believe the Statutory appeal to the High Court of England and Wales was rejected, alongside the claim

# Extradite me...



...I'm  
British

**Below:** Talha was placed amongst some of the world's most wanted men, including, on the far right, Abu Hamza. **Bottom:** Theresa May fought for Gary McKinnon's appeal against extradition, and Talha and Hamja with their father.



## “Every time he calls from a US Supermax prison, our family huddle together in a room, and it’s as if time stops still.”

for a judicial review against the DPS in 2008, and then at the appeal to the House of Lords in May 2009? “The US-UK Extradition treaty of 2003 was part of the reckless authoritarian legislation done - eroding cornerstone civil rights such as habeas corpus and the presumption of innocence - under David Blunkett and the Blair-Bush partnership. It removed the requirement of *prima facie* evidence from the previous extradition, which had previously saved Lotfi Raissi, the Algerian pilot falsely accused of training 9/11 hijackers. He has since been paid £2 million in compensation from the Home Office.”

Hamja's campaign entitled, “British Justice for British Citizens”, requested that if Talha were found guilty, Britain could put him on trial with evidence in a UK court of law. Requests are being made for a “forum” bar, which means a British judge rather than US prosecutor can decide where the best place for the trial to take place is. The campaign hopes to raise the profile of prolonged solitary confinement and extreme isolation in US prisons, something which has been condemned by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture.

“We are asking for the same provisions that Liberty asked for and sentences served in their home country rather than in US prisons, which are scandalous and terrifying places, thousands of miles away from home, family and friends. Please bear in mind that Talha never set foot in the US.” Hamja is asking for trial-ready cases, instead of spending years in pretrial custody and solitary confinement prior to a trial.

“I have found a new set of heroes in the United States such as Robert King of Angola 3 (who made a video for Talha) and we have talked on platforms together. There is also Bonnie Kerness, a pioneering Quaker prison activist, academic Jeanne Theoharis and Valarie Kaur, a film-maker and advocate based in Connecticut who just made a film on the Supermax prison that Talha and Babar are detained in, which I hope to tour

next year. There is James Ridgeway, the veteran journalist who founded Solitary Watch. All of them have since written to the family or Talha in prison.”

26 human rights organisations within the United States, along with 150 academics have objected to the European Court Judgement on the case of Talha, Babar Ahmad and others vs. US, which examined US prison conditions of extreme isolation and life without parole. In *The Nation*, Jeanne Theoharis and Saskia Sassen said it gave a green light to torture through extreme isolation. All of which was not reported in the UK press. Inspired by Talha's spirit of endurance and courage along with his ability to maintain his sense of humour, Children's Laureate Michael Rosen composed a poem entitled, *Sonnet of Grime for my Right Honourable Theresa May*, in which the last line reads, ‘Theresa May, my babe, my crazy chick, all I ask: drop this extraditing shtick.’

Theresa May, home secretary, fought for Gary McKinnon, who won his appeal against extradition and has also been diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome. “Many anti-racist organisations such as JUST and Muslim organisations such as Islamic Human Rights organisation and the Muslim Council for Britain, saw this as a case of racist two-tier law or a partisan application of the law. It was the condition of Asperger's Syndrome with an assessed suicide risk, which were also in Talha's papers. Theresa May has a long-track record of racism, with the detention of Palestinian activist Raed Saleh and the banning of popular TV show host Zakir Naik from the UK. I think *The Daily Mail* was the pivotal factor - which had a British justice for British Citizens' campaign but referred to the British Muslim suspects as ‘other unwanted guests’.”

Hamja believes that Theresa May made the right and compassionate decision for Gary, “I am happy for my friend Janis Sharp, Gary's mother and campaigner, who spoke on a

platform with my dad at a demonstration outside Downing Street. I am happy that her family does not have to go through the same terrifying hellish ordeal that my family are going through. After nearly two months we received a phone call and now, usually, we receive a phone call and a letter every month. Every time he calls from a US Supermax prison, our family huddle together in a room, and it's as if time stops still.”

What does a future in solitary confinement hold for Talha? “Prolonged isolation in a US prison causes long-term physical and psychological damage. 23 hours a day in a room the size of your bathroom with no human contact. So I always worry for him. It has been psychological hell for the family. This is the strongest case against extradition, the hell on the families, caused by separation, and is not something the government whitewash, the Scott Baker report, even vaguely considers. The plea-bargaining system, the damage caused by years of pretrial solitary confinement and the post-9/11 hysteria trial by media, may likely result in an unfair trial and an unjust outcome.”

If convicted, Talha will slip out of the agenda and into a Supermax prison in Colorado. It holds some of the world's most notorious American terrorists and murderers. In April 2012, Mark Collins, a spokesman for the prison told the BBC, “We have only the most violent, disruptive and escape-prone inmates in the federal system”. It is nothing less than a cleaner version of hell.

Whilst Asperger's Syndrome may limit those who are afflicted with this form of autism, from effectively communicating, Talha's words persist in unfolding his torment. Talha's fate has become tangled in this war in terror. Extradition has written him out of the script of living history. In Talha's poem *Extradition* he laments, “Perhaps they'll clean their hands of me once there. And then my country feels I'm wiped away.” Talha's case doesn't start until October 2013. M

## MUSIC.

# Building the Fort: The Life of an Emerging Artist

**Knox** sit down with Chris Morris to discuss piracy, Electro-Dream Cabin and how technology's changing listeners' eclecticism.

Everybody understands the definition of a 'torrent'; everybody also understands the legalities of using them to acquire multimedia. The idea of downloading entire discographies at no expense other than a small portion of hard-drive space and, depending on your internet connection, a few minutes of your time is appealing, and one that many people choose to employ again and again. But that's just the beginning. Soundcloud, Spotify, Dropbox, Noisetrade, YouTube, Myspace, Facebook and even old grandpa himself, are all platforms for artists to bring their noise to masses... and for the masses to enjoy with little to no expense.

Take Nic and Eliza Coolidge, American brother-sister duo, better known by their collective title Knox, and their dreamy, electro-acoustic vibe: most of the above methods of sharing are used by the band, and with good reason. "We are so thankful our music has been able to reach as far as it has, and a large part of that is thanks to web services such as Soundcloud and Bandcamp." In fact, when making contact with Knox's press agent, their latest EP - *Here* - was previewed to me through Soundcloud, and offered for download using Dropbox. "In order to be heard, you have to be available" the two observe, noting further how "in order to be available, you must be as virtually active as possible".

It seems relevant at this stage to ask their thoughts on the more ominous end of the murky, grey area that is file-sharing. Although observing the fact that "many people use torrent downloaders as a previewing mechanism" - the two liken the system to "a modern day, virtual trading post" - they're wary of the effects it can have on their careers as musicians.

"Digital copies of music can remove the corporeal component that is valued in ownership, but these seemingly non-bodies have less to no impact on the conscience of the pirate."

The duo elected to release *To Rush, Roar and Murmur*, their first EP, for free on Facebook and Bandcamp, as is often the case with new artists in an attempt to get their work heard by a wider audience. The idea was simple: "we wanted to exchange our music for our fans' promotional efforts". After using this strategy on their first release, the band's latest offering, *Here*, took a more conven-



tional commercial approach. Making acute observations on consumer's buying habits, the two reply to one of my questions with a penetrating summation of the average listener's thought process since the rise of the internet: "If they are interested, they want to purchase immediately. If that isn't acquirable by wallet or by obscurity's sake then the object of desire remains elusive and interest in its attainment is forgotten."

Knox is an interesting choice of name. "Knox" is our mother's maiden name, originating from Scotland", I'm informed, further strengthening the family dynamic the band

described, the siblings' reply was much more descriptive and poetic than I was expecting. "A good friend of ours once coined our sound as 'Electro-Dream Cabin', which encapsulates the three realms of musical consciousness: public, private and imaginary/hallucinatory" they explain, before expanding further: "Our sound resides in the membrane between these different musical ecosystems. Simultaneously think of a subway station full of waiting commuters, someone playing guitar alone in their room after 1am and a drumming army of elves". Living next to a 'budding' guitar enthusiast in my halls of

tions, but also from concrete happenings in every day life. "Anything from the infrasonic rumblings of an approaching subway train, to the percussive amalgam of a supermarket bustle, to the crickets' chirp in a dense wood, to your mum washing dishes in the sink is musical material."

Rough inspiration and sound is only one side of the coin, of course. Knox's writing process begins in a mechanical, systematic fashion, as they explain how they "begin with an improvisation or field recording", and "obsessively record ourselves, resulting in a sizable bank of sounds, textures and song fragments". At this point, all that exists is a "pool of parts" - a collection of noise awaiting editing into something progressive. The next stages are very much a refinery of their raw materials: "we have our own private idiosyncratic methods to production, so a large amount of the preambular stages of composition are spent alone in the studio. We'll bounce the track back and forth between one another until we feel that we've moulded it into a Knox fashion."

Listening to the result of this creativity process, namely the recent *Here* EP, their vivid descriptions begin to make sense: a common theme throughout is a definite feeling of being late into the evening, with muffled groans not dissimilar to a railway noise in the distance forcing through.

Atop this, Eliza's vocals whisper and whine their way around smooth, rippling bass, offering as stripped-back a sound as you can think of. But whichever view Knox take on the internet distribution of their records, the point they left me with is difficult to find fault with: "Because of the digitalisation of music and its distribution, we can be as an eclectic listener as we have time for." M

**"Our sound? Think of a subway station full of commuters, someone playing guitar alone in their room after 1am and a drumming army of elves"**

have so solidly moulded. Unsurprisingly, though, sharing an ongoing project with a sibling does have its strains. Although mentioning how there are often "telepathic moments where one of us will introduce a phrase or beat and the other will finish it" and their respect for each other's production styles, it's inevitable that creative 'issues' can occur. There is a protocol in place to deal with these instances, though: "we put the track down for a while or drop it entirely. We want the music we release to represent us as a band as well as individuals." Perhaps if more artists understood this, we'd be spared some of the classics. Planet Pit, anyone?

When asked how their sound could be

residence, I find the second of those concepts not quite as hard to imagine as the third.

With such colourful descriptions of their music, it would only be fair to ask where the inspiration comes from to produce pieces that fit this particular brand of sound. "Music is an ubiquitous phenomenon. All we try to do is remain receptive and open to it all."

Having agreed mutually that inspiration can be taken from almost anywhere (or anything) in the world, Knox give a flavour of just how wide the scope of their ear to musical inspiration really is. As many artists have found, musical stimulation can often be unearthed in the outside world; writing can come from personal experiences and emo-

## REVERB.

Kanye West (via Twitter)

**"An abortion can cost a ballin' nigga up to 50gs, maybe a 100.  
Gold diggin' bitches be getting pregnant on purpose  
#STRAPUP my niggas!"**

# In The Spotlight: Milli Vanilli

Francesca Coletti heads to Fibbers for a night of funk, electro and house.

There's something about Fibbers: its low ceilings, dimmed lighting and small, open planned dance floor area that allows for an intense and charged atmosphere. Unlike some of York's larger, and some might say cleaner, clubs, where the expansive space is divided up into different rooms and levels, Fibbers has a simplicity to it that works entirely to its advantage on themed nights. Its modest size makes it hard to lose your group, which means no valuable dancing time is sacrificed searching for your friends (an issue which characterises every one of my nights in Revs).

On nights like Bangers & Mash and Itchy Feet, the intimacy of the venue works so well: it intensifies the sound and adds a sense of community to the night. Dancing with strangers has never felt so natural. But it is the monthly, student-run house music of Milli Vanilli, with its brilliant mixes from DJs and continuous pounding baseline that you can feel right through your body, propelling you to dance in an almost involuntarily fashion, that creates a palpable electricity in the air.

The nights started a year ago when student Tim Perera saw an opening in York for a more student-orientated underground house night. Though there were existing house nights in the area, Milli Vanilli is aimed specifically at students, easing you in to the mixes by starting off with some disco tracks and building up as the night progresses. Harry Jones, Kit Munro and Tim Perera, the three resident DJs have been integral in building the night up to the incredibly popular and



much anticipated event it now is, and are careful to keep the nights varied by bringing in an impressive array of brilliant DJs to headline. Tristan de Cunha, from the infamous Back to Basics in Leeds (apparently the longest running club night in the world) was on the decks. With such great headliners, you can seriously enjoy these nights whether you have an interest in house music or, at the other end of the spectrum (like me), just enjoy dancing like a complete lunatic in a room of no judgement.

I love that there are so many student run nights emerging on the York scene; they cater for the many disillusioned with the often repeti-

tion from nightclub music. As I left, I was riding a similar adrenaline high to that I've previously only experienced from seeing bands live; it's a similar rush, in a similar group atmosphere.

Living in York has its disadvantages, the main being the lack of nightlife options when compared with larger cities. Student-run nights are beginning to change that. Tim Perera offered his thoughts on this, saying "I think it will only be good for the scene here, but I think any new night has to bring something new and innovative to the table." That's why nights like this are sold out, with people queuing at the door and staying until the mu-

sic stops; they are offering something new and exciting, intense yet, in the case of Milli Vanilli, with a surprisingly relaxed atmosphere.

"The innovation of Milli Vanilli and other nights like it are giving the York club scene a much needed shake up. The house mixes and repetitive beats can really get under your skin and introduce you to a completely different genre of music: I know they have for me. If you can grab a ticket before it sells out, you really need to try an alternative and growing York night out."

Tim Perera summarised: "all are welcome on the Milli Vanilli dance floor. There's little pretension, people are there for our music, to lose themselves dancing and to have a good time. So if that sounds like your idea of fun, check us out".

**"There's little pretension, people are there for our music, to lose themselves dancing and to have a good time."**

tive music and general atmosphere of the more popular clubs or anyone who simply wants to try something new. And if you really enjoy it, why not get more involved? Tim Perera's advice for anyone interesting in DJing is to "back yourself and go for it, but remember not to take shortcuts and put the work and practice in first!" You can really hear the enjoyment and passion the DJs have for the music when you see them live. The nearness of the booth to the dance floor allows an intimacy and intensity that you can't expe-

I've never really had a problem with HMV, but...

Rory Foster



Last week HMV went into administration. The music leviathan toppled under increasingly worsening finances and a mediocre Christmas period; not to mention a steady decline in sales and market value for the past few years. Public opinion seems to be mixed over the tumbling of our last national music retailer; some see it as inevitability. Like Jessops and Comet, another store has been unable to adapt to a growing, digital marketplace. Seven years ago, the first song to be no.1 on downloads alone was Gnarls Barkley's 'Crazy', and digital downloads outstripped CDs and vinyl for the first time last year.

Yet, some say supermarkets are to blame; just how their bulk-buying abilities have assisted in the demise of butchers and bakers, they seem to have done the same thing to HMV. Then there are those who see this gap in the market as a ray of light for independents. But some music fans are genuinely a bit sad about the loss of a pretty good music store.

I've never really had a problem with HMV.

Occasional £14 albums aside, it was a good place to discover music and realise just how much is out there; something which does not seem to have been realised despite the incredible resources available on the internet. Physically looking through records will become the sole pleasure of those prepared to travel to a record store and pay the premium a small retailer necessitates. It almost feels like people just don't care about music as much as they used to. Despite album price decreasing and ease of purchase increasing exponentially, it takes fewer purchases to chart today than 20 years ago.

The thing is, people don't care less about music - they care less about owning music. The growth of Spotify, DRM-branded downloads and YouTube channels show just that. The infinity of the internet makes you ponder "why buy it, when I can listen to it on here forever?" and so, as streaming grows ever more popular, few wish to bother with the purchase of a physical CD, only to convert it to digital regardless.

What of the artist? Stuart Braithwaite of Scottish outfit, Mogwai, expressed frustration at the closure of HMV; "51% of our last album's sales were sold (at HMV)...Selling records when there are no record shops is tricky." It's time labels caught up with consumer expectation, and if that means the demise of one of the UK's best established music outlets, so be it.

## Reviews.



### HOPE & SOCIAL

*The Duchess, York*  
**Callum Reilly**  
**Friday, 7th December**

After a stomping set from Louise Petit's acoustic outfit, the ever-eclectic Hope & Social make their way onto the tight stage confident that a crisis has been avoided: each of their trademark blue blazers are indeed accounted for. As each member dons said blazers in preparation for a set of heroic proportions on this last night of the tour, I begin to wonder how a band with such a stage presence might actually perform.

After all, Hope & Social's albums defy pigeonholing, with soul (à la Dexys), folk (via Dylan and Springsteen) and 70s stage rock amongst their many influences which can, sometimes, make for a surprising listen. Yet, history has shown the Leeds eight-piece are in their element performing, having been dubbed one of the top

live acts in the country.

By their third song 'Family Man', the hammering of a Rhodes piano, crashing drum fills and triumphant fanfares show how easily their enthusiasm ties the sound together. The music is diverse, uninhibited, and awash with whoo-ohs, but certainly lives up to their Yorkshire E-Street Band tag: meaty, beaty, big and... brassy. A cover of '500 Miles' also portrays a humorous side to the band, only making the crowd more appreciative.

But it was Simon Wainwright, the frontman's response to a technical hitch that proved to be the defining moment of the gig. Having clawed his way to the middle of the crowd armed only with an acoustic guitar and the voices of scores of devoted fans, his intimate rendition of 'Looking for Answers' showed how little their current lack of mainstream following matters. In only a few short years, they have clearly mustered a truly dedicated fanbase.

With the last banjo strum of the Mumford-esque 'A Darkness Now is Coming', the sincerest cheers from the audience show this band is far bigger than its numerous members, which alone is reason enough to see Hope & Social live. With anxiety over how the band's diverse sound would be reflected live defiantly stamped out, only one question remained: where exactly do they get those-blazers dry-cleaned?



### ARC

**EVERYTHING EVERYTHING**  
*Sony Music Entertainment*  
**Isaac BD**

Despite *Man Alive*, their debut album, having been shortlisted for the 2011 Mercury Prize, it has taken a good while for Everything Everything, English band to break into public consciousness. It would seem, though, that they're poised to gain much greater fame; the (very) recent release of *Arc*, their second album release since formation in late 2007, was met with much media-buzz, particularly given the resoundingly positive reception of singles 'Kemosabe' and 'Cough Cough'.

A chief complaint levelled at their previous effort was that it sounded like they might be trying too hard, employing rhythmic structures and bizarre, Radiohead-esque effects in a manner more complex than necessary. Whilst this, presumably, was in an attempt to demonstrate as much musicality in as small a space as

possible, it lacked the subtlety characterised by a Radiohead album, instead drawing attention to the songwriting which served as something of a distraction. Happily, this is far less the case with *Arc*; whilst many of the individual tracks ('Choice Mountain', for example) demonstrate a grasp of songwriting peculiar to a two-album Indie band, the hallmark here is one of restraint. As such, though we get a taste of the skill inherent in the crafting of each track, it's never forced down our throats in the same way as some found fault with their first album.

Tracks such as 'The House is Dust' and 'The Peaks' are nothing if not minimalistic, providing a stark contrast to the slightly out-of-place 'Don't Try', my least favourite track on the album which, with a perhaps misplaced R&B vibe, seems to have ended up in the wrong album. Certainly, on a chronological play-through, it seems to undermine the more mellow, ultimate feel evident in the tracks preceding it.

This album signals a shift in the right direction for a band whose problem is most definitely not that they lack talent, but rather that they need to hone the craft of displaying it and the craft of album-making. While it lacks some coherence as a singular work, this can be explained away. As a relatively young band, they're still in the process of developing their individual sound, toying with ideas and, as this album is testament to, discovering that they're well on the way to cracking it.

FILM.

# The 2013 Oscar Nominations

Steven Roberts offers a breakdown of the 85th Academy Awards



The Oscar nominees have been announced. The 2013 line-up was delivered by Seth Macfarlane, creator of *Family Guy*, and actress Emma Stone, whose presence apparently comforted her co-host "since there's nothing creepier than a guy standing by himself in Hollywood at 5am in the morning." Macfarlane's gag was among the first in a peculiar act involving actresses, Hitler and inebriation, perhaps inspired by Ricky Gervais' dark but ticklish presentation at the 2011 Golden Globes. It felt a little more contrived, but the audience sounded like they enjoyed it.

**Best Picture:** there are nine nominees this year, from big-budget epics to the wonderfully frivolous. The most predictable nominations were those of *Lincoln*, *Les Misérables*, *Zero Dark Thirty* and *Argo* as well as the less expected *Life of Pi*. These heavy-weights are also competing against *Amour* and *Beasts of the Southern Wild* - the import and the small-scale. The selection of *Amour* is both unusual and refreshing. Where we would normally expect to see a French-language film only running in the Foreign Language category, *Amour* has the chance to win both accolades. The other two usurping nominees are the (very) long and (very) violent *Django Unchained*, and *Silver Linings Playbook*, a People's Choice Award champion.

**Best Director:** long-standing directors Steven Spielberg and Ang Lee make their presence known, nominated for *Lincoln* and *Life of Pi* respectively. David O. Russell (*S L Playbook*) returns after missing out on Best Director in 2010. Austrian born Michael Haneke, the art-house master who directed Palme d'Or winner, *Amour*, has also been honoured.

Lastly, when the nomination of Benh Zeitlin (*B o t S Wild*) was announced, it ex-

cited murmuring in the audience, with at least one discernible 'wow'. Zeitlin turned thirty last October and has just one feature-length to adorn his portfolio, and he faces seasoned competitors at least double his age, each having directed anywhere between 10 to the Spielbergian figure of 30 full-length films. This doesn't mean the six thousand-odd Oscar voters are being generous, quite the opposite. To involve a fresh director who has made the arduous climb up through Sundance and Cannes shows that the Academy can frame an honest competition between five visionaries, based solely on their most recent efforts.

**Best Actor:** those nominated for Best

praised performance as Lucas in *The Impossible*. Despite the inclusivity of the Oscars this year, Holland is denied the chance to be the Haley Joel Osment of 2013. Instead, a young actress champions the youth.

**Best Actress:** the nominees for Best Actress in a Leading Role include Jessica Chastain in *Z D Thirty*, Jennifer Lawrence in *S L Playbook* and Naomi Watts in *The Impossible*. The two remaining actresses are the oldest and youngest ever selected by the Academy: 85 year old Emmanuelle Riva for her performance in *Amour* while 9 year old Quvenzhane Wallis is voted for *B o t S Wild*. It's hard to guess who will get the Oscar here.

nominations, all aesthetic) makes a less moving start to the *LotR* series than *The Fellowship of the Ring*, with 9 nominations including Best Picture in 2001.

We might be surprised to see *The Dark Knight Rises* completely excluded from the list, as was the weird and wonderful *Holy Motors* (our "art house masterpiece" of 2012). It is a shame that it cannot join *Amour*, it's Palme d'Or competitor on the other side of the Atlantic. But of course, just reflecting on *Amour*'s success reminds us that the Academy has broken from the script this year, and not only in the Best Picture category.

If, according to Xan Brooks of *The Guardian*, "the Globes write the script that the Academy then follows," perhaps we can refine our predictions of the overall winners based on the Golden Globe awardees announced 13th January. Even if one doesn't place importance on the Academy

Awards, and to varying extents most cinema-lovers do, to share these predictions is to engage in a big social debate. The Oscars can after all evoke admiration or dislike of a film, even a feeling of injustice for those excluded.

Overall, this first Oscars ceremony is about more than confirming projections and informing predictions. It celebrates the work of those nominated, an achievement in itself. Thanks to accessible internet databases like IMDb and Wikipedia, even this runner-up prize will give a picture some minor place in movie history. Awards institutions plot the dots on the technocultural film web, ready for future admirers to find.

The principal Oscar nominees for 2013 are *Lincoln* (12), *Life of Pi* (11), *Silver Linings Playbook* (8), *Les Misérables* (8) and *Argo* (7). *Django Unchained*, *Zero Dark Thirty* and *Amour* are each running for 5 Oscars.

**"The Globes write the script that the Academy then follows."**  
*Xan Brooks*

Actor in a Leading Role include Hugh Jackman in *Les Misérables*, Bradley Cooper in *S L Playbook* and Denzel Washington in *Flight*. Also nominated is Joaquin Phoenix for playing Freddie Quell in *The Master*, Nouse Film's "seminal performance" of 2012. As for the victor, most are betting on Daniel Day-Lewis, the British-Irish nominee. He won a Golden Globe for his portrayal of the 16th President of the United States in *Lincoln*, and could be the closest a Briton (even half) could get to the limelight at the Oscars.

**Best Actor in a Supporting Role:** those nominated for Best Actor in a Supporting Role are Christoph Waltz, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Robert De Niro, Alan Arkin and Tommy Lee Jones. All of these men are past Oscar winners, as flagged by Macfarlane's wry aside: "breath of fresh air in that category." A more adventurous pick could have been that of the 16-year-old Tom Holland for his highly

Except for Wallis, all actresses have received nominations before. But then again, Chastain got the Globe.

**Best Actress in a Supporting Role:** Jackie Weaver, Helen Hunt, Amy Adams, Sally Field and Anne Hathaway are the nominees. Like the corresponding award for men, these women have all been nominated in the past, with Hunt and Field alone being winners.

**Other Awards Nominations:** While not completely excluded from the most publicised awards, it is a distinct pattern that British films such as *Anna Karenina*, *Skyfall* and *Les Misérables* speckle the nominations list for their technical qualities. Many nominations for technical excellence mirrors the responses of *Nouse Film* reviewers. As expected, the fluorescent *Life of Pi* runs for Best Visual Effects, challenging the shiny sci-fi *Prometheus* (the foremost of its few redeeming features). The feeling is also mutual that *The Hobbit* (3

# Project green screen

Sepehr Gohardani talks to **Kit Monkman** about directorial collaboration, the merits of green screen and extending the language of cinema.

**K**it Monkman is one half of the directorial partnership behind *The Knife That Killed Me*, the upcoming Yorkshire-based thriller. The film is an adaptation of Anthony McGowan's eponymous young adult novel, but despite its relative success (it was long-listed for the Guardian children's fiction prize), it doesn't come across as a novel a film studio would jump on immediately. It is the story of Paul Varderman (Jack McMullen), a sixteen-year-old whose problems at home with his melancholic and withdrawn father (Reece Dinsdale) lead him to question whether life at his rough school is in fact better than his one at home. Soon, however, this is no longer the case as he becomes embroiled in a world of gangs and uncertainty that he wasn't banking on.

As a debut venture for Monkman, it already seemed like it was going to be tedious to adapt, but he reassured me that he wanted to be a whole lot more adventurous than that: "We were wondering what happens if you try to break the idea that everything you shoot has to be seen through a lens because what that does is it means that you as a viewer are always on the other side of the frame, you are always a spectator. To make a first-person narrative as

"How far could you extend the language of cinema? What does the inside of somebody's head look like? It doesn't look like a lens."

a result is difficult because on the one hand you're inviting the viewer in and on the other they're always detached, so it doesn't quite work. One of the things I wanted to do was to try and find a story where we could play a little bit with that, to see whether we could portray a first-person narrative with a fairly simple story. I was excited by this prospect and it's a racy, visceral story, so it was always going to be interesting."

## Django Unchained ★★★★

Director: Quentin Tarantino  
Review: Harry Lambert

There's something about Tarantino films that makes them special. As a kid growing up you had to know about *Pulp Fiction*. If you hadn't seen it, you needed to be able to act like you'd seen it. When I finally watched it, I saw why. His scripts were punchier, his characters cooler and his direction more inventive than anyone else's. He had this ability to make simple conversations more gripping than most directors could do with \$100 million worth of CGI. And he could uniquely have his leads tell long, winding, and seemingly irrelevant tales that left the viewer still smiling at their brilliance a scene later.

Largely, *Django Unchained* is no departure from that. Though three hours long, Tarantino never manages to lose you. It has a pace to it born out of its leads, their chemistry and a script which they, particularly the unparalleled Christopher Waltz, seem to enjoy playing with. Jamie Foxx plays Django, slave of the Deep South turned bounty hunter, alongside Waltz as Dr. Schultz, one-time dentist, full-time contract killer. It is their chemistry which drives the first half of the movie until DiCaprio's arrival – Schultz, the wise, controlled German with the quick

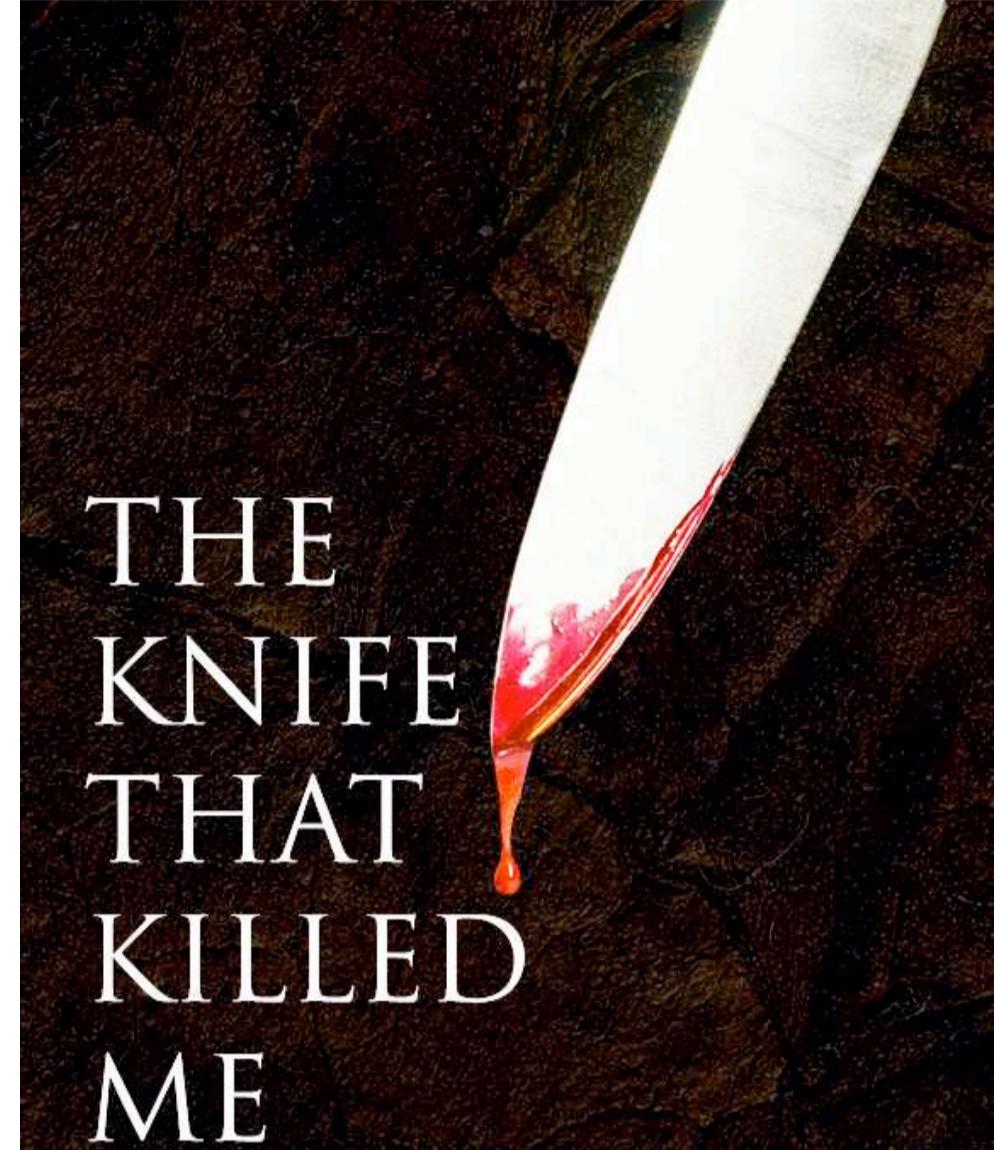
It's clear from this response that the film, reportedly working with something nearing a £3 million budget, will by no means be a 'normal' film. Instead, it will seek to explore new visual and cinematographically unusual avenues that are in fact rarely touched upon the world of cinema. This is a bold move, and so was the decision to film the entire production on green screen at the Green Screen Studios in Bubwith. Monkman, however, felt this was pivotal to the film's style and character: "Nobody has ever made a film that looks or feels anything like this before and we selected this book so that we could do what we wanted cinematically. My idea was always to try to play around with this idea of how far you could extend the language of cinema. What does the inside of somebody's head look like? It doesn't look like a lens."

Monkman's role as co-director on the picture means that the job is a collaborative one. While some directors wouldn't be too keen on the idea of working as part of a duo, for Monk-

man, it wasn't an issue. As well as getting on brilliantly with Marcus Romer, co-director, Monkman sees him as an experienced and valuable asset to the production: "I've known Marcus for years now and [working

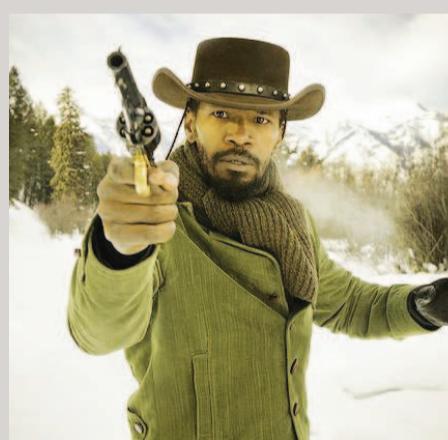
ing with him has] been fairly structured in the sense that he was largely responsible for getting performances out of the actors since that's his thing, and I have had fairly free reign to get involved in whichever aspects of the film I like, until of course we meet up again to fine-tune and debate at the end."

The fact it is co-directed could help wrestle with the extra attention that the film needs especially since it's taken an entirely



new approach, and certainly isn't your average coming-of-age story. Monkman agrees: "It's no *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*! That's what makes it so interesting from my point of view. I think if we'd made a conventional film on the sort of budget that we had we'd kind of know where the market was going to sit. With this we just don't." Despite his obvious artistic ambitions for *The Knife That Killed Me* and

initial high praise from the studio, Monkman remains endearingly tentative about how the film will turn out: "Universal [the film's distribution studio] have seen the first 10 minutes and they're jumping up and down with excitement, but 10 is not 90 and even I don't know what it's going to be like when it's done. It's a really hard one to gauge as to whether it'll be a brave failure, a success or complete disaster."



draw and even quicker tongue. But it's the small Tarantino touches, rather than the plot, that makes the film so delightful such as the immediacy with which death is dealt out, the mad, varying, oversized writing sprawled across the screens announcing each act.

But he has changed. Following *Kill Bill* and *Inglourious Basterds*, *Django* represents his third foray into the farcical and there seems to be no return. He no longer makes films (at least partly) based in reality, like *Fiction, Dogs* and his third hit '90s film, *Jackie Brown*. *Django* is highly entertaining, unquestionably watchable and uniquely engaging. It enthralls and excites, but it doesn't move. Here's to hoping he returns to the real world: when he does, *Django*'s evidence there will still be few things like it.

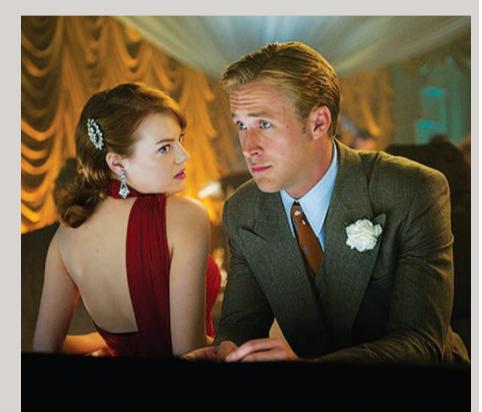
## Gangster Squad ★★★

Director: Ruben Fleischer  
Review: Alfie Packham

It takes around thirty seconds of running time to realise that Ruben Fleischer is out to tick some gangster-genre boxes with this third film *Gangster Squad*. And he does so with panache in its opening moments – cue an unfortunate mobster being torn in half by two cars.

Set in 1949 L.A., scenes include shootings, beatings and finger-slicing at the orders of Mickey Cohen (Sean Penn), sadistic mob leader. The yang to Cohen's nasty yin is John O'Mara (Josh Brolin), good cop and leader of the eponymous 'Gangster Squad', which is secretly charged with the task of bringing down Cohen's criminal empire. The vigilantes are joined by Sergeant Jerry Wooters (Ryan Gosling), who meanwhile engages in a risky fling with Grace Faraday (Emma Stone), Cohen's classy moll.

Good mobster violence, check. Solid cast, check. But sadly, *Gangster Squad* lacks the ingredients to be the next *LA Confidential*. This is because it stumbles over many of the countless clichés of its genre. The wafer-thin plot breaks down into a series of shoot-outs, almost all comprised of gratuitous (albeit nice-looking) slow-motion sequences.



These scenes hold little tension, due to the film's unyielding attachment to the one-dimensional O'Mara. This detracts from the performances of Gosling and Stone, whose characters' precarious relationship would frankly make for a more interesting focus.

The only member of the cast given free rein in their role is prosthetics-clad Penn. The film's unfulfilled potential is exemplified as he arrives at the final showdown with a manic roar of "here comes Santa Claus!" to a dramatic hail of bullets and exploding baubles (in slow-motion, of course). Had this film got everything right, it might have been as quotable as *Scarface*.

*Gangster Squad* is smoothly edited and well-acted with plenty of witty dialogue and carnage to match. But it is let down by its plot - or lack thereof - and that nagging feeling that just maybe, you've seen it all before.

# Brunching with Brian

*Lucie Parker talks to Brian Turner about breakfast, student food and the famous Yorkshire pudding.*

Brian Turner CBE is a British chef who has spread his Michelin-star culinary magic back to his home county of Yorkshire in order to tackle one thing: the decline of the breakfast.

Recent research has shown that 47% of the British population skip breakfast at some point during the week, and that 15% of people never eat it. Furthermore, 32% of children regularly miss breakfast. So, there is certainly a serious discrepancy between the universal mantra of breakfast as the most important meal of the day, and putting this theory into practice by whipping up a solid plate or bowlful every morning.

For Brian, whose fundamental career inspiration was assisting his dad every morning in providing "heart-warming breakfasts of bacon, sausages, and egg" for those who passed through their family owned café in Leeds, these stats need a change for the British to "retain the energy" we are apparently lacking because of our bad breakfast habits.

Raised in Halifax, West Yorkshire, and subsequently mentored by Michael Smith, food writer and broadcaster, Brian was rapidly catapulted into the culinary industry and has since forged the lengthy list of achievements that justify his title as one of Britain's most successful chefs.

A strong television personality epitomised by his continual presence on *Ready Steady Cook*, Brian has set up restaurant after restaurant, asserting his food dominance in a smorgasbord of places: Knightsbridge and the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Birmingham's NEC included.

Honorary doctorates from Thames Valley University, Leeds Met, and Sheffield Hallam for his commitment to catering all contribute to the notable mark he has stamped upon this industry, culminating in him being awarded a CBE in 2002 to celebrate his outstanding talents.

Eggs Benedict originated in New York in 1897, when Lemuel Benedict, a tired and disillusioned stockbroker, wandered into some posh hotel and demanded a muffin with bacon, egg and hollandaise sauce. Here, Brian gives us a refreshing and simple version to whip up in 5 minutes.

For the Eggs Benedict, halve and lightly toast the muffin, then fold the ham and arrange on top of the muffin halves. Ensure housemates do not nibble ham while you are focussed elsewhere.

Bring a deep pan of water to the boil and add the vinegar. Reduce to a very gentle simmer, then swirl the water around with a wooden spoon to create a whirlpool.



ents and contribution.

So, there's nothing lacklustre about Brian Turner. Yet, having reached the top of the food chain, so to speak, the time has come for the culinary baton to be passed on to others. "It just makes common sense for people to cook; eating and drinking well enables you to look after yourself in a healthy way". This is the justification behind Brian's goal of getting Britain's younger generation involved in "the greatest industry".

different meals: a minced meat dish with potatoes, a shepherd's pie for the next day, and finally a soup for the day after". Problem solved.

The ability to cater for the variation of indulgent desires of the masses is the mark of a good chef. Not only has Brian focused his attention on students, but his experience also extends into satisfying the food cravings of those who frequent his multitude of restaurants. His ideal dinner party? "Margaret Thatcher, as she's on her last legs, Nelson

in Brian's heart.

Although he'd like to think of himself as an "all-day person", his 5.45am starts would be impossible without the sturdy breakfast of "bacon, sausages and egg" that he religiously undertakes every day. Yet, being the success he is has instigated a lifetime of travelling, which simply doesn't allow for a cooked English breakfast each morning.

The worst breakfast he's ever had? "After watching the slaughter of cattle at 5am in a market in Leon, we were then served with lumps of pig fat in lentils, something I just couldn't get down".

This experience was enough to propel Brian forward into hosting his 'Big Yorkshire Breakfast Day'. Friday 25th January brings to Askham Bryan College, about 15 minutes' drive outside York, a day of breakfast related delights, and is part of the nationwide Farmhouse Breakfast Week (20-26 January) created to raise awareness of the importance of eating a healthy breakfast.

Activities include a cook-off between Brian and local students, as well as a talk "advocating the use of the huge range of local produce Yorkshire has to offer". Inspirational, entertaining, and full to the brim with culinary wisdom, Brian has something for everyone within "the industry that has treated me so well. I would recommend it to anybody". M

## His ideal dinner guests? "Margaret Thatcher, Nelson Mandela, and Peter Kay as a fellow Northerner."

In today's discombobulating world, the importance of good food is a prerequisite to healthy living. So, the question on the lips of every student, where pesto pasta has become a monotonous feature of a terribly irregular diet, is how to include variety when on a budget.

His answer is simple. "When I was living in London before breaking into the food world, I used to buy minced meat, potatoes, onions, carrots, stock cubes and tinned tomatoes. These ingredients are the basis for three

Mandela, to fulfil my strong connections to South Africa, and finally Peter Kay, so that I'd have a fellow Northerner beside me". In continuation with his Yorkshire-bred patriotism, the dish of choice would be none other than his famous roast beef and yorkshire puddings, "on the bone of course".

Thus, Brian can do budget and beef. However the foundation beneath these two Bs is a third, and arguably the most important: breakfast. The stepping stone that paved his way to success; breakfast holds a special place

## The Recipe: Brian's Eggs Benedict with Parsley Sauce

Eggs Benedict originated in New York in 1897, when Lemuel Benedict, a tired and disillusioned stockbroker, wandered into some posh hotel and demanded a muffin with bacon, egg and hollandaise sauce. Here, Brian gives us a refreshing and simple version to whip up in 5 minutes.

For the Eggs Benedict, halve and lightly toast the muffin, then fold the ham and arrange on top of the muffin halves. Ensure housemates do not nibble ham while you are focussed elsewhere.

Bring a deep pan of water to the boil and add the vinegar. Reduce to a very gentle simmer, then swirl the water around with a wooden spoon to create a whirlpool.

**For the Eggs Benedict**  
2 slices Yorkshire ham  
1 English muffin, halved and toasted  
2 tbsp white wine vinegar  
2 free-range eggs

**For the parsley sauce**  
55g Wensleydale cheese  
150ml double cream  
freshly ground black pepper  
1 tbsp chopped fresh parsley

Gently crack the eggs into the centre of the whirlpool one at a time and poach for 2-3 minutes, or until just cooked. Remove with a slotted spoon, drain and place on top of your un-nibbled ham.

For the sauce, grate the cheese and place with cream into a pan and bring to a simmer, stirring until the cheese is melted. Make sure it does not boil too much or you will end up with greasy curdled cheese soup. No one wants that. Season with freshly ground black pepper then stir in the parsley.

Drizzle the parsley sauce over the poached eggs and muffin. Eat immediately. Again, ward off pariah housemates with hangovers. Feel smug inside all day after a superb start to the day.

## Tunisia: The Land of Spice



A spice market stall in Tunisian capital Tunis

Tunisia boasts animated inhabitants and a plethora of cultural gems – including the majestic, extensive Roman ruins of Carthage, and other historical marvels such as relics of the Ottoman regime. And how could we forget the Mediterranean climate and its large camel population.

The country is perched precariously at the very north of Africa and is geographically (although perhaps not culturally) closer to Malta than Egypt. Although it is barely larger than England, the sprawling desert landscape caught George Lucas' attention, and is home to the set of *Star Wars*' "Tatooine". Ripe dates in overhanging trees accompany the truly dazzling blue and white mosaic hillside villages – which thankfully were for the most part undisturbed by last summer's political unrest in neighbouring Libya.

As an added bonus, no jabs are required to for the adventure that awaits after a 3 hour flight. If you venture beyond the chips at the pool side of your comfortable, liberal European-style hotel, you can take real advantage of the cultural and culinary delights of the bustling markets such as those in the popular destinations of Tunis or Hammamet. Savour the colourful assault on the senses, although take care to firmly deflect the more aggressive prop-

ositions and haggling of the store holders.

I took my trip during the fasting season of Ramadan, meaning that as sunset approached each day, the store holders became increasingly and understandably more irritable in anticipation of their much-deserved first bite and sip of the day. But luckily for the hungry tourist, this didn't diminish the quality of food on offer (as a tourist-orientated country, they were quite accommodating), and the seafood was particularly memorable.

The intense heat and Mediterranean ocean are ideal for nurturing the delicious vegetables, dates, lemons, chickpeas, grilled fish, olives, couscous and of course the harissa paste which is such an integral part of the local cuisine.

Harissa paste can normally be found in countries with strong Arabic influence, but is slowly becoming more available at larger supermarkets in this country. It is mainly comprised of dried chilies and Serrano peppers, olive oil and a variety of Tunisian herbs and spices, thus, perfectly livens up the chicken in this simple yet delicious array of easily attainable Tunisian ingredients. The rest of the small pot of harissa also works well in stews, salad dressings, or spicy vegetable bakes. Substitute the bulghur for couscous if preferred, another North African favourite.

### Harissa Chicken with Bulghur (serves 4)

1 tbsp harissa paste  
4 boneless skinless chicken breasts  
1 tbsp vegetable oil  
1 onion, peeled, halved, and sliced  
2 tbsp pine nuts  
Handful of dried apricots  
300g/10oz bulghur  
600ml/1 pint hot chicken stock  
Handful of coriander leaves, chopped

- Rub the harissa paste over the chicken. Heat the oil in a deep, nonstick pan, and fry the chicken for about 3 minutes or until just golden (it won't be cooked through at this stage). Remove and set aside.

- Add the onion and fry gently for 5 minutes until soft. Toss in the pine nuts and continue cooking for another few minutes until toasted. Add the apricots, bulghur and stock, then season and cover. Cook for about 10 minutes until the stock has almost been absorbed.

- Return the chicken to the pan, cover and cook for 5 minutes over a low heat until the liquid has been completely absorbed and the chicken is cooked through. Fluff up the bulghur with a fork and scatter with the coriander to serve. Bronwyn O'Neill

## The Naked Baker: Chocolate and Guinness Cake

Frankie Coletti

January is the perfect month to bake; people need comfort at this time of year more than any other. Christmas and New Year are over, it's cold, and snow is really fun for a few minutes before you realise you have to walk somewhere, like onto campus. Everyone's had exams, and people are just starting to realise that maybe they should do some work this year.

In summary, fun times all round. This cake has all the best pick-me-uppers: chocolate, cake, sugar and everyone's favourite, alcohol. It's also topped with the ever delightful sugar and cream cheese. Say no to a dreary, grey January and miserable diets, and yes to desserts, that's my motto.

This is easily my favourite cake ever. Honestly, it tastes amazing, it's rich, sweet and moist with a lovely tangy stout taste. Also, it doesn't hurt that every time I make it, people suddenly seem to think I'm this amazing chef when actually I struggle making cupcakes (my goodness, they're tricky). It's so simple and quick, with delicious results every time. The only problem is that friends will keep asking you to make it again and again. You have been warned.



### The Recipe

250ml Guinness  
250g unsalted butter  
400g caster sugar  
75g cocoa powder  
140ml sour cream  
2 medium eggs  
275g plain flour  
2.5 teaspoons bicarbonate of soda  
  
300g cream cheese  
150g icing sugar  
125ml double cream

Preheat the oven to 180C and butter two cake tins. Pour the Guinness into a saucepan on medium heat, add the butter and heat until melted, then whisk in the cocoa and sugar.

Whisk the sour cream and eggs together, pour into the pan on a lower heat. Whisk in the flour and bicarbonate of soda. Pour into the cake tin and bake for 45 minutes. When baked, leave the cake to cool before removing it from the tin otherwise it will completely crumble.

For the icing; lightly whip the cream cheese until smooth, sieve the icing sugar and beat them together. Or if (like me) you're super lazy, use a blender.

Add the cream until it's spreadable, and ice the top of the cake to look like a frothy head of Guinness! Then you may need to hide it away from housemates.

## When it's Cold Outside

Lo Verroken Jones



PHOTO CREDIT: LEMON168

To save on central heating, smug people in relationships go for cuddles, and others head out for another jersey. I turn to hot drinks. Namely tea. I love tea, I really do. Tea is infallible, there are no surprises with tea and tea always delivers. However, after a week of camping out in the library and living on nothing but that, I've had enough. There must be something else out there, so I have been searching for the perfect warming winter drink that isn't just a standard brew.

Top of my list is a classic: cinnamon milk. It is very reminiscent of the days when the biggest worry I had was which words I could make with my alphabetti spaghetti.

Cinnamon milk is incredibly easy, just gently heat a mug's worth of milk on the hob, and chuck in a spoonful of ground cinnamon or a cinnamon stick. Add sugar to taste. Remove from hob when hot and strain the cinnamon dregs out before settling down with a cup full of happiness. Try adding a spoonful of honey if you are feeling adventurous.

Coming in a close second, arguably a reflection of how well my exams went, is a cheeky shot of Amaretto or Baileys in hot chocolate. Nothing compares to hot chocolate that appears more in the form of molten chocolate – made with milk not water. The addition of a nutty liquor makes for an ultra rich drink that warms you up from the inside out and gives you a tiny beer jacket, just enough to chase the cold out.

But if you need to escape, I urge you to whisk yourself off to Mannion & Co. for one of their special tea blends. Situated at the top end of the city, Mannion epitomises the cosy cafés and delicatessen that form the foundations of Parisian tearooms. Except this one is on our doorstep. Their special Winter Blend tea will defrost you on even the most Antarctic of days. Created especially for the frostier months, the fireside aroma of white chocolate and orange melts away the stresses and strains of January. You might as well have a nibble on some of their delicious freshly baked bread, or homemade meringue and fruit desserts, they are too good to resist. Mannion & Co. can be found at 1 Blake Street, YO1 8QT. There is life outside of the bubble of library and revision.

I have one of the more lasting relationships in my life in the form of tea, and in some ways I feel like I'm cheating on it. But then I remind myself it is only a warm drink on a cold day.

# Facing down Fate



PICTURE THE PRESS YORK

**York student Jack Martindale spent three months in a coma after being hit by a speeding car. He tells Tom Witherow about his new book, being a metal-man, and why Hollywood's wrong about comas.**

In the early hours of New Year's Day 2010, Jack Martindale and four friends were walking home from a night out when a car collided with the group. One was pronounced dead at the scene. Jack and another were comatose, with the latter never gaining consciousness again.

The accident threw Jack into a battle for life, a period of time he calls "the intense months." Jack sustained serious injuries: a bruised brain, a broken arm and a broken jaw, shattered into more than thirty pieces. During the period that Jack was unconscious, surgeons conducted operation after operation, so many in fact that Jack can't pin down an exact figure... "Between ten and twenty...it would have to be such a callous estimate. Just a lot of operations basically!"

The decision to undertake surgery to reconstruct Jack's face was not a straight-forward one: "Simon Holmes was the surgeon who basically saved my face. He was completely the driving force behind the decision to conduct the operation. Other medical staff were like, 'why bother', even if this guy does come round, there's coming round and then there's appreciating what's been done to you, just being vegetative."

Later, Jack was to write, in a book which he hopes to publish in the future, 'Simon had the wisdom to realise that my recovery would be much harder from a physical and mental perspective if I continued to resemble Quasimodo...'

"Simon and I met up for a drink in 2011 I think, he was saying that even if I spent the rest of my life in a care home

it's just better." In fact now, the only mark left by the accident is an alteration to Jack's voice. "We're British, we're polite, we wouldn't say it, but my speech is my biggest deficit. The thing that I'm aggrieved by, is that I've been left with an altered voice. Speech is the vehicle that we use for communication and I think it is a big part of our identity. I do have to formulate a bit more of what I'm going to say and sometimes getting the expression in your voice when you're making the effort to be audible is more difficult. But it's never let me down, I've never felt pushed out because of it."

I asked Jack to explain more precisely what the reconstruction operation achieved, a question to which he had a very simple answer. Tapping his cheek as though a trusty piece of machinery, "This is all titanium – I'm like the metal man, It's ridiculous!"

It is this ability to take the difficulties he went through with such lightness that surprises me: "It's funny with humour, because I think that's the way I've dealt with a lot of it. Then there are some things which are too far, which you wouldn't dream of making a joke about. It is a very difficult card for people to play when they're talking to me."

Jack could be talking about some of the most intense moments of his recovery and still be able to make me laugh. "After the accident, when I was in a coma, I scored a meagre 3 on the Glasgow Coma Index, which is the lowest score at which you can get and remain alive... I'm not quite sure what scoring 2

Jack with friends Chelsea (left), who passed away as a result of the accident.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JACK MARTINDALE

## "The nurse would ask 'how much insight do you have into your situation?' Well, I knew that the shit had hit the fan. I knew that much!"

yet being dead means? An 'active-dead' is not an expression with which I'm familiar..."

"It's surreal coming out of a coma. It's a completely alien situation, there's no way that people can relate to it. Coming round again, you don't just wake up, not like the Hollywood perception where you just brush yourself down and go, 'right, what am I doing now?' You just fluctuate in and out of consciousness really. I wouldn't have been able to say whether I was ten or if I was a hundred!"

Making light of such situations may seem bizarre when you first hear of Jack's story. "Well yeah! But I think you've got to just take this step back and not take yourself too seriously, because if you don't take yourself too seriously nothing will go wrong so much." And this is something he carries with him into the future. When I ask him what he wants to do now that he has recovered so well. "Really now, I prioritise having fun, having a good time..."

Although he mostly only had praise for all those who helped him to recovery, Jack did mention his distaste for the nurse's pandering. "One funny thing about therapy is the term 'insight', 'how much insight do you have into your situation?' I knew that the shit had hit the fan, I knew that much. How much insight do you have, do I have? You can't live life knowing what's going to happen each day."

I ask him what he hopes to gain by talking to the media, being quick to mention that I didn't consider myself a 'journalist'... "Well I wouldn't call myself a celebrity, but I'll admit this isn't the first media appearance I've made!"

When I suggest that it might be brave to continually retell his story to national and student media alike he pushes my comment aside: "Is it brave? I'm just trying to be pragmatic. I want to enhance other people's understanding because with having a severe brain injury there's a tendency to feel slightly isolated sometimes, there's something lacking a tiny bit."

Jack describes the telling of his story as liberating: "I think that generally getting the onus back has been the key to it all. Yeah, I wanna share my story with people, I'm more than willing to, but it shouldn't just arise for the sake of being conversation. That's the best thing in the world, it's my choice who I tell it to and who I don't."

Jack also points to the telling of his story as a means of celebrating the lives of his two friends who passed away as a result of the accident. "The grief is... it's not something that I

really want to get away from. It's not something you want to carry with you on a day-to-day basis. But I think it resembles part of my life. There's a difference in the way I think about it - it's not just mourning, it's celebratory. Yeah, now I can look back and say, we had this fantastic time for a number of years and it was great. But it will always be one of the greatest regrets in my life."

Likewise Jack refuses to say that he is particularly resilient or strong-minded: "No, I wouldn't have said that I'm a particularly resilient person, in my heart I knew I was fairly strong-minded. But then I used to give into peer pressure, I don't know what that says, but I think that when it comes to it you are more resilient than you think. I think we underestimate ourselves, because you're not asked anything more of yourself most of the time."

"Mostly the reason I've recovered well? Luck. The paradox is that I was very unlucky for this to occur, but then there were people in the right place at the right time daily to assist me in recovering well and whatnot. But still it's the only credit I can give - self-praise would be very un-British anyway."

Talking to Jack, you almost feel that he has had an inconvenient break from life, but that now he's back on the track where he left off. He says that the accident did leave him retrospective: "You do the whole reassessment, but really after all this, you find that really you're still the same guy and you haven't really changed at all. You can walk away from it."

The break from his life that the accident and recovery now represent, can, it seems for Jack, be seen as just that, a break. "I was very happy with my life before. Instinctively there's a tendency for me to look back on my life prior to when this happened and the rose-tinted spectacles come on and you sort of just see how glorious it was. But it wasn't! There were always the ups and downs, that's what life is. But at the same time, aged 21 I was in a good place when the accident occurred, I was happy. This sounds corny and ridiculous but I do actually remember thinking once when I was out walking with my family in Belgium, 'yeah I'm doing alright at the moment, Jack.' This sounds like you'd make it up, but you get that, a bit of self-inflection, and perhaps something's going to happen and obviously it did..."

Work on his book, currently titled *Battling a Brain Injury*, both during recovery and now means that there will always be a record of those 'intense months'. "I would like to publish

it someday and do some further editing. Obviously I haven't graduated yet and there'll be more chapters that are relevant to go in it. But then I am glad that I captured it all when I did, when it was still fairly fresh and raw, because there were things that I felt that even when I read it now, I still can't imagine... Did I really feel that, or think that? It's quite good that it captures that lack of order to the earlier passages, and that captures the confusion within me. It charges it quite well as a backdrop."

One area where the book does highlight regret is over the legal case surrounding the drivers of the racing cars. The driver not involved in the accident was given two years for perverting the course of justice. Jack recalls the rest of the story, "[The other driver] was found guilty of death by dangerous driving on two accounts, rah rah rah, and all this, and he got five and half years, or seven years, I don't know. He's probably out by now... God, I sound like a Daily Mail reader, shit!"

"No, all it would have done would have been to acknowledge what they'd done. There's an awful lot of emotions within me with this. I think what I'm so aggrieved with is that I've been this conformist conventional individual, I've ticked the boxes, I've gone through life serving society, society serving me, and then this happens, and I get told..." He sticks his middle finger up. This is undoubtedly one of those areas of his experience that is 'too far', beyond humour. In a previous interview he described the driver of the car as an 'ignoramus', 'amoral'.

But, it is the British legal system, and the barristers operating within, that he directs his greatest anger towards: "Basically people's egos are just too big - that's the foundation of it all. There's a lot of point scoring and our legal system gives a high reward to manipulation of the truth, that's not ethical."

But for now, Jack is moving on. He tells me gleefully that he's got just one more essay to do to complete his degree, and from there he thinks that he'll settle in York. "I know it's a bit of a stereotype, but I do think northerners are a bit friendlier! Also I've got a good friendship network here and there's the slight advantage with being from London. I know the streets aren't paved with gold. I know that there's some inevitability that I'll return there at some stage but it'd be nice to have a few years off doing something else." Ultimately it was endearing how, despite having such an remarkable story, Jack is still flattened by the attention: "I'll be honest, it's not bad for the ego all of this stuff. I had a little bit in Vision, and now a double page in Nouse. I've moved up in the world!" M

# THE STUDENT NOTEBOOK

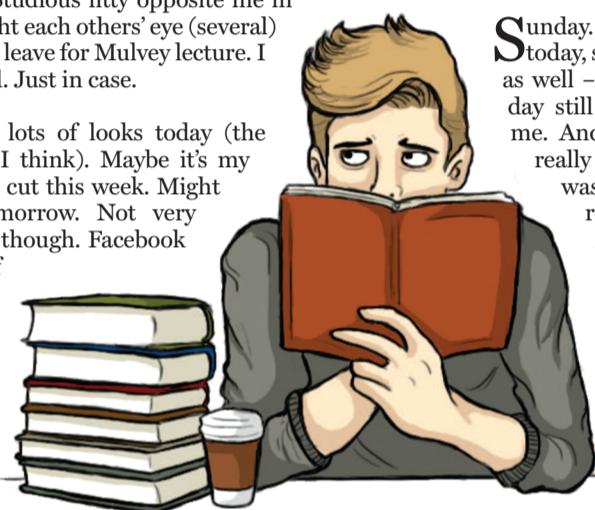
THE LIBRARY DIARIES, FOUND BY JOSH BOSWELL

**M**onday. Up earlier today – probably why I spilt porridge on myself. Might stain, but it's an old t-shirt. Two jumpers AND a duffle coat over it, still shivering on my way to JBM. Machine-churned caffeinated diarrhoea in a cup solves this. In by 8.30am, and the Jacques Lacan is right where I left it on the wrong shelf. Winning. Long day so had fish and chips as a treat.

**T**uesday. Got a nice smile coming into JBM today. But not from the guy at the desk. "I'm afraid you're being fined, your book's overdue". You know what else is overdue? Your sense of compassion. Had an oblique look at some Robert Doisneau before Lacan this morning. And read some Laura Mulvey. Must procrastinate less pretentiously. Fun chat with Housemate about Transgate. She reckons someone'll get the chop. Found this thing called Spotted on FB. Not sure how I feel about it.

**W**ednesday. Studious fitty opposite me in JBM. Caught each others' eye (several) times but I had to leave for Mulvey lecture. I did check Spotted. Just in case.

**T**hursday. Got lots of looks today (the good kind – I think). Maybe it's my hair, I did have it cut this week. Might go shopping tomorrow. Not very productive today though. Facebook every couple of hours. That's a lie, Facebook every half hour. I think one of the Spotted updates was about me. I'll hit the shops tomorrow.



**F**riday. Smashed the January sales in the morning; definitely got more looks in JBM. I am Hunter, finder of bargains. Couldn't concentrate on reading cos I'm pretty sure people on the table next door here were whispering about me. Checked Spotted. Also, toilets smelt like site of biological warfare so I posted about it. Got 20 likes and counting. Winning.

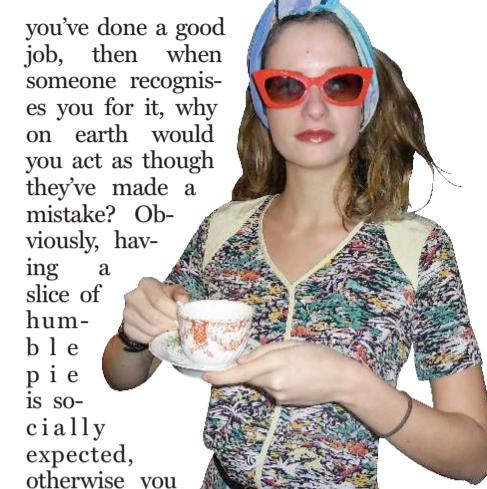
**S**aturday. Was freezing walking in today. Spared the jumpers cos they look bulky under my duffle coat. Harry Fairhurst is always warm though. And more people there too. Bet I had one or two things said about me. I'm starting to be able to tell when people are looking too. I don't catch their eyes, but it's just so obvious that they've looked away quickly. And one of the updates today HAD to be about me. Hilarious post in Harry Fairhurst page too... A couple of girls obviously got dressed with the lights off. Twelve likes.

**S**unday. Hardly anyone in today, so boring. Bad mood as well – fitty from Wednesday still hasn't got back to me. And God some people really need to diet! He was eating a sausage roll. And not neatly. Another girl sat there chugging Red Bull like a pelican. So unattractive. After the fifth she was shaking so much she could barely hold a pen. I'll post it. Classic Spotted.

## Could you give an acceptance speech?

Sophie Walker

M24  
04.12.2012



It's that nauseating time of year again, when swathes of film stars thank their mums, dogs, and lesbian lovers for being by their side through thick and thin, and for helping them win the award of their lives. But it's a shame that the effect of such self-induced histrionics provoke an unwarranted desire to drone strike Hollywood, because the acceptance speech, and the award itself are rather nice little metaphors for life. What award would you get, and who would you thank?

I've never wanted to be an actress, because being at a girl's school for ten years, and being relatively tall meant that I was only ever bloody cast as a boy. The roles of 'Fagin' or 'Rooster' from *Annie* were some of the low points of my acting career, and they convinced me that no teenage girl should have to be put through the agony of having to strap down their blossoming chest for the sake of art. However, it did teach me that whilst I wasn't going to be an 'actress playing an actor', I wanted to be the supporting role in life - the character part with the weirdest costume, the wittiest one-liners; the unassuming part that steals the stage. So perhaps school drama was a fine example of how the most fun in life doesn't always come from being the 'star of the show'.

As it happens though, the awards season ceremonies like the Golden Globes are perfectly formed microcosms of society, because the 'stars of the show' are exactly who are rewarded. Giving 'behind the scenes' prizes to the lighting technicians doesn't make good telly, indeed the nurses, dinner ladies and bin men of this world don't get a look in. But if they did win prizes, something tells me that their acceptance speeches would be a damn sight more inspiring.

Acceptance speeches are always excruciating because the recipient is as surprised as if they'd suddenly been told they'd won a Nobel Prize in economics, not an Oscar. If you work really hard for something, and you know

Feigning shock for the sake of drama is most unbecoming, as Anne Hathaway showed with her remarkably 'unprepared' speech. A bit like being prepared for the snow, by putting snow chains on your tyres (which the British public seem inordinately incapable of doing), there's nothing wrong with acknowledging what is likely to come, and preparing for it.

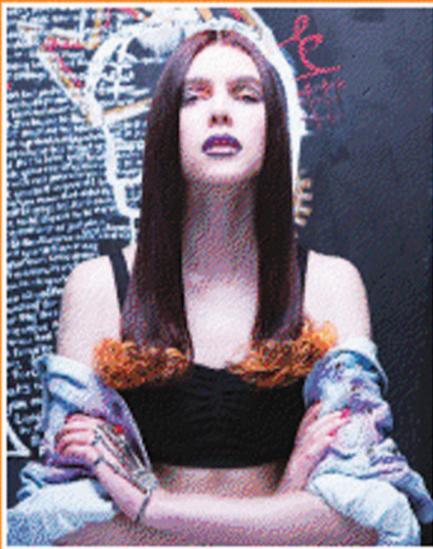
So, instead of making a superficial New Year's resolution this January, like taking an arty picture everyday, donating 50p every month for a village in Uganda to buy a goat, or talking to your postman because you care, give yourself an award, and give yourself an acceptance speech. Are you the star of the show or the techie behind the scenes? And could you name in 3 minutes the people in your life who appreciate your role? Do it now, so that if one day it happens for real, you won't be the twat that had to pretend to be surprised.



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# Winter warm beef, ale & mushroom pie

**SERVES:**

**DIFFICULTY:** easy → hard

## INGREDIENTS:

- 750g braising/ stewing steak trimmed and diced
- Splash of olive oil
- 3 onions cut into thin wedges
- 500g button mushrooms washed & halved
- 1 cloves garlic crushed
- 1 teaspoon dried mixed herbs
- 2 tablespoons plain flour
- 400ml Newcastle dark ale or beef stock
- 500g shortcrust pastry
- 1 egg beaten

## METHOD:

- 1 - Pre-heat the oven to 170 degrees or gas mark 3.
- 2 - Heat the oil in a casserole dish until very hot. Add the beef pieces in batches and brown all over. Once browned, remove the beef from the dish and set to one side. Add the onions to the oil and cook until just browned. Remove from the heat and set to one side. Colour the mushrooms in the remaining oil.
- 3 - Place the beef and onions back into the pan with the mushrooms and add the garlic and herbs. Cook for one minute then add the flour and stir. Gradually add the ale or stock and bring to a simmer. Season with salt and pepper before covering with a lid. Place the casserole in the oven for 2 hours, take out and leave to cool.
- 4 - Turn the oven to 190 degrees or gas mark 5. Roll out half the pastry to the thickness of a £1 coin and use to line a pie dish or tin. Place the cooled beef filling into the pie dish.
- 5 - Roll out the rest of the pastry to make a lid big enough to cover the pie dish. If you want to make your pie look extra fancy you could make decorations with the pastry trimmings! Glaze using the egg wash and put in the oven to cook for 45 minutes until crisp and golden.

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All 4 ingredients must be purchased in one transaction. **VALID UNTIL: 11 FEB 2013**

# Politics

## STUDENT HACK



Students from political societies at Glasgow University are planning to hold their own referendum on Scottish independence. 20,000 students will be eligible to take part in a secret ballot, based on the proposals put forward by the Scottish Nationalist Party, who won a landslide victory in the 2011 elections.



The Oxford Feminist Network protested against George Galloway, MP, who was to give a speech to the Arab Spring. OFN held the protest in response to controversial comments Galloway made over the summer, in response to the sexual assault allegations against Julian Assange, WikiLeaks founder.



Over 48,000 students from Mumbai colleges joined the Indian National Union of Students (NUSI). Most of the new joiners are 18-19 year olds, and are university graduates. Many students are also joining political parties for the first time, feeling that they are necessary for recognition, particularly poorer students.

## Concern over fall in students from India and Pakistan

**Maisie Cook**  
POLITICAL REPORTER

THE COALITION'S immigration promises threaten to endanger the UK's economy, statistics show. The number of Indian and Pakistani students at British universities has sharply dropped over the past year as a result of tougher anti-immigration legislation. Since overseas students generate around £8bn annually for the economy, this is a genuine concern for economic prospects.

The number of Indian students fell by 23.5%, whereas the number of Pakistani students dropped by 13.4% over the same period. Although the increase in students from China by 16.9% ensured that the number of non-EU students still marginally increased, the drop in students from certain regions suggests that they are turning to competitors like Australia, Canada and the US.

During their time in office the government has made significant reforms to immigration policy. Visas for students outside of the EU are now harder to come by, and workers too have been targeted with a minimum salary requirement of £20,000.

The government claims that this new legislation is necessary to crackdown on abuses of the system. The London Metropolitan University's licence to enrol students from outside the EU was revoked earlier this year, and similar accusations



Skilled students from Pakistan and India have been dealt a blow over studying in the UK due to new rules

have been raised against 'bogus applicants' at other universities.

However, Theresa May's announcement that over 100,000 overseas applicants would be interviewed by consular staff prior to their acceptance takes these necessary steps further.

Income from students outside of the UK is essential to the survival

of these institutions. In fact, universities receive a third of their tuition fee income and 10% of their overall income from them.

As the UK is increasingly reliant on a service-oriented economy, creative minds are needed more than ever, no matter their background. Boris Johnson echoes these concerns, calling the policies 'crazy'.

Mark Harper, the immigration minister, still insists that the UK's immigration policy is allowing "the brightest and the best" to be admitted. However, the severity of the regulations suggests that the government is buckling under popular pressure to meet immigration targets, shooting its own foot in the process.

## New pensions system introduced

**Rebecca Trout**  
POLITICAL REPORTER

OUTLINED ON Monday by Steve Webb, pensions minister, proposals for a new flat-rate state pension, to be introduced in 2017, have been revealed.

This is set to clear up the 'confusion' and 'complexity' surrounding the current system, allowing people to plan ahead for retirement. And of course saving the Government a modest sum.

At present, the full state pension is set at £107.45 a week but many will also be in receipt of pension credit or a second state pension. The flat-rate pension will be set at £144 a week and increase in line with inflation.

The Government have said that the existence of just one state pension will allow certainty for those retiring or planning to retire, enabling them to adequately save for retirement, which at the moment, people are not doing.

However, it seems that the introduction of single-tier state pension will benefit a select few whilst leaving the majority of people worse



Osborne has tried to assure voters this is the best way to secure pensions

off. Among the 'winners' of the plans are women, who may have had time out of work to care for children, the self-employed and low-earners who are effectively 'penalised' by the current system.

Alongside 'winners', the proposals also present 'losers'. Many who are new to work and receiving their

pension after April 2017, are likely to be worse off as they will no longer be able to claim a second state pension.

As it stands, people are able to top up their pensions with a second state pension as well as a pension credit, for those who are eligible, but from April 2017 this will no longer

be the case.

Plans for change will also mean new workers having to work both harder and for longer with the minimum National Insurance (NI) contributions to qualify for the full state pension being raised from 30 to 35 years.

On top of this, to qualify for the pension at all, 7 years worth of NI contributions will have to have been made, meaning that as well as new workers; those who have not made enough NI contributions will lose out.

Those working in the public and private sector involved in 'contracted-out' pension schemes could also lose out. Under such schemes, workers pay reduced rates of NI, but under the new proposals they will no longer receive this discount.

On top of this, years of making reduced NI contributions will also mean these workers may not be eligible for the full state pension when proposals initially come in to force. By making full NI contributions, it is possible to gain the full state pension, but this does mean that public and private sector workers are likely to work for longer in order to do so.



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www.nouse.co.uk/politics

# Indian rape culture is a global problem

**Becky Hartmann**  
**POLITICAL ANALYSIS**

India was the second country ever to elect a female Head of Government in 1966. It is a country that worships women; a country where festivals are dedicated to men promising to protect their female relations.

Yet, it is also a country where the abortion of female foetuses due to a preference for sons is commonplace. A country where women are seen as objects that belong to their father or husband. A country where a rape is reported every 20 minutes.

The brutal gang rape of a student on a bus in New Delhi shocked the world, sparked protests and debate about the prominence of rape not just in Indian society but across the globe. Since December 16th, the spotlight has been on the position of women and girls in Indian society.

Although there is an increasing number of Indian women studying, gaining independence and carving careers for themselves outside of the home, sexism remains ingrained in Indian society.

Dowries; gifts a woman brings to her husband or his family in marriage, have been outlawed since 1961, however, they are still rife. As a result, women are often seen as financial burdens and strains to their families.

They are often seen as mere commodities that cook, clean and raise children. They are seen and not heard. The rape of a woman brings shame upon her and her

family. Often after suffering this ordeal, she will be forced to marry her attacker as she will be unwanted by other men. Rape is not adequately addressed by society; out of over 600 rape cases in New Delhi last year, only one led to a conviction.

However, the brutal attack in New Delhi seems to have brought the issue of rape culture in India to the forefront of debate. It is finally in the spotlight and the issue is finally being addressed. The Indian government is introducing 'fast-track courts' for violent crimes against women and the many rallies that

**“Hopefully this senseless loss of life will mark a turning point in the way rape is dealt with in India”**

have been held seem to show a shift in attitudes.

Whether this global outcry will actually cause any real change in the long term is highly contentious.

The facts still remain that at least six charged rapists have been elected as state legislators, while villages in the North have banned girls from using mobile phones and dancing at weddings in a bid to stop rapes. Moreover, politicians such as Banwari Lal Singh from Rajasthan claim that a ban on students wear-



Protests show that India has reached a turning point in its attitudes towards rape; the world must now too

ing skirts would help solve the rape issue.

Here lies one of the biggest issues with rape culture; it is often seen as a female responsibility to avoid rape. Women are conditioned from a young age not to walk alone in the dark and not to dress provocatively.

Despite the waves of 'slut-walks' last year, a poll by Amnesty

International showed that a quarter of Brits still believe that a woman dressing too provocatively was to blame for her rape. A third believe that a woman acting flirtatiously was to blame.

To state that, for India's rape culture to change India must change its views on women would seem to be stating the obvious. But, hopefully this senseless loss of life will

mark a turning point in the way in which rape is dealt with and viewed in India.

If the protests, rallies and action continue to gather momentum then attitudes could shift. But the sad reality is that it is not just India who needs to change the way in which rape is handled and viewed in society; we have a long way to go too.

# Reform in Saudi Arabia is a positive step

**Ellie Swire**  
**POLITICAL ANALYSIS**

Women are to be appointed to Saudi Arabia's consultative Shura Council for the first time, according to a royal decree.

The announcement is part of a new legislation to reform the senior advisory body, which until recently maintained an all-male board of members. In an amendment to an article in the Council's statute, women will now represent 20% of the Council's 150 seats.

Among the 30 women appointed by King Abdullah, the Saudi ruler, are two princesses, human rights activists and a former executive director of the UN Development Programme.

The measure has been welcomed as a historic moment in the push for greater gender equality in Saudi Arabia, a kingdom where the rights of women are largely curtailed by the strictures of Islamic Shariah law.

Saudi women are forbidden from driving, are excluded from positions of public office and require permission from a male relative or 'guardian' to be able to work or travel.

Critics have viewed the appointments as little more than a symbolic gesture, highlighting the



Whilst women are increasingly liberated in Saudi Arabia, there is still a long way to go to gain true equality

point that the appointed women will have little effective legislative power. As a purely advisory body, the Shura Council can merely offer advice to both the king and to ministers, but is unable to form or veto legislation.

They also point out that the appointments are subject to certain

conditions. In an effort to segregate its male and female members, women will be seated independently within a special section of the council and will be required to enter through a separate door from that of their male colleagues. They must likewise show themselves to

be "committed to Islamic Shariah disciplines without any violations."

Many thus argue that the restrictions on the social and political freedoms of the vast majority of women remain unaltered by the ruling.

Yet, although the new appoint-

ments may appear to be of little consequence to ordinary Saudi women, their significance as part of a larger, long-term trajectory of change should not be underestimated.

King Abdullah has made important, albeit cautious moves towards reform since coming into power in 2005, and the appointments to the Shura Council should be viewed as an inherent part of this progression.

In all areas of society, Saudi women are beginning to effect significant change. In 2009, Norah al-Fayez became the first woman to be appointed a ministerial post, when she became deputy minister for women's education.

Such advancements are not limited to the political sphere. In a momentous occasion at the London Olympics last summer, Sarah Attar, middle-distance runner, became the first female to represent Saudi Arabia in Olympic athletics.

Reform in an ultra-conservative state such as Saudi Arabia will always be slow. This is after all, a country which still attaches electronic tracking devices to its female citizens upon leaving the kingdom. But steps towards reform from above, however symbolic it may seem, has the potential to effect positive and lasting transformation within society as a whole.

Any change is a development in the direction of progress.

**Politics****Politics**

# Cameron must resolve uncertainty

**Adam Highland**  
**POLITICAL ANALYSIS**

David Cameron's much anticipated Europe speech, pulled last week for the second time in four months, is unlikely to dispel the uncertainty surrounding Britain's relationship with the EU. Such has been the hype, his message is now one of the worst kept secrets in politics.

Cameron has openly refused to sit back and let the EU situation develop in a way which is unfavourable to Britain. Few would disagree with his attitude. The EU Commission has pledged a new treaty in 2014 to establish a more integrated and federal fiscal union.

The EU regulation book will continue to fatten and the Euro sceptics will continue to gripe. A renegotiated relationship is inevitable for Britain and indeed, other non-Eurozone states. The status quo cannot, and it seems will not, be an option.

However, Cameron must avoid the danger of going too far in negotiations, expected for the next Parliament. Fresh Start, comprising of a group of Euro sceptic Tory MPs, have published their manifesto calling for a veto on any financial services regulations, the repatriation of all social and employment laws and an opt-out for all criminal and policing directives. Their terms are likely to be widely popular, beyond dogmatic Euro sceptics.

However, they are not wholly achievable. Britain cannot expect to benefit from the single market without accepting the rules which make it workable. Such false confidence will only aggravate European leaders, and encourage a solution which curbs British influence. Associate membership of this sort has already been endorsed by, among others, Jacques Delors, the former EU Commission president. Many Tories will view this as the perfect scenario, in which Britain can trade freely with other European nations, with its sovereignty untouched.

The reality is different. Britain relies on the EU for half its export earnings and so, regardless of its



David Cameron's speech was not expected to resolve the uncertainty surrounding Britain's position on the EU

status, Britain will be affected by EU laws.

Norway, a model associate member, has accepted 75% of European law without any input. It makes no sense for EU members to allow full UK participation in the single market if the playing field is not level, if the UK is not bound by the same employment laws, working-time directives, workers' rights and product specifications which prevent any unfair advantage.

EU membership guarantees Britain a say, and in many cases a veto, over exactly how restrictive these are. The UK faces the prospect of becoming a 'lobby nation', which competes with other special interests for favourable EU policies. It stands only to lose from withdrawal.

As for the referendum, expected

in 2018, many politicians, including Lord Heseltine, Nick Clegg and Ed Miliband, have criticised the uncertainty which a delayed decision on Britain's future will have on investment and jobs. The pound slid for

**“The only good which will come is the silence of Tory backbenchers”**

several consecutive days in light of speculation leading up to Cameron's aborted speech.

The merits of a five year delay have yet to be fully explained. Furthermore, the 'out' option introduces into the debate a possibility which

is not in Britain's interests. The only good which will come is the silencing of persistent Tory backbench protest. Cameron knows this and will campaign hard for Britain to stay in Europe on his terms.

The repatriation of certain powers, particularly in policing, will be welcome. The referendum will, if all goes to plan, validate Britain's revised status and silence the Euro sceptics. The EU can still be a force for good in the UK. The speech will give the Government a chance to re-take the initiative, but it is treading a dangerous path. The UK could accidentally slip over the edge and out of Europe.

Nevertheless, the EU will look different in five years and Cameron's decision to steer change is bold and sensible.

**Nouse  
Events**  
Presents

YUSU President Kallum Taylor and NUS President Liam Burns

Wednesday 20th February

*Coming up*

*Times* columnist Phillip Collins

*Daily Mail* columnist Peter Hitchens



**@frasernelson**  
Fraser Nelson,  
Editor of the Spectator

"From this burger fiasco, they can at least get a new slogan "Tesco: for when you really could eat a horse."

16 Jan

**@BBCStephanie**  
Stephanie Flanders  
BBC Economics Editor

"Pensions may gain but taxpayers lose from decision to keep upward bias in RPI. Raises cost of servicing UK debt. Also student loans."

10 Jan

**@bbcnickrobinson**  
Nick Robinson,  
Politics Editor,  
BBC News

"Puzzled. PM thinks it would be 'mad' to leave EU but Chancellor warned we might have to if EU didn't change #Europe"

15 Jan

**@DeborahJaneOrr**  
Deborah Orr  
Columnist,  
The Guardian

"Does the body rule the mind or does the mind rule the body. I dunno." Morrissey. Often worth heeding. #transphobia"

17 Jan

**@BBCNormanS**  
Norman Smith,  
BBC News

"A majority (59%) of the British public support holding a referendum on Britain's membership in the European Union in @yougov poll #Europe"

17 Jan

# The Data Revolution

Elections are changing. With Obama returned to the White House, Harry Lambert speaks to Sasha Issenberg about how he won.

I've always liked the Wednesday after the campaign...you'd call the people on the winning campaign, and ask 'So what happened, why'd you win?' and very quickly the conversation would become about some discrete activity that took place.

The ad man would point to his revolutionary ad buy, the mail guy a new leaflet and the advance team to a visit strategy. None were right. Campaigns are not about these 'big things', they are about the small interactions with individuals, and it's the ability to understand, create and manage these interactions which is increasingly determining who wins close elections.

This is one of the many insights Sasha Issenberg, *Slate* columnist and author, offers in his recent book *The Victory Lab*. With Obama's second inauguration over, few explanations of how he won are as believable as Issenberg's. Having covered campaigns sporadically for fifteen years, Issenberg in 2009 started to look at what was happening beyond what the limited mainstream media portrayed, himself included.

Issenberg tells the story of a pair of Yale academics who conducted a field experiment in 1998 to test what was most effective in getting the vote: a phone call, piece of mail or a volunteer door knocking? The results showed what two weeks in the U.S. had suggested to me: door knocking works and phone calls are next to useless. This type of rarely conducted field work began to develop and the Democrats have taken advantage of it.

"If you're running a billion dol-



Sasha Issenberg's recent book highlights the revolutionary changes new data can bring for future elections

lar campaign and you can get 5-10 percent better in allocating your voter contact or field budget... (or) if you can be 1, 2 or 3 percent better at mobilising in a race that's going to be decided in a margin of 1, 2 or 3 percent, that's a big deal." Democrats have overturned what had been a Republican advantage since the 1980s, who had through 2004 done "far better integrating the corporate world approach" to connecting with voters. "When it came to direct marketing, list building... [there were] closer ties between Re-

publican research firms and people that did customer relations man-

**“ Advances in big data are revolutionising Democratic campaigns in the USA ”**

agement for corporations." But by 2006, Democrats could go to "the

same data vendors, buy the data and integrate it".

Now they buy access to hundreds of data points, from credit scores to survey responses, linking these largely off-line interactions with the political data - voter roll call lists, party IDs. "The US has effectively no restrictions...certainly compared to Europe, on collecting and reselling data. There's not a culture...of being particularly alarmed about it." Now, "the new 21st century condition of American politics...[is] the share of the electorate that's ac-

tually persuadable is under 15 percent. 2000 really did usher in a new era of polarisation." For Issenberg, elections are no longer "won by capturing swing voters in the middle", they are about turning out your share of the 90 percent of fairly predictable voters.

It was Obama's use of micro-targeting that allowed him to better identify who these voters were. Issenberg notes that "there was movement after the first debate" but internal polls showed it was no more than a reset from voters who had drifted to Obama after the convention and Romney's 47 percent video, containing independent men the campaign 'had assumed would be Romney supporters eventually.'

The movement's public polls were in opposition to the campaign's internals, which highlighted "far less fluidity". Issenberg sees little likelihood of this changing. This Democratic advantage in micro-targeting is one which is set to continue, its benefits only increasing. Moreover its lessons are being "widely democratised on the Left"; as a local candidate it is increasingly likely that you "can get your hands on a three page doc that tells you how to integrate some of these behaviour psych nudges into what you're doing".

Local republicans are yet to show the same interest, with one recently ridiculing "hiring a raft of behavioural scientists to manipulate the electorate".

Such dismissiveness is unlikely to help and the Democrats can look forward to 2014 and 2016 with confidence if the GOP fails to reduce this cultural gap.

# Mali intervention about more than mere help



**THE LAST WORD**  
Hussein Kesvani

And so the New Year is inaugurated with of the next phase in the 'era of intervention'. On January 14th, Francois Hollande, French president initiated 'Operation Serval' - sending fighter jets to prevent Al-Qaeda linked rebels who control the north Mali from seizing Bamako, the capital. News of the French intervention have inevitably brought up questions familiar to us; how long will French troops be stationed in Mali? Will Hollande's efforts rid the south of Islamist advance succeed? Most salient of all, will this be France's Afghanistan?

It was always likely that President Hollande's decision to intervene would be met with accusations of 'neo-imperialism'. And while the legacies of Iraq, Afghanistan and even Libya are still pertinent, we should acknowledge that 'Operation Serval' actually occupies a far more complicated position than reductionist paradigms we have become

accustomed to in the discourse of 'intervention-politics'. Indeed, Hollande's operation cannot simply be reduced to one of humanitarian sympathies, or the overt intention of imposing liberal democracy.

Nor is Mali a territory of im-

**“ Much of the decision is assumed responsibility to protect and atone ”**

mediate strategic importance in Africa. While there exist a supply of natural resources, particularly in gold, it does not hold such an abundant supply of fuel resources that requires military protection for the survival of Western economies. Furthermore, social, economic and environmental crises have long fragmented Mali, even beyond the Islamist-held North, where various cultures function along ethnic and sectarian lines.

With the inherent complexities within Mali, as well as the economic woes currently faced by the French, it might seem as if President Hol-



Hollande's intervention cannot be considered as simply 'neo-imperialist'

lande's decision may be the undoing of his presidency. That of course is too early to tell, but claims of a 'second Algiers' or a repetition of Afghanistan should be considered carefully. For in reality, the resilience of Gaullist foreign policy and the international responsibility would have rendered any President little choice but to intervene.

For while the consolidation of 'militant Islamism' within Western Africa has been cultivated since the 1990's, it is evident that the

movement in Northern Mali became increasingly empowered after Gaddafi's fall. For while Libya may have rid itself of dictatorial rule, the flow of arms and military training have empowered various rebel groups linked to militant Islamist organisations - particularly the ethnic Tuaregs who defected from the Malian army and compose a significant proportion of the Malian population.

This is not to say that the current crisis is due to the last West-

ern intervention. But it is true that a poor assessment of Libyan rebel groups, and an unclear post-war resolution did allow groups once in the shadows to attain significant political capital over the disarray. Although French officials may never directly say it, much of the decision to intervene is likely to lie in an assumed responsibility both to protect, and in atonement for past sins.

Intervention in Mali ultimately illustrates how the conduct of foreign policy in former colonies cannot be removed from the Gaullist principles of 'continuity and independence'. The formation of this postcolonial special relationship pioneered in 1958 by Charles de Gaulle, former president, forms the cultural apparatus in which France maintains an historically-rooted moral duty to assist its colonies in the process of developing institutions to secure a true and lasting independence.

French intervention has occurred not simply for humanitarian reasons, but also to fulfil a continued responsibility toward its former colonies' -securing common interests and providing a stable path of self determination .

# Business

## High Street Blues

It has been a harrowing week for British high streets with the fall of several established brands, as **Satnam Shergill** reports.

**H**MV, the UK's only remaining nationwide music retailer, has appointed administrators and suspended its shares as of 15th January. This hasn't come as a shock to many critics, following consistently poor sales figures, with the news leaving 4,500 jobs hanging in the balance. Trevor Moore, HMV's chief executive, has made it clear that the chain is working hard with the administrators to look for a solution, while its 239 stores continue to operate until potential buyers can be found.

**“HMV’s biggest deficiency was not reacting to the transition to online commerce”**

HMV joins Jessops, and more recently, Blockbuster, as another of the UK's household names to fall into administration. A failure to react to the ever changing nature of the digital market, has facilitated the demise of these companies, with over 9000 jobs at risk in total. Their plight mirrors that of Kodak, the former American photography giant, that also failed to understand the rapidly evolving nature of their respective market. Kodak has recently sold off some of their patents in order to pay off its creditors, after announcing its bankruptcy in early 2012.

HMV did not receive its expected custom in the run up to Christmas period, with an ever increasing



Over 4000 jobs hang in the balance following the collapse of HMV last week

number of consumers turning to the online market for cheaper prices and more variety. The likes of Amazon and John Lewis Online thrived in the Christmas period, with figures from IBM showing that internet spending was up a staggering 44 percent from the previous year's Boxing Day.

The swift growth of online retailers has been emphasized in recent figures published by Columino, a retail research agency, which showed that 73.4 percent of all music and films are now downloaded. The dwindling demand for traditional CDs combined with the growth of downloadable MP3s has

contributed to HMV's troubles, with consumers increasingly opting

**“73.4 percent of all music and films are now downloaded”**

for the cheaper, more accessible alternatives.

This also spells bad news for record labels, as stores like HMV provide an invaluable outlet for the sale of hard copies of CDs and films. However this is not seen to be feasible in the 21st century, with HMV recording a disastrous 10.2 percent

fall in sales during the ten weeks prior to October 27th.

Arguably, HMV's biggest deficiency was not reacting to the transition to online commerce; iTunes Store, Amazon and Netflix all took the leap and reaped the benefits. These companies provide DVD rentals; affordable music downloads, streaming services as well as the traditional hard copies of albums, offering a much more comprehensive service overall.

HMV's tragic end only offers the high street more headaches; as the online markets continues to grow, who will be the next household name to fall?

## The Age of the Smart Shopper

On January 1st, the 'CanIEatIt' app was released for the iPad and iPad mini, having made the Sunday Times' list of the top five hundred apps in the world with its iPhone version.

The app's popularity stems from its database of 'tens of thousands' of food products, including key nutritional information for all, as well as tasting notes which rate products from  $\frac{1}{2}$  star (leave it on the shelf) to 5 stars (put it in the trolley). With products from all the main supermarkets covered, this offers both a quick guide to your general supermarket shop and a useful tool for comparing products' quality and prices between supermarkets. Very useful for the stereotypical scrounging student, but what has this to do with business?

In partnership with Martin Isark, renowned food & drink journalist, this app thus allows quality, not just price to be compared between supermarkets. Obviously this is skewed towards the traditionally more costly supermarkets of Wait-



rose and Marks & Spencer, but in comparing Sainsbury's, Morrisons, Asda and Tesco it is also very useful. For example, Isark rates Sainsbury's the best with a high 8 out of 10 compared to the others' 7, 6.5 and 6 respectively. However, they're all rated differently across the board, with Morrisons being credited for its fresh fish and bottled beers, whilst

the main complaint with Lidl is regarding its lack of customer service.

*Daily Mail* ran an article on January 1st, noting the comparisons between own-brand goods. Some seem obvious - the 27p 'Smart Price' Tea from Asda scoring low, whilst its' ten times more expensive 'Tesco Finest' counterpart scored highly, but some give surprisingly good

**Alastair Ellington**

observations. For example, the 31p Sainsbury's Basics Corn Flakes are given a "2/10"; 'like animal cereal', whereas for 62p more, the Marks & Spencer's Corn Flakes are given a perfect "10/10" score.

As for the tendency for discount brands to be rated worse, that does not detract from the ability to compare the low-value brands of different supermarkets. As Isark says in the *Mail's* report: "they may be cheap but if they taste awful then they do not represent good value". Students may not be leading the charge though, with Costcutter not featured on the app, and price more than quality being the priority for most. However, Naomi Bloxham, iPhone user and History student highlighted the prevailing attitude among students of "I just buy what I want in the shops".

It is hoped that the growth in new technology will benefit consumers with not only more information, but also better competition in terms of quality by the major supermarkets.

## A tax on happiness?

**Max Kassam**

**R**ecent figures published by The British Beer and Pub Association show that the North of England pays more beer tax than the entire Czech Republic, widely regarded as the biggest drinking nation.

In Britain, beer is not only a drink, but a culture. The pub is where people take solace after work, where students spend the majority of their waking hours, and where groups gather to enthral over a Super Sunday of football. This great social hub may be slipping away from us, with the beer duty escalator threatening to make this delightfully comforting past-time simply not affordable to students. Introduced by the last government back in 2008 and continued by the coalition, the tax increases the cost of a pint by 2% every year above inflation. As a result, tax on beer has gone up by over 40% since 2008, with consumers paying over a third of a pint on tax.

With the current state of the economy combined with consistent levels of high inflation, the price of a pint has risen considerably. One reaction to the tax can be seen by John Smith's, who have opted to simultaneously reduce the alcohol content and raise the price - the alcohol percentage will fall from 3.8% to 3.6%, while the price will rise by 2.5p. Heineken, the owner of the brand, claim that this move is merely in line with that of other leading brands such as Tetley's. However, it also happens to save them around £6.5m annually. The prices we are now being faced with are enough to make you look away in disgust, with 6,000 pubs being closed in the past four years.

Not only is this tax ripping into our pockets, Charlotte Leslie, Conservative MP, described it as 'ripping the heart out of communities'. The beer tax will see the Treasury reeling in around £9bn each year, at the expense of an industry which is a pivotal employer for young people.

Indeed, Wetherspoons have recently announced that they are chain planning to open 30 more pubs in 2013 and in doing so, create 1,200 more jobs. However all round, it just seems to taste a bit bitter.



# Willownomics

Abel Seow

IM.NO.HERO



Love it or hate it, Willow is a quintessential part of a typical York student's life. You are bound to mention it when a good night out is looked back upon, and for many, is where the night reaches its climax and, ends.

Willow, the former Chinese restaurant, seems to have thrived and managed to become a continued leader in its field despite the competition and challenges it faces, especially in the face of rising tuition fees and increasingly restrictive student budgets.

It confounds normal business sense coupled with poor or nonexistent customer service, low quality and limited products with awful infrastructure and a severe lack in 'R&D'. Yet, Willow continues to steadily plough on.

So what makes Willow the cash cow it presently is? Every successful business has its edge, a unique selling point. Willow's is simple - cheap entry, affordable drinks and a promise of few restrictions catered especially for students. Throw in a prime location on Coney Street, in the

**Cheap entry, cheap drinks, a promise of few restrictions, catered especially for students”**

middle of town, and you have the recipe for success bubbling away. It is also simple and straightforward - a promise of a good night out with your mates, with cheesy music, for a decent cost.

It is also consistent, in everything from the questionable hygiene of the toilets to the expression of Konrad the bouncer's face at the door.

From a business point of view, Willow's branding and identity is perhaps unrivalled in its industry. The brand is memorable, easily as-

sociated and identifiable with. Willow has a distinct marketing advantage through word of mouth, its merchandise such as T-shirts bearing its logo and well known staff. Students can be spotted wearing Willow t-shirts to the gym, to play sports, with some even climbing Mount Kilimanjaro in them.

Tommy Fong, the owner, and Konrad are easy to identify, and are almost the mascots and faces of Willow, in some cases having photos taken of them and with them. All these come at little or no cost to the business, and that probably is the best form of marketing one could ask for.

The costs Willow faces are also much lower than others in the same field. Unlike other nightclub establishments in York, Willow is one of the few that operates from just one shop level. This simply means that it pays less rent, ultimately resulting in lower fixed costs. Its lack of investment and upkeep of infrastructure also means that it spends less than its competitors.

Lest we forget, Willow is a monopoly - well, almost. Think Major League Baseball or Microsoft (to a slightly lesser extent). Willow is the unanimous choice for York student

**“Students can be spotted wearing Willow t-shirts to the gym, to play sports, with some even climbing Mount Kilimanjaro in them”**

party goers every night from 1am - 4am.

What does the future hold for Willow? Until those sticky walls and wonky stairs finally give way, or the club loses its license, it is hard to imagine student night outs without the great nights in Willow. Love it or hate it, it seems our beloved Willow is here to stay.

# Who you know verses what you know

**Jasbir Norris**  
DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

At a time when decisions on internships and graduate jobs hang in the balance, the age old adage that 'it's who you know not what you know' may ruefully spring to mind for some.

We have all no doubt heard countless stories of friends gaining terrific employment opportunities without even a mention of the formal application process, a fact which has left a bitter taste in many mouths.

In an age of ever increasing employment equality legislation and supposed equal opportunities, does the old saying still hold true?

Successive government's attempts to eradicate this culture have been a mixed success, with charities such as the Social Mobility Foundation founded to break down social

barriers to high level employment. The Civil Service for example also offers what it calls the 'The Summer Diversity Internship Programme', with the aim of increasing opportunities to those from under-represented socioeconomic backgrounds. Nevertheless, many from households on middle income are not eligible for any form of governmental support or assistance, and it is this group which struggles.

This is not to say that those without any contacts cannot succeed. The rise of social networking tools such as Facebook and LinkedIn has increased the scope of potential networks to the extent that many senior employees at large firms are now easily contactable.

However it must be noted that this process is extremely time consuming, relies on cold calling employees out of the blue and therefore

holds little chance of success.

It is still the case that most of the top jobs are reserved for those with the right connections. This can be seen through the existence of exclusive societies such as the in-

**“It is still the case that most of the top jobs are reserved for those with the right connections”**

famous Bullingdon Club at Oxford University. The New York Times describes the club as representing the "acme of exclusiveness at Oxford; it is the club of the sons of nobility, the

# Luck of the Irish

Alastair Ellington

It's almost 10 years since the day that a bomb exploded in the centre of Enniskillen in County Fermanagh, Northern Ireland. No-one was hurt, but the shock still remains due to its proximity to the location of the Remembrance Day bombing of 1987, when a Provisional IRA bomb killed twelve.

So, it is of great significance that David Cameron has chosen to host the 2013 G8 summit - a gathering of the most important world leaders - in that same county. Peter Robinson, Northern Ireland's First Minister, said: "the decision is indicative of the prime minister's confidence in Northern Ireland". He further pointed out that it "is a massive boost for us", and the potential economic benefit is incredible.

In a report to the Scottish Executive, analysts at SQW estimated that the 2005 Gleneagles summit was worth £67.4 million to businesses in Scotland, including sales lost elsewhere and long-term investment, with more money generated beyond that from media coverage and government spending. However, analysis in 2010 by research groups at the University of Toronto went further, calculating that most G8 summits over the last 10 years have been worth between US\$200mn (2002 and 2004) and US\$353mn (2008), with the 2005 summit worth a staggering US\$1.3bn, highlighting the exacerbated benefits when located in "smaller communities".

Meanwhile Derry/London-derry has just become the first UK City of Culture. When bidding, it has been reported by the *Independent* the City Council estimated an "18% growth in residential visitors and a 20% rise in day trippers", with analysis firm Regeneris predicting a net gain of £40 million into the local economy.

It is also worth noting that the 'World Police and Fire Games' will be hosted in Belfast this year. These games - held biannually since 1967 - have never been held in the British Isles before. Their claim to inject

"at least £16.3 million" into the local economy might seem paltry compared to the above, but they are just as significant in showing the progress Northern Ireland has made towards peace and stability, though attacks on police officers still continue.

Although 2013 promises a pot of gold, it will be no easy feat to get there. This month's protests cost local businesses an estimated £15 million, with the discovery of a bomb under a policeman's car highlighting the old tensions still haunt Belfast's streets. Aisling Ledwith, an English student from Coleraine, is one of those frustrated by "people confusing religion and politics". Meanwhile, old problems trump new gains even in the UK City of Culture, where the Cowley Cooper Fine Art gallery (with a role in the celebrations) has had to close its shop due to high business rates.

Progress though, like the peace, may be fragile, but it is still there. As are the reasons to believe in it; with so much being celebrated in the north in 2013, it seems at least this year, fortune favours the Irish.

PAOLO DONADEO



been made in breaking down the barriers associated with elitism, it is still the case that the better connected succeed. Whether this will change in the future, only time will tell.

DAVID BASANTA





# Science

## White House vetoes Death Star petition

**James Ellis**  
DEPUTY SCIENCE EDITOR

The US government has recently turned down a petition signed by over 34,000 people to construct what it describes as a "space-superiority platform and weapon system such as a Death Star". The White House is under an obligation to respond to all petitions which receive more than 25,000 signatures through the website, We The People.

The petition claimed that the construction of a Death Star would be a major boost to the economy with regards to job creation; however, they overlooked the astronomically high cost of the production.

The construction of the Death Star has been estimated to cost in excess of 850 quadrillion dollars (\$850,000,000,000,000,000); unfortunately, not a financially viable project given the current economic climate.

Paul Shawcross, chief of the Science and Space Branch at the White House's Office of Management and Budget, responded to the



A petition to build the Death Star was declined, meaning that sights like these won't be common

petition in good humour, entitling the reply as "This isn't the Petition Response you're looking for."

He goes on to state that there is already something floating around in the sky, saying "that's no moon" in reference to the International Space

Station.

Reasons such as "why would we spend countless taxpayer dollars on a Death Star with a fundamental flaw that can be exploited by a one-man starship?" and "the Administration does not support blowing up

planets" were also cited.

Shawcross then mentions how rovers on Mars and astronauts living on the International Space Station are paving the way for future space travel.

He promotes science, engineer-

ing and mathematical careers, as these jobs may one day lead to what is currently classed as science fiction becoming a reality.

Consider that *A trip to the Moon*, the 1902 film by Georges Méliès (as seen in *Hugo*) was seen as science fiction at the time and yet, a mere 67 years later, on July 20th 1969 Man walked on the moon.

Eight years later, *Star War Episode IV: A New Hope* was released, and less than 36 years have passed since its release. Who knows what the world will be in another few decades; maybe we'll have interstellar travel and the ability to re-grow body parts.

Or maybe not, however the frontiers of science are forever moving forward and will continue to do in ways that will surely shock and surprise all of us.

The White House, on the other hand, has made a change, stating on 15th January that a minimum of 100,000 individual signatures were now needed for a petition to receive an official response, a number quadruple what was required for the "Death Star" response.

## Iodine's role in depletion of ozone revealed

**Matt Ravenhall**  
SCIENCE REPORTER

Ozone is a curious molecule. Consisting entirely of three oxygen atoms, this infamous species is most well known for its ability to shield us from harmful UV rays.

Most of us will also have heard of the so-called 'ozone layer' and fear that a massive hole has developed within it. Fewer will know that ozone is also found nearer to the ground and contributes to smog, a far more disastrous effect of the substance.

Whilst this has all been well established, there is still work to be done in determining exactly how ozone is being depleted. Recent research, involving scientists from the Universities of York and Leeds has shed light on the role that iodine plays, particularly over the sea.

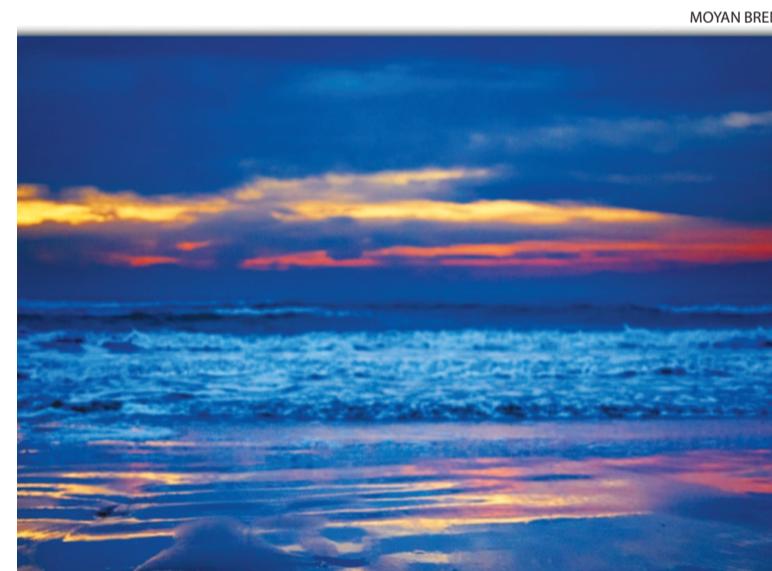
In a paper recently published in

*Nature Geoscience*, the teams demonstrated that the breakdown of ozone by iodine resulted in the production of more chemically reactive species such as hypoiodous acid (HOI) and gaseous iodine ( $I_2$ ).

The interaction of these products and ozone have led to further ozone depletion, highlighting the presence of a negative feedback.

It was also demonstrated that the products of the original reaction were emitted at a greater rate than organically produced compounds such as Methyl iodide ( $CH_3I$ ) and Chloroiodomethane ( $CH_2ICl$ ). This contradicts previous assumptions that majority of ozone-depleting iodine over the oceans was due to the actions of phytoplankton and sunlight.

Furthermore, HOI and  $I_2$  are more reactive than organic sources. The combination of these two factors places inorganic iodine in the dock as being the most responsible



Iodine has now been implicated as having a key role in ozone depletion

for ozone depletion over the sea.

Professor Lucy Carpenter, of York's Department of Chemistry

stated that "the research has implications for the way that radio nuclides of iodine in seawater, released

into the ocean mainly from nuclear reprocessing facilities, can be re-emitted into the atmosphere".

With Professor John Plane, of the University of Leeds' School of Chemistry adding that "the negative feedback for ozone should be particularly important for removing ozone in the outflows of pollution from major cities in the coastal tropics", this being due to more iodide being found in tropical oceans and the rate of this process appearing to be occurring faster in warmer waters.

It should be noted however that this process only happens in the lower atmosphere as opposed to the stratosphere where the aforementioned protective 'ozone layer' resides.

This is due to the chemistry involved being very rapid. It is therefore not a candidate for potentially enlarging the 'hole in the ozone layer'.

### The Cuban Giant Owl

The Cuban Giant Owl that lived on the island of Cuba during the Late Pleistocene (between 126,000 and 11,700 years ago) is thought to be the largest species of owl to have ever lived. Growing as tall as 1.1 metres and estimated to weigh around 9kg, it is thought that these owls were highly adapted to living on the ground. Its remains have been found all over Cuba, mainly in cave deposits. It is also thought the owls would have been exceptionally strong runners.



### The Dodo

The Dodo was a large flightless bird found on the island of Mauritius. Their inability to fly and lack of fear of humans meant they were easy to hunt. First reported by Dutch sailors in 1598, by the last recorded sighting of one in 1662, it had been driven to extinction. This went unnoticed for some time after the last sighting. No intact specimens survive of dodos, so we are not even sure exactly what one looked like. We want these around just so we can apologise.



### Top Five: Animals we want back

**Sara Farish**  
presents the top five species we've driven to extinction and want back

# US releases climate report

Eleanor Walton reports on the USA's 2013 National Climate Assessment which paints a stark picture of the future global climate but stresses there is still time to act to reduce the effects



This new report puts further pressure on the US and the world to address climate change and is being met by some moderate resistance

We're doomed (said in best Private Frazer voice) and it's all our own doing. This is according to the first draft of the USA's 2013 National Climate Assessment report published online last week. Not only does this report outline how the effects of global warming are already affecting the people of America, it firmly asserts that the cause of climate change as being "primarily driven by human activity".

Although the report compiles all of the extreme weather battering USA's territories, including ones in the Pacific such as Hawaii, it is clear to all that what affects a country the size of USA will be affecting us all. Due to the USA's status as a dominant world power, this report has grabbed international attention and it is hoped that it signals the possible acceptance of humanity's role in our degenerating environment.

The report was the collaborative work of over 240 scientists and encompasses wide reaching areas which climate change affects. Topics covered in the report include water resources, energy supply, transportation, agriculture, forestry, ecosystems, infrastructure and human health.

By U.S. law, such a report that amalgamates and describes the findings of research programs into global change must be made to the President and Congress every four

years. The first was published in 2000 and the second in 2009, with a missing one written but not published during the Bush administration.

This first draft will now be available for public comment until the 12th of April as part of its review process before being formally submitted to Congress.

More significantly, the report talks about choices the American people face and how change now, especially when it comes to greenhouse gas emissions, can lessen the damage in the future.

To quote the report directly – "Beyond the next few decades, the amount of climate change will still largely be determined by the choices society makes about emissions".

The paper outlines current models and predictions, some of which come from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which describe what scientists think will happen if gas emissions are curtailed or not.

It's hardly surprising, but the models where greenhouse gas emissions are cut predict a more hopeful future than models where it is allowed to be emitted at the current rate. Tellingly, the models all still predict rises in global temperatures and sea levels. Reading in-between the lines of this report, we are no longer able to stop climate change but instead, are resigned to mitigat-

ing its effects.

The possible effects of climate change outlined in the report cast a bleak picture. The models used predict more extreme weather events, droughts and wild fires; all of which are easier to imagine in the wake of last year's Hurricane Sandy and the current record-breaking Australian heatwave.

Further challenges we may face include the increased spread of human diseases carried by insects, reduced air & water quality and detriment to mental health. Oh and let's not forget modifications to biodiversity and changes in agricultural yields which will affect food prices.

It is not all doom and gloom though. The report also looks to science to provide us with ways to adapt to such conditions. It hints at the "economic opportunities" that adapting will produce as well as how "pro actively managing the risks will reduce costs over time". One of the report's findings is that plans for adaptation are being made but with limited uptake as of yet. Hopefully this will change in the next few years.

These "economic opportunities" could include programmes to build "amphibious houses" like the one being built on the banks of the River Thames next month. The houses are water-tight below ground level, meaning that as flood water rises the house can rise with

it, like a boat in its birth. The house will be guided by large poles which run along its sides to prevent it from drifting away.

However, the report is being met with some moderate resistance. Opponents of anthropogenic climate change, i.e. caused by humans, rubbish the scientific merit of the paper, like an article on the *Tea Party Tribune* website.

Additionally, an article on the website of the Institute for Energy Research, a charity with ties to the oil industry, argues that the USA acting alone will not change anything on a global scale and that trying to regulate carbon dioxide emissions will weaken the US economy. However, the major of coverage so far has been supportive.

The White House's Office of Science and Technology Policy have pointed out that this is scientific and not a policy document, but when finished it will be an important go-to for anyone needing to know about climate change. They also thanked the 1000 plus individuals who helped completed the report over the last 4 years.

The overall message of the report is that climate change may already be affecting the world, yet some mitigation is still possible. However it is the ways in which we can adapt that may now be our saving grace. In the meantime, "don't panic Captain Mainwaring."

## Drug resistant gonorrhea in North America

**Sophia Bustraan**  
SCIENCE REPORTER

Gonorrhea, a sexually transmitted disease, was once simply treated with the administration of antibiotics. However a new strain that has arisen is unresponsive to the last line of antibiotics against it and just days ago, North America reported its first cases.

Gonorrhea, the second most common STD in the UK after Chlamydia, can be asymptomatic until its later stages, particularly in women. If left untreated, it can cause infertility and may even be fatal if it spreads to the blood or joints.

Antibiotic resistant strains have already been reported in Europe and Canada, with the Journal of the American Medical Association reporting that 6.7% of patients were unresponsive to the current line of oral treatment in a Canadian clinic.

Cephalosporin, the current antibiotic used to treat gonorrhea, works by preventing *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* from building a cell wall, thus causing it to die. However, bacteria can adapt to become resistant to antibiotics when mutations in their genes cause changes in the cell. For example, structural changes in enzymes that build the cell wall in *N. gonorrhoeae* lead to specimens of the bacteria becoming resistant to cephalosporin.

These resistance genes are easily spread between bacteria leading to new strains of 'super bacteria'. Antibiotic resistance in bacteria have been observed since the 1960s and our response has been to kill the resistant bacteria with new antibiotics, which they then adapt to become resistant again.

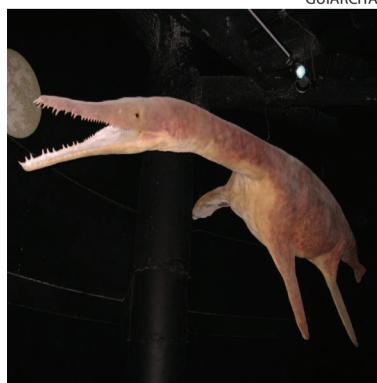
Now, due to the misuse of antibiotics and a decrease in the research and production of new antibiotics, more strains of 'super bacteria' are arising against which we are running out of methods of fighting.

*N. gonorrhoeae* are highly adaptable bacteria and have already become resistant to four different kinds of common antibiotics and so now in the UK combination therapies are used fight it through the administration of an oral pill alongside an injection.

Now that this 'untreatable' strain of gonorrhea is threatening to become an even larger problem than before.

## The Plesiosaur

The Plesiosaur is an aquatic reptile that lived in the Jurassic and Cretaceous periods. It had a large body, four flippers as limbs, a long neck along with a small head. It had been theorised that plesiosaurs may have crawled up on a beach to lay their eggs, but it is now clear that plesiosaurs gave birth to live young. The many Loch Ness sightings seem to resemble the plesiosaur, but according to fossil records the animal went extinct approximately 65 million years ago.



## T-Rex

The most famous of extinct animals, the tyrannosaurus rex, was a bipedal dinosaur that existed in the late Cretaceous period. It had large powerful hind legs, a large balancing tale and disproportionately small arms. It was one of the largest land carnivores to have ever lived, the largest complete specimen is 12.3 metres long. Whether or not the T-Rex was the vicious hunter of films or merely a scavenger will always be the subject of a long-running fiercely controversial debate.



## Flores Man

Flores man or 'Homo floresiensis' is a possible species belonging to the same genus as modern humans, fossils of which have recently been discovered in Indonesia in 2003. Even as fully grown adults they would still only stand at a slight 3 feet tall. Due to their short stature they have been nicknamed 'The Hobbit'. Recent fossil evidence suggests that they only went extinct around 12,000 years ago meaning they could have overlapped with modern humans.

**Science****Science**

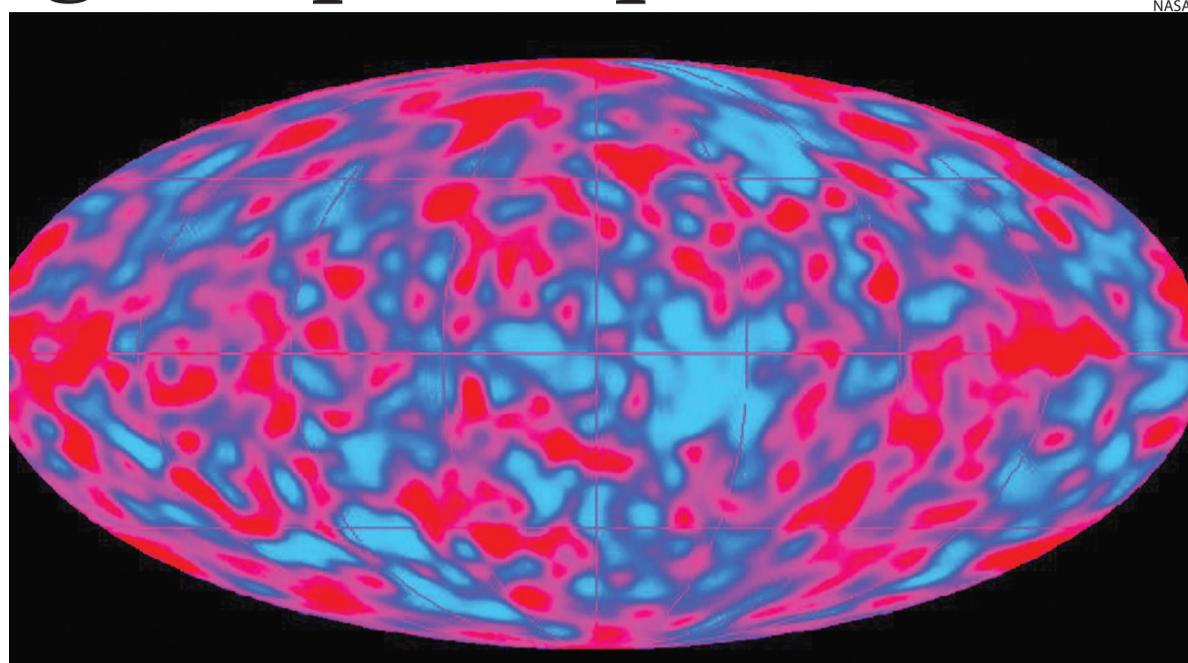
# Cosmological principles challenged

**Sarah Farish**  
DEPUTY SCIENCE EDITOR

Our galaxy is 100,000 light years across, and the distance to our closest neighbouring galaxy is 2.5 million light years – distances beyond comprehension. Recently however an object has been found on a scale that shouldn't exist. A cluster of quasars; highly energetic celestial objects, now the largest object in the known universe, is over 4 billion light years in diameter, the same time taken for light to travel across the earth.

Quasars are the dense centre of a galaxy surrounding a black hole. Quasars are extremely luminous, powered by the accretion disc around their central black hole. It has been discovered most quasars are distant objects moving further away from us at very high velocities. This suggests they are objects from the early universe. The recently discovered structure consists of 73 quasars, each the centre of an ancient galaxy.

Quasars were first discovered in the late 1950s, when strong radio emissions were detected from points in the sky that look like normal stars. To achieve the average lu-



The COBE distribution of energy in the Universe may not be as symmetrical as scientists initially thought.

minosity of a quasar, the central supermassive black hole would need to consume 10 stars a year. During a period where a quasar has no material to consume, it 'deactivates' and becomes an ordinary galaxy.

Due to the fact that we can only see objects once the light reaches

us, when we look at astronomical objects we are looking into the past. This structure is estimated to be from 9 billion years ago when the universe was only 5 billion years old.

The cluster found has gathered in a gravitational bound clump – meaning the structure can be re-

garded as a single object. The size of the cluster challenges Einstein's cosmological principle that the universe must look the same in all directions when viewed from any point when viewed on a sufficiently large scale.

This principle allows us to as-

sume that the same laws of physics that applies to the earth can be used across the universe.

Previous models have allowed for structures up to the size of 1.2 billion light years, but this new discovery is three times that. It makes up a few percent of the entire observable universe.

The cluster has been discovered close to another massive cluster of quasars discovered in 1991, suggesting there is something special about this region of the universe – something that should not be the case under the current interpretation of the cosmological principle.

The research was carried out by an international team lead by Roger Clowes from the University of Central Lancashire, using data provided by the Sloan Digital Sky Survey. Clowes helped discover the quasar cluster in 1991 that has previously come closest to challenging the cosmological principle.

Clowes has said clinging to the cosmological principle "makes life a lot simpler mathematically" but that it has "never been demonstrated beyond a reasonable doubt". However, more work is needed if the cosmological principle is to be disproved.

# York leads the way in modelling of insulin

**Matt Ravenhal**  
SCIENCE REPORTER

Anybody who suffers from, or knows somebody who suffers from diabetes will know what a life-changing affliction it is. Considering the statistics, it is believed that 2.9 million people in the UK currently suffer from some form of the condition, and that number is rising.

Diabetes mellitus is a metabolic syndrome that results in excessively high blood sugar levels in those suffering from the disease. This has many serious consequences for their general health.

Back in 1996, the figure was 1.4 million and it is estimated that it will reach 5 million people by 2025 – a staggering number that will have a serious impact on the country.

And yet it all comes down to the interaction between one small molecule and its receptor. Simply put, if you lack insulin, you will have type 1 diabetes and if you lack its receptor you will have type 2. The latter being the more common form due to

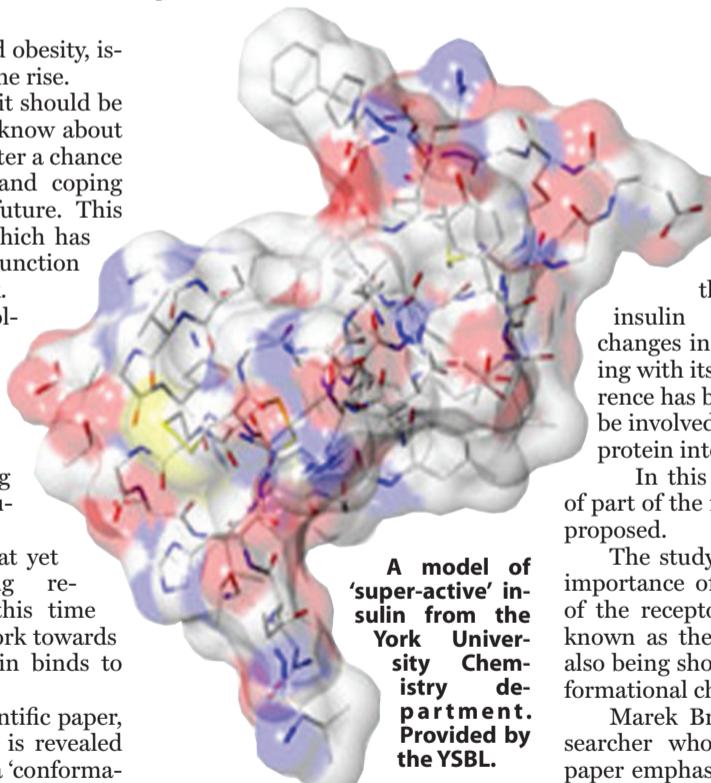
its links with ageing and obesity, issues which are also on the rise.

With this in mind, it should be clear that the more we know about that interaction, the better a chance we stand in treating and coping with diabetes in the future. This is precisely the work which has been going on in conjunction with researchers at York.

Deep inside the Biology Department lies the York Structural Biology Laboratory (YSBL), where a team of more than 70 scientists are hard at work unlocking the secrets of the molecular world.

It is from here that yet more ground-breaking research has emerged, this time providing part of the work towards determining how insulin binds to its receptor.

In the relevant scientific paper, published in *Nature*, it is revealed that insulin undergoes a 'conformational switch' as a result of binding.



This means that the shape of the insulin molecule physically changes in response to its binding with its receptor. This occurrence has been long suspected to be involved and is widespread in protein interactions.

In this case, a readjustment of part of the insulin's 'B-chain' was proposed.

The study also highlighted the importance of a particular section of the receptor in the interaction, known as the aCT segment – this also being shown to undergo a conformational change.

Marek Brzozowski, a York researcher who contributed to the paper emphasised that "the success of this study highlights the power of an interdisciplinary and collabora-

tive team approach to an otherwise intractable problem" as well as "the power of structural biology to visualise such fundamental biological processes".

Considering that the York team was working alongside scientists in the United States, Australia and the Czech Republic, it is without a doubt that this effort was truly an international one.

This is a clear demonstration that the work which goes on within our university is not only vastly important to scientific progress but also does much to bring many different organisations and countries together.

The paper was dedicated to the late Professor Guy Dodson from the University's Department of Chemistry 'in recognition of his inspirational and lifetime contribution to the study of the structure of insulin'.

The study bridged three generations and benefited from the insight of three retired distinguished scientists. Colin Ward, Guy Dodson and Don Steiner, one of the discoverer of proinsulin.

## Top 4 Invasive species

**Nicola Farthing** has a look at some of the most invasive species of the last century.

### Grey Squirrel

We are all aware that the grey squirrel is an invader to our woodlands, but what is it about these intruders that have so devastated our native red squirrel populations? The grey squirrel which hail from North America are carriers of a deadly squirrel pox, to which our reds have evolved no defence. They also eat seven times more food per hectare than our native species, meaning they out compete any reds which manage to survive the plague they carry.



### Killer Bees

In 1957, a beekeeper in São Paulo, Brazil, accidentally released 26 Tanzanian queen bees which then mated with native honeybees, giving rise to the so-called killer bees. The bees were first discovered in the U.S. in 1990 and have since spread from across the USA, from California to Florida. These bees aren't just poor at producing honey; they are also an incredibly aggressive species, with reports of people receiving more than 1000 stings during a single attack.



# Here is one I made earlier

**Raymond Li**  
SCIENCE REPORTER

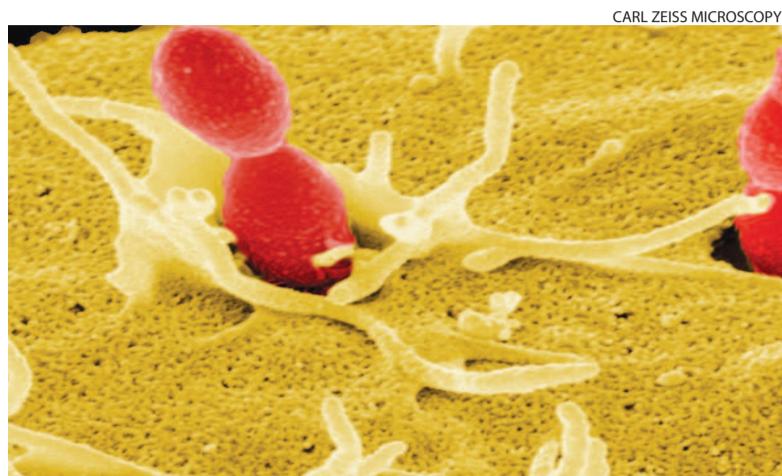
The International Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM) Foundation, is an independent nonprofit organization located in Massachusetts, USA. It aims to encourage and inspire new ideas for science students from universities across the world.

Every year, iGEM hosts a competition which gathers an enthusiastic, open community of students and practitioners alike who strive to develop the new field of synthetic biology.

Contestants from around the world must design, create and present their own genetic machines (such as Genetically Modified bacteria) to judges in regional jamborees held across the World, who judge contestants on the genetic modifications incorporated and the presentation.

Last year, the Europe regional jamboree was held in Amsterdam. There, the best teams in Europe were selected to compete against the top teams from all across the globe in Massachusetts for the bio-brick trophy, the highly sought grand prize.

Students at York can also be-



E.coli have been modified to produce many different novel compounds.

come part of this amazing opportunity by organising a team that consists of a faculty member, either in the software or wetware category.

Each team will receive a kit containing a selection of genetic parts that can be used to create the synthetic biology devices that will be incorporated into living micro-organisms. Students should aim to create an organism that displays novel or extraordinary functions by using these genetic tools.

Previous competitions have created some amazing discoveries that have gone on to influence important advances in medicine, energy and the environment.

In 2011, the University of Washington created the winning 'Make It or Break It' E.coli strain which made diesel while breaking down gluten.

To "make it", the team introduced a pair of genes to convert fatty acid synthesis intermediates into alkane. To 'break it', They re-

engineered a protease to increase its existing gluten degradation ability, especially useful when taken as pills. This has given E. coli the potential to not only create fuel and aid the digestion process.

Other projects showed off creations that ranged from the brilliant to the weird and wonderful such as Bactoblood; a cost effective red blood cell substitute constructed entirely from modified E. coli, whilst other projects even modified bacteria to smell like wintergreen and bananas.

The competition aims to stimulate the creativity of the students, in hope of inspiring them to create biological systems that are capable of solving some of the world's major problems.

This is a unique opportunity to interact with students from around the world, so if anyone is interested in getting involved with the iGEM competition you can find out more on the 2013 iGEM website. There, you can also register (applications are already open), and even read about the previous competition winners of the years gone by for inspiration.

## UK losing Graphene race

**Sarah Pyror**  
SCIENCE REPORTER

A 'honeycomb' sheet of carbon just one atom thick basking in a sea of de-localised electrons; graphene is a relatively new finding that has sparked an industrial race.

2010 saw Andre Geim and Konstantin Novoselov of the University of Manchester win the Nobel Prize for Physics as a result of their breakthrough with this 'wonder' material, which is stronger than diamond, highly conductive and exceedingly flexible.

Since its discovery, graphene has been seen to have great potential for many different areas of technological innovation. There are high hopes that one day it will be a replacement for silicon as the material for transistors in electronics. Silicon based components at the moment are constrained due to the relatively large size at which they are produced, but graphene could allow computer chips to be miniaturised.

Transparency, strength, conductivity and the substance's flexible and stable nature means that graphene has immense potential in the development of touch screens. Other theoretical uses include enhancement of solar cells, aiding drug delivery and building new tissue in medicine.

Given this commercial potential, in October 2011, the UK government pledged £50m towards researching graphene related technologies. In December 2012, £21.5m was bestowed upon British universities with particularly promising graphene projects, for example Imperial College London, Durham, Manchester and Cambridge, which is currently working on a flexible screen. These universities are also partnered with many industrial companies.

This large, yet largely untapped commercial potential also means that a lot of this research is going overseas. Recent figures reveal that since 2007 there has been a hefty rise in the numbers of graphene related patents and patent applications worldwide, proving that the race to develop these technologies is well and truly afoot.

The Chinese have the highest number of patent publications, with 2,204, clearly showing that the country intends on being a forerunner in the business. Individually, the South Korean company Samsung has 407. In stark contrast, the UK is in possession of only 54.

Andre Geim noted that many Western companies are concerned about the actions of their competitors, but lacking the ability to undertake the level of research they desire. Perhaps Britain is not seeing the value in the development of graphene, or is simply slipping behind in the race for business supremacy in this area?

Whilst a great challenge, it is not too late for the UK to step up. When the European Commission soon announces the winners of a one billion euro prize for scientific research, for which the 'Graphene Flagship' consortium is a contender, this area of could get a well needed boost.

# Amateur inventor paves the way

**Matthew Wells**  
SCIENCE REPORTER

As we are constantly being told, fossil fuels that we are heavily reliant on, are running out. As a result; we have to search for alternative, renewable energy sources.

However, one of the major problems with renewable energy sources at present, is that the rate at which we can generate energy from wind, waves and sun is dependent entirely on nature. This means that energy is often produced when we have no need for it, or cannot be produced quickly enough to match our demands at peak times. However, an amateur inventor from Hertfordshire may have found a solution, or so he thinks.

Peter Dearman, the inventor of the MicroVent resuscitation device used in ambulances, has devised a mechanism whereby power generated from wind turbines, or indeed

other energy sources, may be stored, and used at a time of greater need. The principle is quite simple; water vapour and carbon dioxide are extracted from the air in order to prevent freezing, this works due to their low freezing point. Then, instead of being directed to the national grid, the electricity generated can be used to cool the air to around -190°C. As a result of cooling, the air is condensed from gas into a liquid, providing a more compact solution. The resulting liquid can then be stored until there is a greater demand for power, at which point, the liquid may be warmed, causing it to vaporise. This expansion can then be used to drive a turbine and generate electricity. A key advantage of this approach is that no combustion is required; meaning no harmful gases are released into the atmosphere, and there is no use of non-renewable fuels.

As with all emerging energy technologies however, there is a



disadvantage. In this instance the problem is one of efficiency; according to the institution of mechanical engineers (IMechE), the process is only 25% efficient, though it is predicted that this could be increased to 70% by placing the system next to an existing power station and using excess heat from there to increase the rate at which the liquid air expands.

The future of our energy supplies is an uncertain one; though we must begin to move away from our reliance on fossil fuels, and technologies such as this could help us to do just that.

The idea has already received funding from the government and has been on trial for two years at a power station in Slough, Berkshire. It may not solve our energy problems completely, but Mr Dearman's idea could just be the helping hand renewable energy sources need to start making a considerable contribution to our energy supply.

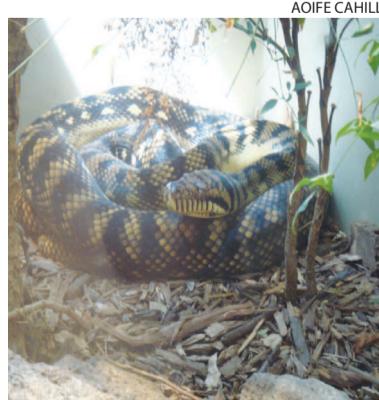
## Snakehead Fish

The northern snakehead fish has teeth like a shark and the ability to walk on land. The carnivorous fish from Asia appeared in a Maryland, USA, in 2002 after a local ordered the fish from a market in New York's Chinatown and decided to release them. The fish decimated resident wildlife which had no defence against the invaders. The fish's ability to travel over land means it has since been spotted everywhere from New York to California.



## Python

In the mid 1990s, it was fashionable to own a pet python. But when the fashion literally grew out of control, the up to 6m long snakes were released into the everglades as they grew too big for their tanks. The pythons have not only become a threat to local wildlife but they feed on endangered species such as the Key Largo wood rats. They can grow big enough to constitute a threat to humans. The area has become so overrun that an import ban on such pets was implemented in USA in 2012.



AOIFE CAHILL

## Sport

# PARK LIFE

Dan Holland  
SPORTS EDITOR

York is awash with good sporting news at the minute.

Even with the arctic weather conditions playing havoc with fixtures both on and off campus, there seems to be wave after wave of positivity as far as sport in our adopted city is concerned.

By now, those of you interested in such things will have seen the news of the Yorkshire Marathon, created in memory of charity fundraiser Jane Tomlinson, which will launch in October and see 5000 runners take to the streets of York.

And, even more exciting, York will be the starting point for Stage Two of the 2014 Tour de France, with the Grand Depart starting in Leeds a day beforehand. I suspect the prospect of seeing Sir Wiggo and co. cycling through the streets of York may be enough to make me stick around for a little while after graduation.

“York’s clubs deserve huge praise for the success they deliver”

On top of that, the new Community Stadium, which will play host to York City FC and the York City Knights rugby league side, should be arriving in 2015 at the site of the current Huntington Stadium.

That will mean York Athletics Club moving to a new £2m county standard athletics track at our own York Sport Village on Hes East, with the new facilities reportedly set to open by the end of this year.

So then, I think it's the turn of our University teams to keep the good news coming.

This year has been one of great success so far and great promise of things to come. However if that is to continue and York are to move to the next level in terms of sporting prowess then a significant push has to be made.

The investment and recognition heading the way of Yorkshire and the City of York is set to transform sport in the region and something similar is required here at the University to make the next step.

For years the Black and Gold have been around the mid-40s of the BUCS leagues, and while the aim this year to break the top 40 is well within our reach there is a sense that such a finish would be pushing our sides to the absolute limits.

With the current levels of funding and standard of facilities afforded to them, York's clubs deserve huge praise for the success they deliver. I was told last year, for example, that the Boat Club was operating on something like one one-hundredth of the budget of the teams they were competing against and beating.

With the feel-good factor surrounding British sport right now, this is the perfect time for the University to follow the city's lead and capitalise on a unique opportunity to take our sports teams to the next level.

# Six Nations 2013 tournament preview

With the Six Nations less than two weeks away, **Beth Jakubowski** and **George Barrett** make their picks for this year's tournament.

## Winner

**Beth says:** **England**. Call it blind patriotism, call it blind hope, call it whatever you will, but this year is England's year. Their performance at the last Six Nations tournament was a testament to Stuart Lancaster's 'new England'. The likes of Manu Tuilagi and Chris Ashton will always be the star names in the squad, but it's the captaincy of Chris Robshaw and the emergence of the likes of Joe Launchbury that will give England the edge.

**George says:** **France**. Traditionally the team that is consistently inconsistent, France have put together some decent results after a disastrous 2012 Six Nations. A 33-6 demolition of a very competent Australia side mean France are back in business. Backs such as Frédéric Michalak, shortlisted for IRB player of the year, and the forever peerless Thierry Dusautoir mean that this is France's year, though they won't win the grand slam.

## Player of the Tournament

**Beth says:** **Owen Farrell**. It



Wales captain Sam Warburton receives the Six Nations trophy in 2012

may be somewhat controversial but I have a gut feeling that Owen Farrell will be starting at fly half in the Six Nations. His recent performances for Saracens have left him with Johnny Wilkinson comparisons ringing in his ears. 32 points in a Heineken Cup match is not only a record, but a feat of mind over matter. Farrell has proved he has the mental capability to handle international rugby.

**George says:** **Johnny Sexton**. Though Sexton is not as solid as Farrell in front of goal, he has the

ability to unlock defences like no other European player. His kicking out of hand has improved whilst his distribution is superb. Despite playing in a currently under-performing Leinster side, we could be in for a spectacle this Six Nations. This is his time.

## Dark Horse

**Beth says:** **Italy**. This decision is very simply based on the fact I don't believe Italy will finish with the wooden spoon this year. The ever reliable and brilliant Sergio

Parisse is back to lead Italy to what they hope is better than their fifth place finish of last year.

**George says:** **Ireland**. After a disappointing post-slam period, Ireland are going about their business with quiet efficiency after an impressive autumn. The great Brian O'Driscoll's days may be numbered, but with Rob Kearney and Sean O'Brien in form, we should be paying more attention to a side that is, on paper, incredibly exciting.

## The Biggest Loser

**Beth says:** **Wales**. Unfortunately, Wales have not had the best run going into the Six Nations. They have lost seven matches on the bounce and found themselves outside of the top eight teams just in time for the 2015 World Cup draw. Even with the talismanic Leigh Halfpenny and Sam Warburton, I don't see Wales finishing in the top three.

**George says:** **Scotland**. A team in transition. After a truly tragic Autumn series which led to the resignation of Andy Robinson, interim head coach Scott Johnson does not have a record good enough to turn a team around that only have Richie Gray and Tim Visser to boast about. Wooden spoon beckons.

# York teams looking for BUCS boost



The men's hockey firsts are set to be in action on the JLD tomorrow

Dan Holland  
SPORTS EDITOR

SHOULD THE somewhat hostile weather conditions subside by tomorrow afternoon, York's teams will be hoping to kick-start their spring term in the BUCS leagues.

The snow and ice meant that an already reduced set of matches was reduced to only three fixtures last Wednesday, all away from home, but this week sees a full fixture list waiting for the go-ahead.

The main action is set to come on the JLD, with both the men's and women's first teams in action.

George Richards' men face their first BUCS match since November, as they take on Northumbria, who conquered the Black and Gold in a cup match last time out.

York have a game in hand on the two sides below them in the Northern Conference 2B, and three on the trio of sides above them; that means a couple of quick wins could fire them up the table and into the promotion hunt.

The women's team are set for a stern test against table-topping Durham thirds. A 7-1 defeat in the

North-East was the outcome when these sides met on the opening day of the season, but York's form has been far improved since then. The league leaders, though, will take some beating.

On what will no doubt be a frosty 22 Acres, the women's football firsts are met with their toughest opposition of the season so far, as Varsity rivals Hull make the short trip from Humberside.

York's women have been in spectacular form this season, recording convincing wins in each of their five games so far. But Hull present a challenge worthy of the White Rose's form, with the visitors flying high in the league above Vicky De-Camp's team.

The men, meanwhile, travel north to Durham looking to build on the fine display they produced in their last BUCS outing. An 8-0 demolition of Middlesbrough sent them top of the table and was, by captain Matt Mawdesley's own admission, the first time they had performed to their potential this season.

The reverse fixture produced a 1-1 draw on the opening day, but York will need all three points if they

are to secure promotion at the first time of asking.

Relatively safe from the arctic conditions are the netball firsts, who host Leeds Met tomorrow after an impressive victory over the same side a week ago. A narrow 45-39 win in Leeds saw the Black and Gold leapfrog their opponents into second spot in a tight Northern Conference 4B. A second win in succession would mark the perfect start to the new term and the ideal base from which to launch a promotion push.

The women's rugby firsts will be looking for the win in a crucial six-pointer against MMU Cheshire on 22 Acres. The sides lie either side of the relegation zone, the visitors holding the superior goal difference, but York hold what could prove to be two vital games in hand over their rivals. With Liverpool John Moores marooned at the bottom of the table, this fixture could be decisive providing it escapes the weather.

UYRUFC's men's firsts are on the road at Leeds Met, where nothing less than a win is expected. Sam Lord's men are one of the University's form sides and promotion is well within their grasp, sitting five points clear at the top of the table. Their hosts, by contrast, have only one win to their name and are in the relegation zone, making a repeat of October's 35-13 win imperative.

The action doesn't stop on Wednesday, though, as the weekend sees some big fixtures in fencing and American football.

Second in the Premier League, the women's fencing team face a series of bouts against Durham, Edinburgh and Birmingham on Saturday to decide their fate this season.

And on Sunday afternoon, York Centurions play host to Newcastle in a match rescheduled from November and one that both sides could do with winning.

**Full fixture list >> P30-31**

PETROC TAYLOR



The Centurions are due to host their Newcastle counterparts this Sunday

# Changing Gear

As part of a '2012 Effect' series, Beth Jakubowski speaks to **Jess Taylor**, Cycling Club President, about the 2012 legacy and its impact on grassroots sport

The Year of 2012 has been one of extremes for the sport of cycling. In the wake of Lance Armstrong's doping interview and the lingering effects that it has left, it was easy to think that this interview could be soured by the perception that cycling is a sport dogged by cheating, doping and scandal.

But grassroots sport reminds us of the positive effects of cycling, and offers hope for the future of such a popular sport. With this in mind, I asked Jess to clarify for me what the cycling club do and how people can get involved.

She tells me that they go out on "four rides per week", which she then adds, "is a big improvement on last year when we could only lead one ride a week". Immediately I get the sense that cycling has already become a far more popular sport with the weight of 2012 behind it.

They compete in the BUCS Time Trials, and she goes on to tell me with a wry smile that they also compete in 12 and 24 hour time trials which sounds particularly brutal seeing as you have to manage as many miles as possible within that time frame. As well as that, they compete in cyclo-cross events and hill climbs which, as Jess bluntly put it to me, "rips your legs off".

They cover all aspects of riding, from mountain biking to road cycling. But competition is not the only way to get involved. Jess explains that the leisure rides are for "anyone and any bike", and it seems that her main message that comes across in the short time we spent together was that cycling is an extremely accessible sport.



CYCLING CLUB

onto the 2012 Tour, I'm curious as to how the enormous success of Bradley Wiggins and Team Sky has affected cycling here at York. Jess is very clear when she tells me "the Tour and the Olympics had totally blown things out of proportion, clubs have had a lot more members this year, partly due to that [the Tour] and partly due to British Cycling upping their game". It's clear here that the 2012 effect is not only confined to the Olympics, and that Bradley Wiggins and his inspira-

on her way out, and the cringing Oprah Winfrey interview with Lance Armstrong has once again thrown cycling into disrepute.

Jess very firmly states "I think it's totally a clean sport now, the UCI have totally changed how they approach it [doping], it's not considered something acceptable anymore, whereas twenty, thirty years ago it was". She beats me to the Lance Armstrong question by saying "Yes Lance doped, everyone doped, he was the best doper".

While this is a view I don't entirely agree with she does have a fair point. Everyone did dope. I have a very black and white view of drugs cheats, you dope once, and that's that, end of your career, your choice and your consequences.

Considering this, I raised the question of David Millar, Jess states that Millar "was a big cyclist for us", but Millar was a doper, and I ask whether he should even be allowed near the sport again as he has

been, simply because he confessed and wrote a book about the ordeal wherein he poured his heart out.

Here, Jess and I differ again, she says "if he was the only person doing it I'd say no, but if you look back...he'd have been against twenty or thirty doing it in a race, coaches and managers were encouraging and administering it, if you wanted to be a pro you had to dope".

Again, it rings true, but I simply cannot forgive Millar, or Armstrong, or in fact, anyone who believes they can get away with doping. The old stereotype tells us they're cheating themselves more than anyone else. Quite frankly, in this case, that's wrong. They're cheating everyone but themselves.

I steer away from doping now. I want to get back to the real cycling,

"Lance doped, everyone doped, he was the best doper"

Wiggins, Chris Hoy, Mark Cavendish, Laura Trott, Jason Kenny, Victoria Pendleton, all those huge names are associated with British cycling brilliance and dominance.

I'm not sad about the future of cycling anymore. In fact, some of Jess' words seem even more significant now. As we wrapped up the interview up she told me "cycling will be Britain's national sport".

After this year and the excitement of the years ahead, I think I believe her.

**"Cycling is all about participation, it's a family sport, it's a team sport, anybody can do it"**

They also compete in Roses, which is on home ground in 2013, after they won in Lancaster last year; Jess eagerly says "we want to do that again" while also informing me that this year, they'll not only have a track of their own but that the mountain biking stage will take place in Dolby. Jess tells me that "York not seen as a place for mountain biking at all" but she is keen to add that having the competition in Dolby "will step the game up, and make it more of a spectator sport". Certainly the prospect of having cycling on campus for Roses will make a huge difference to the club in terms of recognition.

I move on to ask her about the aims of the Cycling Club for this year alone, and she happily tells me they have already achieved their main aim. They wanted to double their membership from last year. Instead, they've quadrupled it.

Jess says, "cycling seems to be on the down low on campus" which leads her to say that with the second stage of the 2014 Tour de France starting in York next year, "things seem to have gone up a notch".

As if seamlessly, we them move

tional victory last summer have laid the foundations for something very special in British cycling.

Our conversation then turns to the 2014 Tour; it seems the club has already got ideas in the pipeline for this historic event. Jess says that "people are building up ideas already about what we want to do, obviously we want to ride a bit, we'd like to support it as well, we already said we want to volunteer for it". She's not the only one who wants to be a 'Tour maker', the success of the 'Games makers' from London 2012 has seen a surge in volunteers for British sporting events.

But the club is thinking big for 2014: "We'd have the track so we want some Yorkshire based universities to come over and have a race," Jess tells me. She goes on to add "this is a massive opportunity for York and cycling, to build it up again and people will realise there's a lot more here than meets the eye".

But there has always been an elephant in the room in this interview. Inevitably, we come onto doping. The recent retirement of Nicole Cooke, Olympic Road Race Champion, who took a pop at drugs cheats



Lance Armstrong's admission of doping has once again put cycling under the spotlight for the wrong reasons

## Sport

# Reigning champions off to winning start

**Alcuin** 15  
**Derwent** 6

**Beth Jakubowski**  
SPORTS EDITOR

**REIGNING CHAMPIONS** Alcuin got their spring campaign off to a winning start with a 15-6 victory over a tough Derwent side in the sports tent on Sunday.

Alcuin began strongly with goal attack, Grace Clarke, giving them an early lead after mere seconds. Derwent were able to counter attack quickly but Alcuin's defence proved too strong and denied them several chances to equalise.

Alcuin continued to play clean, fluent netball despite an excellent interception from Derwent wing attack, Ellie Burch. Clarke doubled Alcuin's lead after a valiant effort from Derwent's goal keeper Lauren Riy, who had an exceptional game.

Momentum shifted briefly with Derwent having spells of good possession with slick passing, but Alcuin's defence proved too strong. Milly Harvey and Helen Marrisson were brilliant at collecting the rebounds, denying Derwent the chance to score over and over again.

Derwent failed to capitalise on their periods of possession, but goal attack and captain, Rosie Mc-

Cluskey finally put them on the scoreboard. Derwent had a period of sustained pressure as Riy continued to keep them in the game with some excellent marking and interceptions.

But Alcuin proved their credentials by going completely against the flow of play to add to their score. They appeared far more deadly in the semi circle, not letting opportunities to score go to waste.

Alcuin centre Amy Ballard and wing attack Emma Houlden linked up well in the middle of the court. While wing defence and captain Megan Knight controlled the game well and lead from the front with ease.

It was a similar story through most of the first half, with Alcuin dominating possession and although Derwent dragged the score back to 8-4 by the time the whistle blew, their inaccuracy at the net had cost them dearly.

The second half continued in very much the same fashion as the first, Alcuin came out incredibly strongly and refused to allow Derwent the same amount of possession they had afforded them in the first half. An exceptional goal from Clarke from a lengthy distance and a difficult angle, was the highlight of the second half.

Errors began to creep into Der-



**Alcuin captain and wing defence Megan Knight takes control of Sunday's game against Derwent College**

went's game as Alcuin scored freely, with Clarke once again impressing with her accuracy. A late consolation goal from McCluskey could not stop Alcuin racking up a 15-6 victory.

Derwent captain McCluskey commented after the game that it was "a great improvement on the last time we played Alcuin" adding that "it was a tough fixture to have our first week back". However, McCluskey appeared optimistic about the season ahead when she stated

"we're improving every week".

Her opposite number, Alcuin captain Megan Knight, was seemingly very pleased with her team's

**Derwent:** GA - McCluskey, GS - Goodfellow, GD - Opie, GK - Riy, WA - Burch, WD - Carter, C - Aston.

**Alcuin:** GA - Clarke, GS - Winter, GD - Harvey, GK - Marrisson, WA - Houlden, WD - Knight, C - Ballard.

**Player of the match:** Grace Clarke

efforts saying "it was a great first game back, Derwent really pushed us but we've set the precedent for the rest of the season". Knight was also keen to comment that Alcuin are at Varsity and that 'we really hope to play at Roses'.

It was a victorious start for Alcuin, who would be keen to continue their brilliant form from last season. Derwent meanwhile would be encouraged by a much stronger performance and should be a very competitive side this term.

# Clinical James sink Halifax in netball clash

**James** 22  
**Halifax** 7

**Aaron Stennett**  
SPORTS REPORTER

**SWIFT PASSING** and clinical finishing were the order of the day for James, who proved too slick for a resilient Halifax in the Sports Tent.

As the match went on and Halifax increasingly looked to find their way back into the game, James would push home their advantage, running out 22-7 winners.

Both James and Halifax enjoyed strong records the previous term, with both winning all their matches with the exception of Alcuin's netball firsts, and in Halifax's case, James themselves.

With both teams enjoying vocal support from the sidelines, the stage was set for an exciting encounter.

James immediately set the tempo of the match, with quick short passes around the pitch. Goal attack Ellie Redwood scored two early goals after clinical work around the shooting circle.

Halifax, spurred on by their supporters, looked to strike back quickly, increasing the tempo

through longer, high passes as opposed to James, who persisted with the shorter, speedier play. Despite pulling the score back to 2-2, the differing playing styles would soon begin to affect the match.

The long and high passes of Halifax exposed the ball to challenges from the James players, and consequently led to lightning counter-attacks from the James' Redwood and Izzi Mattick.

James soon found themselves 9-3 ahead of Halifax, who had no answer to the speed and precision repeatedly used to counter against them. Halifax managed to scrape a goal back before half-time, leaving the score at 10-4.

Halifax began the second half brightly, with an immediate goal from goal shooter Tess Russell.

Any hopes of a dramatic comeback were promptly crushed by

James however, who began to run riot against the struggling Halifax defence. James scored eight goals without reply, controlling every area of the court.

With only a few minutes remaining, Halifax managed to score two consolation goals, to the jubilation of the crowd.

In the end, James were simply too strong for Halifax whose quality, particularly from the shooters, will

PETROC TAYLOR



**James take on Halifax in Sunday's college netball encounter in the Sports Tent as the new term got underway**

have the rest of the colleges wary. The final score, 22-7, highlights the dominance James enjoyed throughout the match.

Team captains, goalkeepers Rebecca Gill and Anisha Wilmink of Halifax and James respectively, both acknowledged the form of goal shooter Russell, who scored the lion's share of James' goals in the match. Gill told *Nouse* that Russell had been "amazing", during the match.

**Halifax:** GA - Gabbitas, GS - Robinson, GD - Moody, GK - Gill, WA - Quilliam, WD - Gilhespy, C - Jones.  
**James:** GA - Hall, GS - Russell, GD - Day-Savage, GK - Wilmink, WA - Redwood, WD - Matthews, C - Mattick.

**Player of the match:** Tess Russell

Despite the heavy defeat, Halifax captain Gill was upbeat after the game, identifying the main problem as the team not being able to "catch up for the whole game", as well as being unable to "take our time" in possession on account of the score.

James captain Wilmink was similarly satisfied with the result, citing the unity of the James team as a key reason for the win.

## UPCOMING BUCS FIXTURES

**Wednesday 23 January:**

**Badminton:** (H) York Men's 2nds vs York 3rds - 1pm, Hall; York Women's 2nds vs York St John 1sts - 1pm, Hall; (A) Hull Men's 1sts vs York 1sts; Northumbria Women's 2nds vs York 1sts.

**Basketball:** (A) Northumbria Women's 2nds vs York 1sts.

**Fencing:** (A) Newcastle Men's 3rds vs York 2nds.

**Football:** (H) York Men's 2nds vs Teesside 2nds - 3pm, 3G; York Men's 4ths vs Huddersfield 2nds - 1pm, 22

Acres; York Women's 1sts vs Hull 1sts - 1pm, 22 Acres; (A) Durham Men's 2nds vs York 1sts; York St John 3rds vs York 3rds.

**Golf:** (H) York Mixed 1sts vs Newcastle 2nds - 1pm, Fulford Golf Club.

**Hockey:** (H) York Men's 1sts vs Northumbria 1sts - 5pm, JLD; York Men's 2nds vs Newcastle 4ths; York Men's 3rds vs Teesside 2nds; York Women's 1sts vs Durham 3rds - 3pm, JLD; York Women's 2nds vs Northumbria 3rds - 1pm, JLD.

**Lacrosse:** (H) York Women's 2nds vs Sheffield Hallam 1sts - 1pm, 3G; (A) Leeds Women's 2nds vs York 1sts.

**Netball:** (H) York Women's 1sts vs Leeds Met 4ths - 2pm, Tent; (A) Leeds Women's 4ths vs York 2nds; Bradford Women's 1sts vs York 3rds.

# Goodricke carry fine form into new term

**Dan Holland**  
**Tom Fennelly**

LAST TERM'S college champions Goodricke continued to impress as they defeated their Hes East rivals Langwith 8-2 in the Sports Hall on Sunday.

The first two opening games, however, were very closely contested. Langwith pair Andrew Grantham and Huan Ang started slowly against George Baines and Heather Robertson, which helped the latter pair to cruise to a comfortable win.

However, the Goodricke pair came unstuck when they played Al Zainal and Sarah Howarth, claiming back a 21-14 win for Langwith. Regardless, Goodricke continued to dominate as a mixture of consisten-

cy and powerful, accurate smashes trumped their opponents.

Despite Goodricke's long serves playing into the hands of Langwith's Abel Seow, he and partner Catherine Peake were unable brush aside Jamie Fulton and Daphne Allamenou who, again, were ultimately more consistent throughout. Grantham and Ang lost in similar circumstances on the other court, crashing out 21-10 to Dylan Langford and Meredith Daniel.

The match looked set for another Goodricke win, but Grantham and Ang put the cat among the pigeons in their final game against Fulton and Allamenou in a closely-fought 21-18 win.

For Langwith to win, pairs Zainal/Howarth and Seow/Peake

AGATHA TORRANCE



Alcuin in action during Sunday's college badminton mixed doubles

would have to win their two final games. Both pairs did come incredibly close as Seow and Peake were narrowly edged out 21-17 by Langford and Daniel, whereas Zainal and Howarth were drawn into a lengthy game that saw two other games pass on the other court before they could settle on a final score. But Langwith struggled to deal with Fulton's smashes and he and his partner Allamenou eventually claimed a 21-18 victory.

Elsewhere, the badminton singles champions Vanbrugh faced up against Wentworth. Despite strong performances in the singles championship, they did not fare as well in the mixed doubles with the postgrads going on to whitewash them 10-0.

Vanbrugh pair Eliot Bryant and Victoria Wheeler came up against Jack Kitiwong and Varanya Kittipol in a very even game, but the undefendable smashes from Kitiwong gave Wentworth the edge to win 21-17.

Vanbrugh proved too unreliable in the following game as postgrad pair Fan Su and Jing Jing eased past Crystal Wong and Dan Rogerson in a 21-8 win.

Rogerson and Wong, however, reacted to their defeat in their next game against Yan Fang and Amy Haley. Rogerson showed some great agility to skid across the tramline at the back of the court, but his impressive valour failed to pay off as they narrowly lost 21-17.

Vanbrugh fell to heavy defeats in the next two games. Captain Blonnie Walsh and partner Connor Brown gave Kitiwong and Kittipol a tough game with quick, reactive

play at the net, but their accuracy was lacking at times as they fell to a 21-17 defeat.

Alexander Ray and Claire Strange, before rushing into a 3-1 lead.

Taylor and Renwick were on

form again to beat Ray and Strange 21-19 in a high intensity match-up, but Alcuin ensured that they stayed in front thanks to a comfortable 21-6 win for Pinnington and Thomas over Arjun Bhaduri and Rosie Smith which made it 4-2 overall.

Two more routine victories later, Alcuin had the points wrapped up, though there was still time for Taylor and Renwick to score one final win and maintain their 100 per cent record for the day.

Wentworth had a somewhat easier time of things in their clash with James, securing a big 8-2 win to start their Spring Term campaign in style.

James won the opening encounter, but the impressive Halifax pair of Eleanor Daly and Jonny Tam soon levelled the scores with a comprehensive 21-7 triumph.

Ellie Saggers and Mike Holmes were showing some impressive form for Halifax too, as they won their opening clash 21-9.

Another win for Daly and Tam in a 23-21 epic, plus one for Nan and Candy gave the Fax a commanding 4-1 lead.

James clawed one back to provide some hope of a comeback, but it would prove little more than a consolation as Halifax's star pairings showed their class once more.

Saggers and Holmes were always in control in their final two victories, though they were pushed to 21-17 in the final fixture of the day, while Tam and Daly made sure Fax came away with an impressive result.

## Results

**Alcuin 6-4 Derwent**

**Langwith 2-8 Goodricke**

**James 2-8 Halifax**

**Wentworth 10-0 Vanbrugh**

# Day: "Futsal triumph the highlight of my York career"

**Continued from Back Page**

York were happy to sit back and defend but their foul count was racking up, as the match became more heated.

Soon Hallam hit back, with a virtuoso goal from Rubi Di, who drew the keeper before slotting the ball calmly into the bottom right hand corner.

However York responded in brilliant fashion, as Tringham managed to win the ball before Daly sent a delicately placed through ball to Connor McCoy, who scored to put York back in the lead at 3-2.

But it was only moments later that some lax York defending led to a second goal from Di, who was again the menace as Hallam charged up the pitch on the break.

With little time left in the second half, York knew that only a win would be satisfactory and so threw the kitchen sink at Hallam. They piled on the pressure through Day, whose towering presence provided Tringham and Daly with some excellent opportunities.

It seemed as if York may have snatched the win with less than ten minutes to go through a fantastic goal from Tringham, who put them 4-3 ahead.

But immediately Sheffield Hallam managed to pull the scores level again as Joel Yong sent a perfectly weighted shot into the top right hand corner. Sim could do nothing about it.

The momentum seemed to be with Hallam and they sensed an unlikely win was a possibility, piling on

the pressure.

With three minutes left, the match looked destined for a disappointing draw, but now York turned on the style, playing some champagne futsal.

First Tringham managed to send York into a 5-4 lead, before only moments later Daly scored another long-range goal, sending the crowd into mayhem.

With victory now sealed, Tringham added another to put the icing on what was a truly fantastic cake. This was vintage play from the White Rose.

The whistle blew moments later and the York players embraced one another in disbelief at this historic achievement that will go down as one of the University's finest sporting moments.

The fantastic captain Day was in disbelief at the end of the match. "It was absolutely awesome," Day told Nouse. "We were all saying that this was the biggest game of our uni careers and it lived up to that. It was end to end, it was just so close."

"We've been playing together since we were freshers so we are at our peak right now. I'm over the moon, this is the highlight of my York uni career."

Quick to praise his team, Day humbly added: "Ash Daly has feet like no other... Jonny Sim was unbelievable in the net as usual, he was so solid, and Alex Tringham, you just want him on your team. Dom Hallas was inspirational, he's our leader and none of us would be here without him. The crowd support was great, it was like having a sixth

man on the pitch."

Man of the match Daly was equally humble in victory, saying that "the whole team was quality... to be honest I'm surprised to get man of the match, everyone was incredible."

A member of the delirious crowd added "This is one of the best sporting fixtures we've ever seen. I can't believe we are now the best futsal team in the north. Mental!"

After a thrilling encounter and a tense wait for confirmation of their success, York now face a mouth-watering tie with Loughborough, with the European Championships well within their sights.

They will forever go down in history, though, as the first York team ever to win a Northern Premier League title.

**Rugby Union:** (H) York Men's 2nds vs Newcastle 3rds - 1pm, 22 Acres; York Men's 3rds vs Bradford 1sts - 1pm, 22 Acres; York Women's 1sts vs MMU Cheshire 1sts - 2.30pm, 22 Acres; (A) Leeds Met Men's 2nds vs York 1sts.

**Squash:** (H) York Men's 2nds vs Sheffield Hallam 3rds - 2pm, Squash Courts; (A) Newcastle Men's 2nds vs York 1sts; Leeds Met Women's 3rds vs York 1sts.

**Tennis:** (H) York Men's 3rds vs Sunderland 2nds - 1pm, Tennis Courts; York Women's 1sts vs Leeds 3rds -

12pm, Tennis Courts; (A) Sheffield Hallam Men's 2nds vs York 1sts; Teesside Men's 1sts vs York 2nds;

**Volleyball:** (H) York Men's 2nds vs Northumbria 2nds - 4pm, Hall; (A) Huddersfield Men's 1sts vs York 1sts; Sheffield Hallam Women's 1sts vs York 1sts.

**Saturday 26 January:**

**Fencing:** (H) York Women's 1sts vs Durham 1sts, Edinburgh 1sts, Birmingham 1sts - 11am, Dance Studio.

**Sunday 27 January:**

**American Football:** (H) York Men's 1sts vs Newcastle 1sts - 1pm, 22 Acres.

# Sport

Spring Term Week Three  
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## Changing Gear

We talk to the Cycling Club about doping and the Olympic legacy

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## College Sport

All the action from the weekend's college netball and badminton

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AGATHA TORRANCE



## Futsal firsts crowned champions

Dramatic victory over Sheffield Hallam seals first ever BUCS Premier League title for York

**York 7**  
**Sheffield Hallam 4**

**George Barrett**  
DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR

THE MEN'S firsts futsal team enjoyed an epic win with three goals in the final three minutes, to stun a physical Sheffield Hallam side and claim an historic BUCS Northern Premier League in emphatic style on Friday night.

A man of the match performance from Ash Daly and a hat-trick from the superb Alex Tringham helped York secure a memorable triumph amid scenes of pandemonium, as they became the first team in the University's history to win a Premier League title.

The end to the season could hardly have been more tense. York's win on Friday left Sheffield needing to beat Teesside by a seven goal margin, to snatch the title on goal

difference.

Agonisingly, Sheffield defeated Teesside by six goals in a 10-4 thriller, leaving the championship stranded in a draw on both points and goal difference.

BUCS regulations state that in the case of a draw, the title will be decided on head to head results, handing York the advantage after they won 6-3 in November. However, there was some initial confusion over whether the final standings would indeed be determined via head to head or goals scored, which would have given Sheffield the title.

There was also some frustration amongst the team over the fact that they were only forced to concede their one defeat this season because of the failure to provide a referee for the match with Manchester last term, when they were confident of victory.

However the confirmation came through yesterday that, by the slimmest of margins, York were

crowned champions on head to head results.

The celebrations that were so ecstatic on Friday night were not in vain. York were the champions of the BUCS Northern Premier League.

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We preview a big day of fixtures as York's teams restart BUCS campaigns

The game started off in nervy fashion, with few chances for the Black and Gold early on. Sheffield Hallam dominated possession with some slick passing whilst York sat back, soaking up the pressure. With Hallam knowing that they had to win this match to avoid relegation, the stakes couldn't have been higher for either team.

After five minutes the visitors had the first real chance, blasting

a shot at the top right corner, but the fantastic York keeper Jonny Sim made an excellent save to tip over the crossbar. Soon after, Hallam were on the charge again, and a surge up the right wing from Joel Sturgis lead to their first goal.

With York in trouble early on, the signs looked ominous, with Sheffield continually making use of the space with calm efficiency. Daly made a number of important tackles to ease the Hallam momentum, whilst Sim worked tirelessly in goal, saving a number of dangerous shots.

York slowly began to grow into the game and it was not long before they found themselves with a free kick after a cheeky effort from Daly was narrowly saved by Hallam keeper James Radford.

Suddenly York struck gold, as Dom Hallas managed to snatch an equaliser by heading in Sim's beautifully placed goal kick. Game on.

As Sheffield began to make a number of errors York sensed blood,

with the ever-present captain Tom Day and the classy James Briars linking up well in midfield. Daly had two excellent shots saved, but it was only a matter of time before another York breakthrough.

With one minute left in the first half, Daly blasted in a superb goal from the half way line that left Hallam reeling and had the crowd in raptures.

Sheffield Hallam tried their best to pile on the pressure in the final seconds of the half, but York soaked up the pressure with ease and went in at half-time with a 2-1 lead.

York started the second half in slightly more complacent manner, whilst Sheffield Hallam were clearly fired up after a rousing team talk. Defensive confusion at the back nearly lead to a soft goal, but the incredible Sim was able to make the save just in time.

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22.01.13

Nouse is printed by Mortons of Horncastle Ltd, Media Centre, Morton Way, Horncastle, Lincs, LN96JR, UK  
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