



“

The Pink Ribbon diminishes something that is terrifying, disfiguring and deadly ”



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# NOUSE



Summer Term Week Six  
Tuesday 28 May 2013  
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## Taylor claims YUSU funding at 'breaking point'

- University responds: "In no sense could YUSU be said to be short of funds"

**Laura Hughes**  
EDITOR

THE STUDENT Union President has slammed the University for insufficient funding.

University funding for YUSU has seen four successive years of decline when measured on a per capita basis.

YUSU President Kallum Taylor told *Nouse*, "It's getting to a breaking point. Student numbers have gone up by over a third, yet our funding has in no way reflected that. It's not sustainable."

The University commented, "In no sense could YUSU be said to be short of funds given that they have a reserve of over £14,000 which they are at liberty to spend if they wish."

A longitudinal per capita block grant calculation shows that a period of increases in student numbers has not been matched by sufficient increases in block grant, and so the amount of funding YUSU has per student has "aggressively declined".

The grant allocated to each individual student was £61.74 in 2006/7, compared to £49.19 in 2011/12.

The University have not yet notified the Union of the nature of next year's grant. Last year the Union received £881,876.

The Charities Commission re-

quire six months of operating costs in the bank. YUSU's current cash reserve is just three per cent above the legal minimum. This extra reserve of £14,000 doesn't cover even a quarter of the Union's spending on sport alone.

Taylor told *Nouse*, it was "staggering that the University would even dare try and hold against us what is our legal obligation to the Charities Commission in having a certain amount of reserves for a rainy day.

"To try and create an impression that we're sat on hoards of cash is dangerous and disingenuous. The University should know this, seeing as they're sat on reserves of many millions themselves."

YUSU claim it is "ridiculous" to suggest that with £14,000 it is possible to subsidise "a poor block grant" over the course of an entire year; funding societies and sports clubs, welfare, volunteering and RAG projects, staff support for Officers and JCRCs.

YUSU currently sits in the bottom three of Russell Group institutions for grant funding, when measured either on a per capita basis, or on a total funding basis. In the past

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## Dropout rate doubles in four years

**Neil Johnston**  
NEWS EDITOR

THE DROPOUT rate at the University for first year undergraduates living on campus has doubled in four years.

Figures obtained by *Nouse* reveal it reached 150 students last year, including ten who the University does not know the whereabouts of but are 'assumed withdrawn'.

The increase is not only in nu-

merical terms but also in percentage terms as well, with the dropout rate now standing at five per cent.

While there are several different dropout rates this is the main measurement of withdrawals. It has risen steadily since the 2008/09 academic year where it was only two per-cent. Comparatively, there are few students living off campus dropping out.

In 2011/12, 150 undergraduate students living on campus with-

drew. This compares to just 65 in 2008/09.

The college with the highest dropout rate currently is Halifax, largely due to the size of the college, with 45 students withdrawing last year.

The next highest is Alcuin, which lost 30 students. James and Vanbrugh had 20 students drop out each, Derwent and Langwith lost

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## News

# University 'dangerous' and 'desperate'

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four years, YUSU's grant change year on year has fallen short of the Russell Group average percentage grant change.

The Higher Education Statistics Agency states there are 17,405 students at York. However the University has said that student numbers are currently stable at just less than 15,000 FTE.

"Budgets for 2013/14 have still to be approved by Council but we expect the uplift for YUSU will be in line with the uplift for University

**“Funding the GSA is like funding a banana shop. At the end of the day, it only sells bananas and there is a more efficient shop across the road”**

Alcuin College Chair  
Joshua Lee

support services."

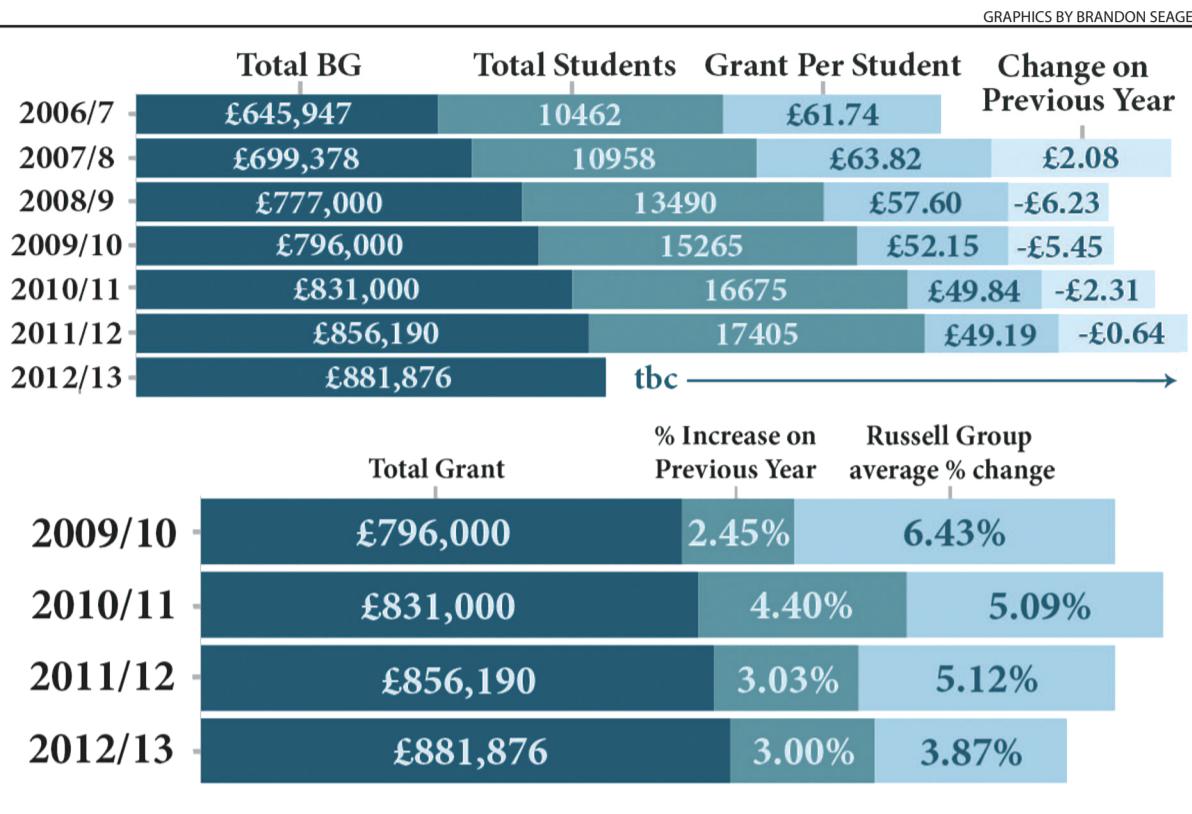
Taylor responded: "This point matters still, whichever student numbers you count; be it the 15,000 stated by the University here, or the 17,405 students which the HESA think the University have... This is before we can even start to look at the year ahead."

The University say they have given YUSU every opportunity to present a case for funding.

They also made clear that YUSU have regular meetings with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and the Registrar and are represented on Council, Senate, the Policy & Resources and Student Experience Committees.

In response to the University's claim, Taylor commented, "Talking about our access points to decision makers and committees is utterly irrelevant if there are no serious outcomes."

"On every occasion it has been YUSU raising this matter, making the case to meet our members' ex-



pectations and wanting an answer so that we can properly plan for next year.

"Aside from the constant procrastination over the matter, the arguments being put forward against YUSU are disingenuous and desperate."

The University told *Nouse*, "The YUSU grant has increased in line with increases in spending on University support functions in the last few years.

"When you take into account our financial support for not just YUSU, but also GSA and the Colleges, our spending is very much in line with other universities." YUSU believes these counter arguments to be misleading.

The University invests £169,230 in the Graduate Students Association per year. Taylor commented, "It is the University's choice entirely to fund the GSA. Legally, YUSU are the representative for all students and our costs, and more importantly our responsibilities, are

in no way reduced because of their existence."

In reference to wider College funding, Taylor commented that students have no say over where this money is spent, "it is entirely at the whim of the Provosts."

**“To try and create an impression that we're sat on hoards of cash is dangerous and disingenuous”**

YUSU President  
Kallum Taylor

Despite eight requests for the annual "social fund" of £14,000 given to the JCRCs from the University, the money is yet to be paid this year. The only funding given to JCRCs so far this year has come from YUSU.

Joshua Lee, Alcuin JCRC Chair, commented on the GSA: "Imagine

you have two shops. One sells lots of different kind of fruit and the other only sells bananas. The Banana shop is failing.

"Nobody seems to be running it and nobody knows it exists. Do you keep ploughing money into the banana shop to try and make it successful or close the banana shop and invest in the shop that sells all kinds of fruit?"

"Allowing your customers to get everything they want from one fruit shop and even been able to sell new kinds of fruit thanks to the extra money saved from removing the duplication of trading bananas."

"Funding the GSA is like funding that banana shop. At the end of the day, it only sells bananas and there is a much bigger, better, more efficient shop across the road that sells lots of fruit, including bananas."

Taylor added, "Using tired and dodgy arguments about funding to other bodies does not, and should not, 'reduce our responsibility.'

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## Professor named 'New Generation Thinker'

A professor from the University of York has been named as one of ten New Generation Thinkers for 2013 by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and the BBC. Dr Alice Hall, of the Department of English and Related Literature, will feature on Radio 3's arts and ideas programme *Night Waves* next month, when she will present an idea inspired by her research. She will also get the chance to shadow presenters and producers.

## Welfare cuts bite as Foodbank expands

York's foodbank is to expand in order to meet rising demand. The Foodbank is to treble in size, opening new outlets in Clifton and Tang Hall. The current Foodbank in Acomb has been running for sixth months, and has provided food for 1,000 people. Organisers say that demand has risen since changes to the benefit system. Chris Cullwick, chair of the York Foodbank Trust group, said: "Nobody thinks food banks are good news but clearly the fact we have passed the milestone of 1,000 people indicates there is a need in York."

## York festival celebrates street performance

The City of York saw its second Buskival On Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 May. The festival celebrated York's street performance culture. A large tent in parliament square played host to the majority of acts. Six professional street performers were chosen to appear alongside local buskers. The acts included a Guinness World Record holder and leading escape artist, speed chainsaw jugglers Dynamike and Kiki Bittovabitsch, who have been described as "a champion physical comedian, contortionist, cat and audience herder".

Reporting by Amy Blumsom

# Growing inequality in application process

- Gap widens between UK BME and UK White offers
- Offers to state school applicants decrease

**Neil Johnston**  
NEWS EDITOR

FIGURES OBTAINED by *Nouse* reveal that there is a substantial difference in the percentage of offers given to Black and Minority Ethnic applicants and the percentage of offers given to White British applicants.

For UK applications in 2012/13, only 45 per cent of Black and Minority Ethnic applicants were awarded an offer compared to 62 per cent of White applications. The University says that this difference is not down to them.

There is also a widening gap between the percentage of state school applicants and private applicants being given offers, and an increase in male applicants receiving offers than female applicants for each of the past four years. These are characteristics which the University can see when students apply, so do have control over.

The University's admissions policy states: "To ensure that no prospective or existing student is treated less favourably on the grounds of age, race, colour, nationality or ethnic origin."

As the level of applications increase, from undergraduate to post-graduate, the difference in offers given increases, between BME students and White students from the UK, with the biggest gap in Post-graduate Research.

The University cannot see these characteristics when students apply. A recent survey by Researchers from Durham University found



There is a substantial difference in the percentage of offers given to UK BME and UK white applicants

that students from ethnic minorities are less likely to gain places at top universities than white pupils with the same A-level grades.

Access to Russell Group universities is far from 'fair', according to the study's author Vikki Boliver.

The latest figures for this University indicate that York is no exception to this, despite only joining the Russell Group last year.

The University does keep track of the breakdown of current students which has seen slight increases in numbers of ethnic minority students, but no significant change.

Statistics show that the propor-

“Their experience whilst they're here... means so much more than just 'getting people here'”

YUSU President  
Kallum Taylor

tion of state school undergraduate applications receiving offers has remained stable from four years ago but with no significant increase.

Furthermore the proportional

gap between state school applicants and private school applicants receiving offers has increased, jumping from a 16 per cent difference last year to a 21 per cent difference.

A lower percentage of females than male applicants have been receiving offers over the past four years. The gap in percentage offers received has increased from two per-cent last year to seven per-cent this year for UK undergraduate students. The gap for international undergraduate students is seven per-cent, up from five per-cent last year.

The University defended its admissions process saying: “Ad-

missions selectors do not know the ethnicity of an applicant when making admissions decisions. However, through our Widening Participation programme, and in line with our commitment to the Office of Fair Access, we are increasing our recruitment efforts in economically and socially disadvantaged areas.

“This should lead to an increase in applications from candidates from modest income backgrounds, where BME students are disproportionately represented. We are also increasing the level of academic support provided to students once they enrol, to ensure that all students can maximise their chances of success while at York. The total percentage of students from different ethnic groups at York is as follows: Non-BME students – 78 per cent; BME students 21 per cent.”

YUSU President Kallum Taylor said: “We'll try and get into the nitty gritty of why these trends are happening. York certainly can, and should, do more in widening and deepening participation if it wants to hold itself in high regard as a place welcoming to students of all backgrounds.

“Their experience whilst they're here is equally, if not more, telling of a University's approach in this area. The same can be said to how we can obsess with having international students here, with very lightweight provision for them and their needs during their studies. These things mean so much more than just 'getting people here'.”

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## YUSU to tackle rent issues for international students

**Fiona Parker**  
**Josh Allen**

YUSU HAVE vowed to tackle the ongoing issue of international students being forced to pay six months or more rent up front if they are unable to provide a UK guarantor.

Several of the major student property letters including Adam Bennett, York AP and Whistles have been reported to have demanded half a year's payment from international students who are unable to sign a UK-based guarantor to their contract.

Although the University offers a Rent Guarantee Scheme, only 40 to 50 students are accepted onto the scheme each year.

Mike Anstey, YUSU International Officer, told *Nouse*, “The issue of accommodation guarantors is one which I know has been on the radar for a while now.

“Unfortunately it does put international student's in a very compromising position if they are unable to pay said amount (usually 6 months) upfront, but YUSU is currently working on a in-house strategy to try and combat this issue.

“I have spoken to certain agencies and know that it is their policy for legal reasons to charge this

amount if there is no guarantor for the student- but of course, this shouldn't stop the SU from doing something about it. I myself had to pay my full rent upfront.”

One student from Spain reported confusion within the body of their letting agency, IG Property, with regards to this issue. “They said

“There could be a simple solution to the problem, if the University would prevent any student from graduating if there was unpaid rent”

AP York spokesperson  
Robert MacMahon

the guarantor had to be based in the UK. I spoke to them and told them my dad, an EU taxpayer, a citizen of the EU and resident would be my guarantor. I was told I could pay my rent up front, but I did not really want to. The day we went to the agency to sign our let contract, they were absolutely fine with my Spanish guarantor and have not had any



Many international students have had to pay six months rent up front

problems anymore. At the beginning they said, 'You pay everything up front now or nothing', and later they denied ever having said that. I never heard about it again.”

Robert MacMahon, speaking on behalf of AP York stated the issue has “always presented a difficulty”.

He said, “Our position is that

we do seek a UK based guarantor for all student tenants. The reason we request a UK based guarantor is the sheer impracticality of seeking to enforce the guarantee against a person living abroad, whether in the EU or not, so we do not distinguish between EU and other foreign students.

“I can confirm we have had very few bad debts where rent has not been paid... However, of those few cases we have experienced, foreign students have been disproportionately represented.”

MacMahon added: “There could be a simple solution to the problem, for example if the University would agree to prevent any student graduating if there was unpaid rent.”

Jill P Ellis, Acting Director of Student Support Services, explained the reason a UK guarantor is requested is that if there are difficulties obtaining payment, the landlord can make a money claim through the county court system.

Students who do not have a UK guarantor can apply to the University Rent Guarantee Scheme.

The University's Socialist Society, have announced their campaign to get YUSU to open their own letting agency. William Hornett, Socialist Society Secretary told *Nouse*, “We feel this would help significantly to drive down both on- and off-campus rent prices, and would encourage better practice amongst other letting agencies.”

It would also be democratically answerable to the student body in a way that private agencies are not.”

## News

>> Continued from front

ten each, and Goodricke lost five students.

The figures do not include students who decided to quit their course in between years so the actual withdrawal rate may be higher.

Reasons for withdrawal vary including 'academic difficulties and failure', 'closer to home', 'health reasons', 'personal reasons', 'transferred to another institution', 'unhappy with academic conditions', 'wrong career choice', 'wrong course', and 'wrong place'.

Ten students are down as 'assumed withdrawn/written off'.

YUSU President, Kallum Taylor, commented: "Any student dropping out of University (for initially preventable reasons) is a tragedy, and it's vital that more is done across the board from YUSU and the University in making sure that problems faced by students are firstly not taboo, and secondly intercepted and eased as much as possible."

"Too many of our members keep their head down thinking they can ride out their own personal storms, and even if they don't drop out, they won't ever have reached their potential."

"Meaningful investment into SU and University Student Support services to match the demand from a rise in the student population which has completely saturated provisions in place."

The rising withdrawal rate is not just a problem for undergraduates with the Postgraduate Taught drop-out rate also rising.

In 2008/09 35 students dropped out, comparing to 45 in 2009/10, 65 in 2010/11, and 75 in 2011/12.

Taylor commented on this: "The rates of PGT drop outs are shocking not just here, but nationally. Here lies a greater problem in

how Britain's Higher Education sector does Post Grad's education and experience.

"They're a forgotten type of student domestically, and much more needs to be done to understand (and meet) their needs and their challenges."

Last year *Nouse* reported how the dropout rate in Alcuin was twice as high as the other colleges on campus. This is no longer the case but it remains high.

Alcuin Chair Joshua Lee said: "From my perspective, students have become more focused on academic work. With tuition fees and rent going up, going to University is a massive decision."

**“Any student dropping out of University is a tragedy, and it’s vital that more is done across the board from YUSU and the University”**

YUSU President  
Kallum Taylor

"With the stakes so high if students don't get along with their course or University life for any major reason then dropping out is becoming a serious financial option. The JCRC puts so much effort into integration and we work tirelessly through freshers term to make sure students make the right decision and get involved in university life."

The figures come as York faces continued questions over its commitment to student experience. York was recently ranked 37th in the UK for student experience by Times Higher Education, an improvement from 61st the previous year.

# 350 student flats to be built at York Press offices

PABLO YORK



Plans were released last week at the National Centre for Early Music

**Amy Blumsom**  
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

PLANS TO build 350 student flats on the site of the York Press offices have been announced.

The potential owners, Student Castle, intend to incorporate a reception, common room and management suite into the development.

S Harrison Developments, the York based development firm who

is submitting the proposal, said it would bring a £35 million boost to the local economy, creating around 200 construction jobs over the next two years and 20 new permanent jobs upon completion.

The plans for the new site were put on show on Monday May 20 at the National Centre for Early Music in Walmgate. A design and development team were on hand to answer any questions.

Originally the offices were built in 1989 to accommodate state-of-the-art printing equipment, but a large area of the site has remained under used since printing production moved out of the city.

If the scheme is approved, the newspaper's staff would move to modern, smaller offices fronting on to Walmgate and Hurst's Yard.

Chris Hale, of S Harrison Developments, said: "The plans we are putting forward will see an underutilised brownfield site redeveloped to deliver much-needed student accommodation for the city's growing student population."

"It will free up family homes in the city for use by York families, in line with the council's policy. "This is not a speculative proposal."

Jaqui Hawthorn, of Student Castle, said: "York is a fantastic place to study. We intend to enhance that experience if the planning committee approves our scheme to create new accommodation in Walmgate. For students, the location, within the city walls, gives access to everything that York has to offer."

Councillor James Alexander said: "I welcome news of this potential development which would provide purpose built accommodation in keeping with the city's students' needs and be accessible to their place of learning and the city itself."

"Students make an invaluable contribution to the cultural and economic vibrancy of the city and developments such as this also help to ensure family housing in York remains true to its original purpose."

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# Students 'noisy' and 'inconsiderate'

**Henrietta Thomson**  
NEWS REPORTER

A SURVEY has been conducted to examine what residents of York think of their student neighbours.

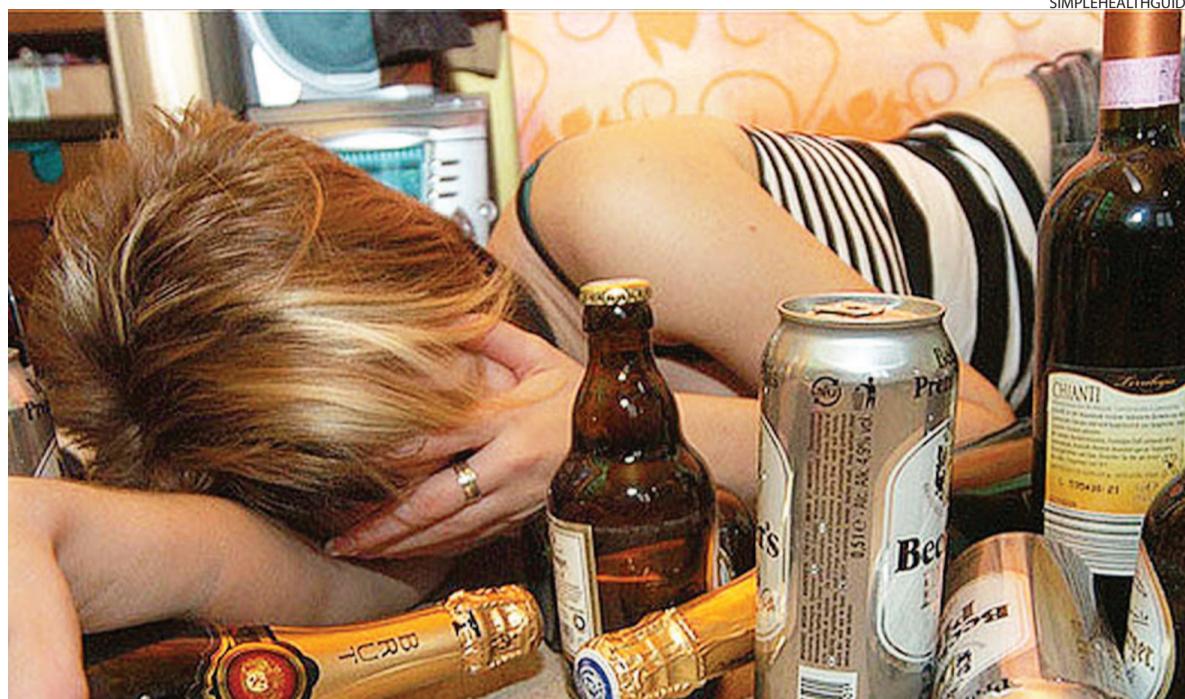
The results revealed the areas where locals are most likely to complain and the most common complaints to the council and police.

Carried out as a joint community project between the City of York Council, YUSU and York St John University Students' Union, the survey targeted 6000 households in York to gauge the public perceptions of students in the local community.

Of 6000 distributed, 843 forms were returned, a response rate of 14 per cent. An overwhelming 93.9 per cent stated that they had students living in their area, but of these only 10.2 per cent had ever directly asked the students themselves.

The majority assumed that they were students, mainly because they thought that the properties were poorly maintained.

Neighbourly rapport was low: only 13 per cent stated that the students had introduced themselves, whilst 22 per cent had introduced



Problems such as noise and mess were the main concerns of residents who completed the survey

themselves to students. 61.9 per cent had never met their student neighbours.

When asked for words to describe students, some of the most

frequently recurring were 'messy', 'noisy', and 'inconsiderate'. On the other hand, 'young', 'friendly' and 'approachable' also came up regularly.

Only 27.7 per cent chose 'agree' or 'strongly agree' when posed the statement: 'Students are making a positive impact on the community', whilst 'completely disagree' was the

second most popular option in the survey.

Residents who had lived in their property for over five years were significantly more likely to disagree with the statement than those who had lived in the property for one year or less.

The next section focused on complaints; the most common being refuse and rubbish, which were reported as a problem by 60 per cent.

Noise and unkempt gardens were joint second, with 50 per cent saying that they caused a problem.

Refuse and rubbish also seemed to be the most difficult problem for local residents to put up with, making up 91.3 per cent of all complaints to the council.

Of all anti-social behaviour complaints, 19.6 per cent of these were made to the police.

Hull Road came out as the area where residents were most likely to complain, placing it above Fishergate, Heworth and Osbaldwick.

Measures which could prove unpopular if they came into force include tighter checks and rules for tenants, as well as fining students for mess and littering.

## In pictures: Community rallies against EDL protest

Over 100 students and members of the public turned up outside the York Mosque and Islamic Centre at Bull Lane on Sunday afternoon after rumours of a EDL rally surfaced on Facebook and Twitter on Saturday.

The York community stood together as an act of solidarity against fascism that very afternoon. Four EDL supporters arrived at around 3:00 pm.



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# Unions bid for Boris Bikes

**Harry Gallivan**  
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

THE STUDENT unions of the University of York, York St. John and York College are proposing a joint bid to introduce a bike hire scheme to the city of York similar to that of the 'Boris bike' in London.

If accepted, the scheme will be funded by the NUS 'Green Fund', designed to help encourage an environmental 'sustainability agenda' for English Student Unions.

York Council has already agreed to support the scheme, which will be proposed in June to the NUS.

Kallum Taylor, YUSU President, said: "This joint initiative between the HE and FE institutions, along with their respective Students' Unions and Higher York would be a fantastic one for a city like York."

Having something similar to something like the Boris Bikes scheme, which has been a big hit in London, up here, would be great for pushing a more sustainable way of life, and better link parts in and around our city up so much more.

As part of the Community Partnership Strategy, this is a great example of the kind of projects we can potentially introduce through a joint effort."

The scheme would be part of the 'Green Fund', a £5m initiative provided by the 'Higher Education Funding Council for England' (HEFCE). If introduced, students



**YUSU are proposing that stations are set up around the city where students can collect and return bikes**

will be expected to pay a small sign up fee. However, the cost to hire has not yet been decided.

Once signed up, students would be able to collect a cycle from a nearby bike station on campus. YUSU are also proposing stations to be set up around the city of York, where students could collect or re-

turn their cycle after using it.

Despite cost issues, the scheme has largely been a success in London, where shoppers and commuters have spent the day in London, before heading home in the evening using their hired cycle.

The blue bikes and the 400 docking stations have become fa-

miliar sights in the capital since their introduction in 2010. Boris Johnson, the Mayor of London, has described the scheme a "glorious new form of public transport," with around "10m hires" since its launch.

Edward Spann, a first year politics student, said: "It is a particularly good idea for a campus University."

# Students to take part in York Pride

**Sofia Geraghty**  
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

STUDENTS HAVE been invited to take part in the seventh annual York Pride event, which will be taking place on Saturday 1st June.

The event will consist of a parade starting from York Minster at 12pm followed by a day of entertainment beginning at the racecourse at 1.30pm.

After last year's success, the York Pride Parade is set to become a permanent feature of York summer Pride events.

Last year's hosts Sordid Secret & Marky Mark will be returning to present the event and 2011 York Pride favourites Bears Aloud will also be returning to perform at the festival.

Students can get involved by meeting either at the Minster at 12pm, or at Costcutters at 11.45am, where they will walk to the Minster together.

Students can also contribute by attending the pre-pride banner making and pizza party on Thursday from 7pm in AEW/003.

The theme of this year's festival is "Out in Sport", as, according to the event's website, "sport is an area in society where homophobia is rife; we want to raise awareness of this through York Pride 2013."

The after party will be held at Thomas' of York, followed by the Duchess where York Pride wrist-

bands will provide entry and drink deals. The wristbands can be purchased either online at [www.yorkpride.org.uk](http://www.yorkpride.org.uk) or by contacting LG-BTQ officers Madeline Boden and Conor Roche.

York's Gay pride parade is receiving from York's top and the new chairman of the Football Association and, Greg Dyke.

The parade will be backed by leading figures from York City Knights and York City Football Club.

York Gay Pride aims to promote equality, diversity, and advances in education, in order to eliminate discrimination against the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community.

More than 500 people turned out for the York 'Northern' Pride 2012, and over 2000 at the afternoon event.



# Rowers awarded £10,000 grant

**Amy Blumsom**  
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

TWO CLUB members have raised nearly £10,000 for the University of York Boat Club.

The club was awarded £9,680 by Sport England after Dan Hodkinson and Oli Woods, the club's Development Officers, applied to the Small Grant scheme. Grants of £300-£10,000 are awarded to not-for-profit organisations which help increase the participation of young people aged over 14 in sport.

The grant enables the club to apply for equipment up to a value of 10,000.

The grant will be used to purchase a double and single scull. The purchase of both boats is an important development for the club, as a small boat trial is part of the tryout process for GB rowing and this enables rowers to hone their skills.

Last year two members of the club tried out for team GB's U23 team, narrowly missing out on February selection. UYBC has made remarkable progress over the past few years, with successful BUCS seasons and last year pre-qualifying for Henley Royal Regatta for the first time in the club's history.

One of the largest sports clubs on campus, UYBC saw 563 new rowers signed up at this year's Freshers' Fair.

Hodkinson believes that an increase in the visibility of the club and the development of the existing relationships with YUSU and York Sport Union has warranted the funding.

Hodkinson told *Nouse*, "The Sport England grant provides a fantastic opportunity to purchase a single and a pair/double. For our top athletes this will allow them to compete at the highest level and trial for Under-23 GB."

"It will also allow us to accommodate for more members next year (oversubscription is a large problem we face). It's a promising time for UYBC and the grant is another step towards high-performance rowing at York."



## News

# University opposes bus stop plans

**Anwen Baker**  
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

YORK CITY Council has announced proposals to move the Library Bridge bus stop towards Morrell Way, to the dismay of University officials.

The bus stop would be moved towards Morrell Way, where a new set of steps leading to the library would be built. The existing library steps would be removed.

The work is estimated to cost around £350,000, not including the costs associated with re-siting the district heating system.

If these plans go ahead the University will be expected to shoulder the entirety of the costs.

Both the University and the police have stated that they are not in favour of this scheme.

According to the University's Health, Safety and Welfare Committee, the University is not in a position to commit to unplanned costs outside its annual budget. The committee also expressed disappointment at the actions of the City Council.

The proposals come as part of an effort to encourage pedestrians



York City Council has announced proposals to move the Library Bridge bus stop towards Morrell Way

to use the Library Bridge instead of crossing University Road.

Several incidents have occurred

on the road in the last year, with at least two collisions and many more near accidents.

These proposals come as part of a series of changes due to be made to University Road, including the creation of new cycle paths to Heslington East and the replacement of the current dual carriageway with a 7m wide two way road.

Students *Nouse* spoke to have reacted with dismay to these proposals. Michael Steele-Moore, a first year student told *Nouse*: "I think it's needless. Maybe we don't need the

council's help to cross roads. Accidents occur on every other road.

"What a classic waste of money, this is just the council intervening when there's no need for intervention."

The University has proposed several alternatives, such as the implementation of speed restrictions and the removal of the central islands underneath Library Bridge.

Review meetings are currently being held with City Council Transport Officers in an attempt to resolve the issue.

## GSA elections hit by shortage of candidates

**Anwen Baker**  
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

THE GRADUATE Student's Association (GSA) Principal Officer Elections for have opened. Four of the six positions are uncontested, with only one person running.

Services Officer, Finance and Community Officer, Academic Officer and President have only one candidate running for each position.

This marks a fall from last year's elections, which saw three candidates running for President.



experience.

Yuan Wang, the sole candidate for President, lists his principal aims as having "good cooperation with all different sections of GSA to carry out their works" and increasing "the spirit of fusion of the post-graduate students during their just one year study time, to make them feel warmer and more internationalization".

Voting closes at 12.00 on May 31st. Results will be released on June 3rd.

Postgraduate students completing taught masters or research degrees make up over a quarter of the student body at York.

The GSA work closely with the University to offer academic skills training sessions and organise campaigns to help postgraduates with their studies. They also provide advice, support and representation for students facing academic appeals or disciplinary action.

The candidates for Principal Officers are: Wang for President, Xiaoyin Yang for Academic Officer, Kevin Elphick for Services Officer, Tian Tian for Finance and Community Officer, and Daria Pawlowska, Jenny Michel and Rosa Kit Wan Kwok for Welfare Officer.

An election is also being held for the role of Student Trustee, an unpaid, part time position.

There are two candidates for this role, Yuan Wang and Daria Pawlowska.

The Principal Officers of the GSA represent postgraduate students at the highest level.

They are expected to attend all YUSU committees and are responsible for the postgraduate student

## Yatterbox attracts national interest

**Sofia Geraghty**  
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

A COMPANY created by ex-University students, which monitors the Tweets of UK politicians, is gaining national interest after teaming up with a London based communications agency.

Yatterbox observes the tweets of politicians and key stakeholders, analysing them to give further insight into what the country's most powerful are saying. With social media usage among politicians increasing 160 per cent between 2011 and 2012 (according to the company's website), Yatterbox has been an object of interest for big businesses.

They have recently teamed up with the Cicero group, who provide businesses with PR services and market research, to supply UK companies with valuable insight into the minds of the country's top politicians and stakeholders.

**“**It was clear how social media was being used for campaigning and there was a feeling that this would continue to grow **”**

Managing Director of Yatterbox  
**Matt Freckleton**

Matt Freckleton, managing director of Yatterbox, founded the company after graduating from the University in 2010 and identifying a gap in the market. He said that "whilst working for a parliamentary candidate during the 2010 General Election.

"It was clear how social media was being used for campaigning and electioneering and there was a general feeling that this usage would continue and grow post the election but discussion would of course change into talking about policy, industry and news.

"There was also a general sentiment that this information would be of use to somebody in a some sort of commercial product. So we started on a journey to answer those questions and assumptions."

Unsurprisingly, the country's politicians have come up with some rather "interesting" tweets. Freckleton pointed out that a particularly amusing tweet came from Michael Fabricant during the last budget day, who said he was watching episodes of the Magic Roundabout to get through the speech.

The success of Yatterbox will undoubtedly come as pleasant news to the University, which have made an increasing effort recently to encourage the entrepreneurial spirit of students. The University currently offers a number of grants and awards to students wanting to set up a business, as well as events and workshops in the world of business.

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# What did Brian do wrong?

Chauffeurs, croquet and CBEs. Amy Blumsom looks at the highs and lows of a career that never won the hearts of the student body.

This summer, Brian Cantor will be stepping down from his role as Vice-Chancellor. Often described as "distant" from students, his time at York has not been without controversy.

Many would say that Cantor's relationship with students at York is not a close one. Relations were worsened in 2008, when Cantor failed to turn up to a meeting which over 200 students had attended, because he was at a dinner in Oxford.

This only served to exacerbate already strained relations with both students and YUSU. By leaving his post early to take up the Vice-Chancellorship of the University of Bradford, Cantor has only highlighted his lack of commitment the students of York.

Cantor's finances have come under intense scrutiny and criticism during his time at here.

In 2011, the Vice-Chancellor reached the height of his infamy when he was criticised on national television by Channel 4 in a Dispatches documentary for spending over £10,000 on chauffeur driven cars among other expense claims - including £70 for journeys

between Heslington East and West.

It has been revealed that Cantor's claimed £135,000 in expenses in 2010. The Vice-Chancellor has seen his six-figure salary increase exponentially - most remarkably between 2008 and 2011 when he received a £50,000 increase in pay.

Since Cantor took over, York's position has fluctuated in the league tables. When Cantor first took over in 2002, York were ranked sixth in the UK according to the *Guardian*.

Whilst there was success in the World rankings in 2009, with the University achieving 70th place, York has now slumped to 17th in *The Times*' league table after achieving 9th place only two years ago.

Whilst York's rankings took a hit under Cantor, the prestige of the University has not suffered as significantly as suggested.

In 2010 York was named THE University of the Year, and in 2012 York was invited to join the esteemed Russell Group.

Overall, the development of the Heslington East campus will be Cantor's most enduring legacy.

Whilst praised by some for pioneering

expansion of this institution, the campus has not been without opposition. Rumours of a new campus began in 2003, with Cantor defending the plans in a public meeting. 2007 saw Heslington East finally getting the go-ahead, with building beginning a year later.

The state-of-the-art York Sport Village has arguably been the most extravagant success of the Heslington East development.



In 2011, Cantor boasted that the Heslington East development will create 8,000 new jobs for the local economy, the same year that he received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the York Press.

However, with Langwith and Goodricke residents complaining about the lack of on-campus facilities, having only recently installed a cash machine and temporary shop, the success of Cantor's Heslington East development is up for debate.

Despite this, Cantor has seen some personal successes while at York.

In 2011, he was named the 33rd most influential man in the North of England and in last year's Honours List, he was awarded a CBE for services to education.

Nonetheless, the Vice-Chancellor's most memorable achievement for the students of York has probably been his domination of the croquet game at Roses 2013 - with the help of Kallum Taylor and Greg Dyke.



**2005**

Proposals for the development of a new campus on Heslington East are approved by the council. The plans are criticised in a public meeting and Cantor is forced to defend the development a year later.



Building work on Heslington East begins.

**2008**

**2010**

Plans to move Langwith College to Heslington East are announced in the same year that proposals for the new York Sport Village are put forward.



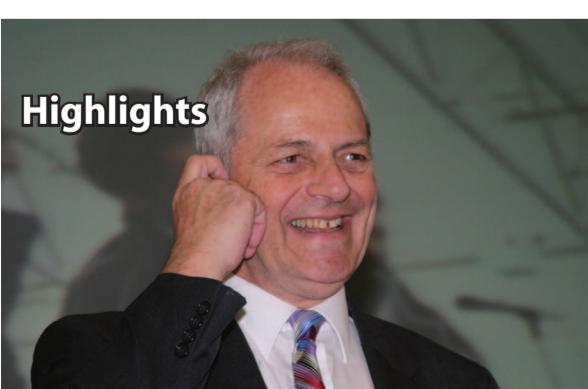
**2010**

Cantor claims £50,542 in expenses. It is discovered that nearly £135,000 were claimed by the Vice-Chancellor over the previous three years, a large portion of which is one international travel. His expenses claims included nearly £300 for a return trip from the University to King's Manor.



**2012**

Cantor ignores calls from the NUS to donate his tax windfall to the University of York.



**2010**

York wins University of the Year at the Times Higher Education Awards. This was to be followed by Russell Group entry in 2012.



**2013**

**2013**

Cantor is victorious in the croquet at Roses 2013 with the help of Kallum Taylor, YUSU president and Greg Dyke, the Chancellor.

# Comment

Fiona Parker



## Who's afraid of racial equality?

Statistics have revealed uneven admissions rates between UK White and BME applicants into the University

**E**ach year, the proportion of successful York applicants are split into various camps by the University's employed statisticians. What we are presented with is a series of paired percentages reflecting, apparently, the characteristics most desirable in a potential candidate. The numbers we have at the moment portray a 21 per cent gap between private and state school students and a still undeniable gender-specific advantage. Today, 45 per cent of UK BME (Black and Minority Ethnic) applicants will

**“No matter what your views are on the other ‘f’ word... The battle for equality isn’t over”**

be successful in their applications to York. White applicants fare far better, with 62 per cent of candidates gaining places at the University.

There is obviously a major problem here, which I doubt York, or any other UK university will be able to solve overnight. A full assessment of candidate fair access would require consideration of social, economic and individual-related factors. What is most disturbing is the University's attitude to the racial demographics of successful applicants. When presented with the BME sta-

tistics York claimed that the difference was not done by them. Responsibility was abandoned, and whilst it appears that the University is doing nothing wrong, York doesn't appear to be doing anything right either.

As well as GCSE grades, a personal statement and predicted A Level grades, UCAS forms currently allow admissions staff to view the gender and schooling of individual applicants. Race and ethnicity details are not disclosed. This conveniently presents York with a “get out clause” as the institution is able to use the UCAS system as a scapegoat when a disproportionately large crowd of white faces arrive every October. Even if this doesn't feel right, the University need only look to its new companion institutions of the Russell Group in order to find solidarity for its racial equality shortcomings.

According to a recent survey conducted by researchers from Durham University, students from ethnic minorities are less likely to gain places at top universities than white pupils with the same A-level grades. A new study has claimed that access to Russell Group universities is far from ‘fair’.

But is it just the University admission staff who are showing a less-than-enthusiastic desire to put their balls on the line for the sake of racial equality? Before we throw out accusations of cowardice, we ought to look around and decide just how

openly enthusiastic the student body is for racial equality.

No doubt, most of us will have read those Indie articles reporting Oxbridge racism which apparently follows students from the very beginning of the application and throughout the full course of their degrees – it's important to remember at this point that with Oxford accepting 25.7 per cent of white applications compared to 18.2 per cent of BMEs, York is not far behind in terms of demographics – However, few of us could argue that our university is active in racial equality campaigns.

No matter what your views are on the other “f word” the answer

that the majority of the movement's supporters will give sceptics is that “the battle for equality isn't over”. I am not suggesting a quota of BME students, or for academic qualifications and clear signs of interest in a subject to be disregarded in favour of making the media happy. The University need to start asking some questions. “Why is the current system not working? Do changes need to be made to the current system of undisclosed ethnic details?” Perhaps most uncomfortably, “Why haven't these questions been asked in the four years prior?” If they are going to stand a chance of getting any kind of answers, they will need our backing.



Andrew Knowles



## The case for drug legalisation

The legalisation of recreational drugs shouldn't be as radical an idea as governments and the media would have us believe

**T**he global war on drugs led by the United States (and largely attributed to Richard Nixon) has been a monumental failure. Even though it's probably the only war where America will enjoy the help and support of from around the world, the levels of collateral damage and the fact that it has not got anywhere near to achieving its goals arguably makes it a quintessentially American conflict.

It has cost billions of dollars and has ensured that all of the revenue from recreational drugs (apart from alcohol and tobacco) flows into the hands of international criminals. It has caused innumerable deaths, whether through gruesome gang murders in Mexico, or drug addicts dying from neglect covered in a veil of prosecution.

Britain is like most other countries when it comes to drug policy: strict and comprehensive. It has followed America's lead in the war on drugs and like in the States, it has

failed. This is hugely expensive for the UK government; one charity has estimated that prohibition costs UK taxpayers over £16 billion a year. Despite this cost, illegal drugs are still widely available, particularly in the big cities. Millions still use them every year and police only seize minute volumes of drugs in proportion to the amount coming into the UK. Meanwhile drug addicts have to live in a country where the emphasis is on incarceration, not rehabilitation.

What's strange is that most people are satisfied with the failing status quo; because the alternative would be anarchy with ‘drugs nuts’ running wild, surely? This opinion is in large part to a long-term vilification of recreational drugs undertaken by governments and the media, achieved through lessons at school about the dangers of illegal drugs and national campaigns calling themselves FRANK. But the reality is that UK drugs policy has always been ineffective and the

deep-seated fear of illegal drugs is a large barrier to effective campaigns for legalisation.

Legalisation needn't be such a far-fetched thought; it wouldn't be the apocalypse that many politicians and newspapers would predict. *The Lancet* published a widely referenced article in 2010 which ranked various drugs on their combined of harm to users and harm to others.

Alcohol came out well on top; although its harm to individual users' score was relatively low (but still above other drugs such as LSD and Ecstasy) it scored highly on the harm to others; alcohol and crime go together like Countdown and boredom. What's crucial is that people in the UK experience a paradigm shift in the way they see alcohol in relation to other drugs, based on the scientific evidence about them. Alcohol is up there with heroin and cocaine in terms of overall harm.

Once you realise this then legalisation isn't scary at all- we already

live in a country where drug-taking (drinking and smoking) is endemic.

After legalisation, the costs to the Government would then mainly be in healthcare and rehabilitation- which would be much cheaper. As well as saving money from police operations and border control, the government would then earn billions in taxes every year.

Tobacco earned the government around £12 billion in revenue between 2011-12 and alcohol contributes over £14 billion. At the moment, all of the revenue made from illegal drugs flows into the hands of criminals and that money often also helps fund nefarious activities such as people and gun trafficking into the UK. Legalisation would divert almost all of this cash into the hands of big pharma (assuming they'd be the manufacturers) and the government. The only people that should protest against legalisation are the criminals that depend on current drugs prohibition.



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www.nouse.co.uk/comment



BRANDON SEAGER

## Exams need a rethink


**Tom Fennelly**

Exams have been part of our academic and educational institutions for millennia. They are the favoured means test at the end of the academic year that give a clear indication of the level of a student's work and whether they know enough about the tested subject. But this is the twenty-first century; a time when wars are fought with remote-controlled drones; a time when breaking news can go global within minutes. So are these ancient ideas of the exam past their sell-by date?

The 'all-knowing' stooges in our subject departments will reliably convince us that a closed, essay based exam will give us the best reflection of the level of our work and our knowledge in the field.

In these scenarios, the only thing exams are testing is how good a person's memory is. All the results will show is a list of people whose brains work more effectively at remembering what other people say.

It will always reflect more positively on those who perform better in this way, but not everybody does. The rest of us will simply be left to look pretty clueless, regardless of the standard of our essay-writing or academic ability in research.

Open exams, on the other hand, provide the level playing field that is much more applicable in academia. The realistic world of using unlimited electronic resources more efficient ways to collect the data is now the norm in University research, so why hasn't undergraduate study followed suit?

Let's put this into context. I didn't pass my driving test by sitting a room where drinking a different coloured liquid is an 'academic offence'. To be able to drive, you don't tell an examiner how you think people drive from what you remember, you actually have to go out and show them you can do it (although, in my case, all I showed the examiner was that we couldn't get out of the car park).

This is why I am much more in favour of the timed open exam, like the 48 hour ones seen in subjects like history (which seems to be the only thing that history students ever have to do). Give me a day or two to throw together a researched essay with my own critical analysis and I will be able to show (or not show) the academic skills this University should expect from its students. Put me in a silent room for a few hours and I ask me to remember eighty different things about one module and I will melt faster than one of Salvador Dali's clocks.

Furthermore, universities now have the technological know-how to spot any sign of cheating, so this issue is no longer relevant in an institution where a breach of academic integrity is an offence punishable by public hanging.

This aged idea of the exam needs to go, or is such a change just too much effort for our departments? Pull your finger out, York.

## Finding the funding

Ellie Rice



Does the falling funding for YUSU deserve to be reversed?

**I**t has recently come to light that University funding per capita for YUSU has been in decline for the past four years. From £61.74 in 2006/7, the amount fell to £49.19 in 2011/12, but does losing a fifth of each students' provisions really have an impact on our day to day experiences at York?

**“We should be grateful that we receive any money at all”**

The University, predictably, argues that it does not. They quite rightly point out that the Union have multiple opportunities to voice concerns over funding. For example, their regular meetings with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and the Registrar.

Adding to the University's defence, not only does YUSU not have to pay rent on our union building, they also didn't need to spend £500,000 building it. I for one certainly still use the building as infrequently as before. There was office space there already. Therefore, there is no real need for the University to make additional financial provisions for YUSU's buildings.

Finally, we should be grateful that we receive any money at all. Even if it is falling, the University funds as a whole aren't exactly booming and the student body must learn to accept the rough with the smooth. The current cohort of freshers may not be here when the funding goes back up, but eventually it will, even without lobbying. In de-

fence of YUSU however, whilst they don't pay rent for the union building, they are committed to paying over £75, 800 in rent a year on other union areas, such as campus bars. We wouldn't want to lose Courtyard so that each sports club could have subsidised kit, or so that more niche societies could be ratified.

Furthermore, there are legal restrictions placed on the Union which makes their funding complicated to extract and distribute. The Charities Commission require 6 months of operating costs in the bank. YUSU's current cash reserve of £14,000 is three per cent above the legal minimum. The second legal complication is that whilst the GSA is a separate entity with its own funding, YUSU bound to share some responsibilities. With overlapping concerns, it would seem to make financial sense to abolish the GSA. This would leave YUSU £169,230 richer, but with no additional concerns.

Thirdly, by not maintaining their funding in correlation with projected student numbers, the University could be argued as showing a dire lack of forethought. This leads us to question what else is not being well thought out. The University make a profit each year, where is this going? Even £6000 would make a valuable, if modest, contribution to YUSU. Admittedly, there could be a valid, long term plan for this money. But if so, then the University should be more transparent in sharing this plan in order to avoid speculation and attack.

Finally, YUSU have both long and short term goals. These plans cost money, but they will allow the

University to grow stronger. For example, there is currently only one YUSU staff member who can undertake the academic casework of 15,000 undergraduates. There is an almost identical problem in sports. How can York dominate Roses again if we don't have the right support and funding networks in place?

Having considered the arguments for and against increasing university funding of YUSU, I have to conclude that open communication with the University is the first step to resolving this issue. Once we have established where the University's money is going, we can find ways to direct more funding towards YUSU.

With our ever expanding student body, the University must make its customers its priority. Furthermore, if potential students are put off of applying for the University based on its failing undergraduate

**“How can York dominate Roses again if we don't have the support and funding networks in place?”**

union, this can only cause problems for the University.

All in all, it is in the interests of the administration to be more open in their finances and to offer an explanation for the falling funds, there could still be a legitimate explanation for the figures.

Follow the debate:  
Comment online at  
[nouse.co.uk/comment](http://nouse.co.uk/comment)

## Comment

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

### A community united

On Sunday, students from this University, reminded the community that we can be a purposeful force of powerful resistance. Students put themselves on the line in solidarity for the Muslim community of York. Students engaged with the wider political picture, stood outside Bull Road's mosque, and took a stance. Our political power is real but not always realised, on Sunday we cast this conception of complacency and the message was reverberated across the city loud and clear - students in York will not tolerate fascism in our community. In reaction to the machete attack in Woolwich last week, members of an anti-Islam British group, the English Defence League, have clashed with police and staged protests on mosques across the country. What the EDL is doing is not right. Students on Sunday demonstrated the majority of the population's desire to coexist peacefully. Ignorance and apathy allows for one horrific act of violence committed by one Muslim - to distort the reality for the vast majority of Muslims across Britain. In light of the University's failure to improve the demographics on our campus, now is the time to ensure that as an institution of 'learning', we are a diverse and dynamic example to those who blindly fall into the ranks of radical fascism. The EDL protest didn't happen, and instead, ironically, the response to the rumoured EDL gathering prompted the local Christians, Muslims and students to unite, perhaps encapsulating best the message of Islam - 'love and peace'.

### YUSU's falling funds

YUSU's funding per student from the University has decreased. Not only is the grant falling, but the ways in which they need to improve (and York's students quite rightly remind them of these frequently) actually require an increase. For example, the Union recognise that their welfare provision needs improving in order to support the students who actually need it the most. But it's already under resourced in comparison to other students' unions of a similar size, so to increase its funding would mean taking money from somewhere else. There are, of course, ways for the Union to increase its funds: increasing prices or decreasing value in their bars or YourShop, for example. The bottom line is that with their current financial situation, for any area of YUSU to improve, another will have to suffer as a consequence. Not only that, but services may begin to suffer even if they just try to maintain the status quo, as they have to increase pay to meet inflation with decreased funds. Sooner or later, and preferably sooner, our Union needs more funding from the University.

### Gender equality needed to end abuse

Gender equality within domestic abuse is not an angle that is very often explored. Frequently the media is awash with stories of women being abused by their male partners, but what about when the roles are reversed? An even less frequented angle is that of domestic abuse within couples of the same gender. The statistics reveal a reality in which abuser and victim cannot be as easily stereotyped as they are in the media. These outlets perpetuate the problems faced by those who are too worried to report their abusers. The fact of the matter is that no one fully conforms to a stereotype and no situation fits the theoretical models. Therefore, we should be breaking out of these ideals - it would allow our society to become more aware of instances of abuse and allow those in trouble to be braver in seeking help.

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## Sizing up the debate

**Alex Slingsby**  
 Comment Editor



People from all over the world have plucked up the courage to stand up to Disney recently, after their latest bow-loving marriage-defying protagonist was slimmed down and sexed-up for a recent promotion. Princess Merida, one of Disney's most suitable female role models yet, due to her fiery nature and flawed personality, was given a new, older, foxy look, and this seems to have hit close to home.

Now, I will admit this: I am not a big fan of the body image ideal. I can't actually remember the last time I set foot on weighing scales, I eat biscuits like they're going out of fashion, and I can assure you that nobody will ever find me within fifty metres of the Hes West gym.

Unfortunately, society cares about my BMI more than I do. You can't make it through the day without the body image issue creeping into conversation. Merida's appear-

ance is a big deal because her modification reflects how far society will push the ideal. Princess Merida, in her original image, just wasn't good enough. But then, who is? Half a waist and a lower-cut top? Cases like these make the headlines because people can actually do something, before the window of opportunity closes, and it becomes taboo.

Take La Senza for example, in pride of place next to York's most famous Chinese restaurant, harbouring a window full of half-naked mannequins with Barbie-esque proportions, flawless bone structure, and picture-perfect plastic posture. How are normal women supposed to compare?

There are very few women in this world resembling a La Senza mannequin, so why do retail stores insist on sticking to tradition? It's a strange concept, but these mannequins are skewed attempts at



## Redefining marriage

**Gary Holland**  
 Deputy Comment Editor



Surely we can all agree that no government has any business telling us who we can and can't love, or declare our love for publicly in our ceremony of choice. However this is not the only function of marriage.

Marriage has many purposes: to create a union in the eyes of your deity of choice; to assure the future of your royal lineage; to create a stable environment to raise children. The list goes on. And declaring your intention to spend the rest of your life with someone is only part of it.

People who don't recognise this tend to think it's obvious that there should be total equality in terms of who can get married. Which seems axiomatic because it boils down to my previous assertion: that who loves whom is not the government's concern.

But when you accept the other functions of marriage, it suddenly becomes complicated. Should certain purposes take precedence over others? This would allow for a clearer set of rules, especially if, for example, procreation was deemed a higher priority than love declarations. This would also exclude infer-

tile and same-sex couples, and even opposite-sex couples who just don't want children.

Perhaps the answer is to accept that some functions of marriage are more important than others, but that the love-based ones are the most important.

The issue here is that marriage is a legal contract. And just as declarations of love and paradigms of procreative activity are the business of the people, legal contracts are the business of the government.

This is why we argue about who should be allowed to marry. Everyone takes a slightly different viewpoint, prioritising different aspects and traditions, leading to frustration and disagreement. Those who value marriage primarily as a Christian tradition involving a man and a woman understandably feel differently than a same-sex couple who value it as a declaration of love.

I'd even go as far as to say that it's at least understandable when the first group don't like the idea of the definition of marriage being changed to not exclude same-sex couples. As much as you might argue that it doesn't affect them,

it changes what their marriage is. They no longer have a marriage where 'marriage' means x (in this case specifically one man, one woman); they have a marriage which means the union of two people of any gender combination. And that isn't what they wanted.

Here is my proposed solution: stop religious ceremonies counting as the legal contract, because frankly they have nothing to do with one another. They can have the legal bit done in the same place at the same time, but they aren't the same thing. And then anyone in any relationship, be it same-sex and polygamous, or something more 'traditional' can declare their love for each other on their own terms.

The legal institution would still be relevant in terms of tax benefits, pensions, property, next of kin, etc, but it would no longer intrude in the same way.

And if this were to happen, then it would be much easier to achieve actual marriage (in the legal sense) equality, as changes made to that type of marriage wouldn't affect religious, or any other type of marriage.



Molly Baro

## Breaking Brooker's media dystopia

The stabbing of Drummer Lee Rigby, by Michael Adebolajo and Michael Adebowale on Wednesday, was a brutal act of violence and big news.

But what really reinforced the shock of this attack for the public was the video footage that was almost immediately released. That the attack happened in broad daylight in the middle of a busy London street, allowed passers-by to film, tweet and share what they had witnessed.

**“The Woolwich incident illustrates not only how the image world impacts on politics, but also our ability to empathise”**

In fact, the attackers encouraged it - they taunted their onlookers, asking them to take photos and film their ideological rants, so that their message could be spread around the nation as quickly as possible.

The chilling video of Adebolajo talking to the cameras while holding a bloody machete in one hand, featured first on ITV, before rapidly infiltrating most of the television coverage. What does the perpetrators' almost unprecedented manipulation of eyewitness footage say about the image-based world we

live in today?

We exist in a media culture which is increasingly focused on resources taken from iPhones, Facebook and Twitter.

The extraordinary element in this case is the huge amount of video footage and pictures taken. It is a prime example of how the constant evolution of technology has a direct effect on social and political incidents such as these; the attackers deliberately lingered afterwards using the filming onlookers to ensure that the political motives for the attack were conveyed. These videos show the image world directly influencing the political world.

If you've seen *Black Mirror*, the satirical series created by Charlie Brooker, you may remember the one episode where there is a fictional woman quite obviously distraught (revealed at the end to have helped kidnap and kill a young girl) and all anyone does is get out their iPhone and film her. Brooker himself notes that the episodes are all about today's culture, 'they're all about the way we live now - and the way we might be living in 10 minutes' time if we're clumsy.'

The Woolwich attack hauntingly reflects this episode. Does this incident demonstrate the proximity of our reality today to that of Charlie Brooker's world, and does this attack show us that we are already ghoulish spectators?

It's obviously very pessimistic to presume that everyone whipping out their cameras at the scene of the Woolwich murder was somehow disengaged, but why is it, that rather than running to help that we pull

out our phones and start anonymously filming?

We see so many images in the media, that we are no longer in

**“Rather than running to help, we pull out our phones and start anonymously filming”**

touch with reality, only aware of the spectacle of the news photographs. Somewhat confusingly, these photographs can be argued to both disengage our emotions, and further draw us in.

In my opinion, the increasing exposure through the media to these types of photographs or videos has led to our dwindling sensitiv-

ity to the brutality of the event. The Woolwich incident illustrates not only how the image world impacts on politics, but also our ability to empathise.

Some argue that the chilling video footage has been useful, others say that it has provoked a more severe reaction from the public than would have otherwise occurred.

Ultimately, over time, the more we are exposed to these types of horrors do they gradually make less of an impact. Similarly, the more horror films you watch, the less interested you become as they cease to provoke your adrenal gland.

I really hope this is not the way our culture is going, but with the normalisation of immediate uploading and sharing to social media sites it seems we are more and more disengaged with our reality, and are mere spectators, rather than participants.



KATE MITCHELL



Harry Harland

## Parents, Pornography and Sex Ed

Leading head teachers are arguing that children should be made aware of the dangers of porn by their teachers as soon as they begin using the internet. A recent survey by the National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) found that 42 per cent of parents agree with them.

Perhaps it's time for parents to take more responsibility when it comes to the Internet, rather than placing the duty on teachers.

Primary school education on porn would only drag fellow classmates into the matter, who, otherwise, would most probably never encounter such material. At least not until a later stage.

While porn has no place for discussion in primary schools, a case may be made for its discussion in classrooms of teenagers. As noted by the Sex Education Forum, filtering software on smartphones is universally poor, making it likely for them to encounter sexual imagery online. Even with such software, it seems foolish to think that teenage access to porn could be prevented - teenagers can be highly resourceful.

This reminds me of a recent occurrence. Upon briefly leaving our kitchen, a flatmate of mine specifically instructed us not to check the internet history of his laptop, which he left behind. I won't insult you by stating what happened next.

Children of a young age are naturally inquisitive. The expectation that we can tell them about porn, without further enquiry on their behalf, seems misplaced.

The online security company,

Bitdefender, estimates that 1.16 per cent of children will have accessed porn by the tender age of six. This figure may be unacceptable, but it's not unlikely. I fear that this figure will only be increased by discussing the topic with children.

It should be stressed to teenagers that, in reality, women are not perpetual objects with the purpose of passively submitting to male desires. This seems obvious to most of us. However, it may not be so clear to more impressionable teenagers.

Ofsted calls for improved sex education for secondary school children. The aim here is to stress

**“The aim here is to stress that scenes portrayed in porn don't usually resemble real-life”**

that scenes portrayed in porn don't resemble real-life situations, and stress that ideas about relationships shouldn't be derived from them.

I'm not arguing that porn causes teenagers to re-enact scenes of intercourse with pizza delivery boys or anything. It's not difficult, however, to imagine that the underlying sexual inequality depicted in porn could contribute to real-life attitudes.

Many pornographic films feature women undergoing degrading acts to please their counterparts. Martin Amis questions why the 'facial' (whatever that means) is often

the 'sine qua non' of porn.

It should be stressed to teenagers that, in reality, women are not perpetual objects with the purpose of passively submitting to male desires. This seems obvious to most of us. However, it may not be so clear to more impressionable teenagers.

Government proposals for reforming the National Curriculum, if enforced, won't make Personal, Social, Health and Economic education (PSHE) mandatory in secondary schools.

Most of us, no doubt, will have found school PSHE utterly useless. However, if gender inequality in the context of porn was addressed, this 'subject' may actually have some social value.

Sonia Poulton argues that such discussions should only occur in the home. This seems bound for failure, given that an NAHT poll discovered only 13 per cent of parents feel competent in tackling these issues.

There is room for consideration of its discussion with teenagers. With many parents inept to do so, perhaps the duty of tackling this inescapable issue should fall with teachers.

## An Eton Mess

Elizabeth Lynch



Machiavelli, the 16th century political scholar, professed that "It is better to be feared than loved if you cannot be both" it was also the sentiments debated by the scholarship candidates at Eton College last week.

"It is the year 2040, you are the Prime Minister." Write the script for a speech to be broadcasted to the nation in which you explain why employing the Army against violent protesters was the only option available to you and one which was both necessary and moral."

It doesn't take scholarly genius to parallel this scenario with the one Britain was faced with during the August riots of 2011; an explosive mix of economic hardship, opportunism, and widespread political disillusionment that temporarily rocked the foundations of our democratic peace.

The fact that Eton College has produced 19 Prime Ministers, however, arguably gives greater gravity to the consequences of the political and ideological message that underlies this statement.

An eye for an eye mentality was one that was avoided in August of 2011 to the credit of the Metropolitan Police and the trust of the wider public in their work.

Threats of armed force intervention was not an intelligent response based on value but rather one spawned by fear. An "us" and "them" dichotomy that has become more prevalent not least due to Britain's weakened economy post-2008 but further still in the public's disillusionment from the upper-middle class leaders who hold court on the front benches of our bastion of democracy.

What was lost momentarily in the anger and violence were the values of the government. What has been long lost is the autonomy of the police in public affairs.

The politicisation of the police force by Baroness Thatcher during the 1980s miners' strikes ensured a longer term accountability of the police to political agendas, it also positioned them as pawns in a wider game of political power.

Values of freedom of speech and expression, and more importantly of consensual policing based on public trust must be fostered so that this prophetic Etonian vision of 2040 remains the catalyst of teenage debate and nothing more.

However, as more police cuts are announced nation-wide and the Metropolitan Police service must rest on the support of unpaid special officers, such a question is perhaps not as distant as the scholarship paper would suggest.

Thus, whilst credit must be given to the teachers who posed the question allowing further debate on the reaction of the Prime Minister during the 2011 protests, we can only hope that the answers are not an elaborate warm up to a stronger rhetoric than that of David Cameron's dulcet tones of two summers gone.

# Summer Ball

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# MUSE.

28.05.2013

## 'Look at my scars dammit'

The harsh reality of breast cancer uncovered.

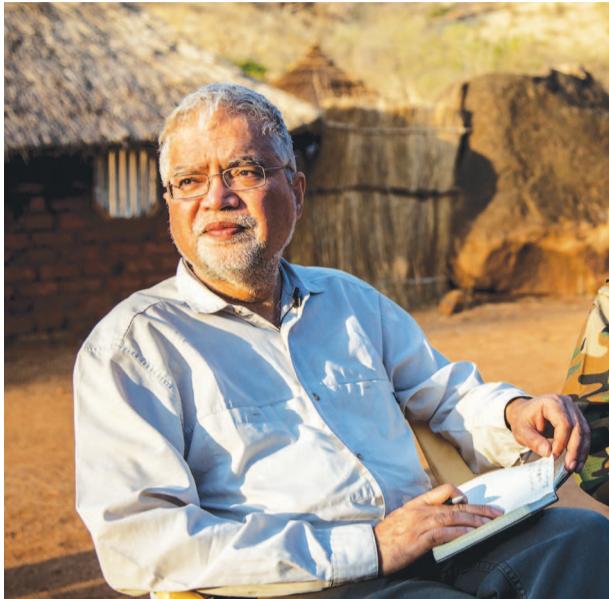
## Speaking through silence

A contemporary mime artist whom Marceau told would never make it.

## A whistle in the darkness

A decade after Darfur's genocide





**M18.** Violence flared this week, leaving the **former Head of the UN in Sudan** to reflect on the most successful genocide in history.



**M12.** Growing up gay in Montana, USA, and losing his first love to AIDS. Contemporary mime artist **Bill Bowers** talks expression without words.



**M8.** Statistically ten per cent of **David Jay's** subjects will die. Charlotte Wainwright uncovers the harsh reality of breast cancer

## Arts.

**M6.** India Block catches up with York alumna **Susie Steiner**, ahead of her return for York's Festival of Ideas.

**M8.** Jordan Licht talks to the director of English Pen **Gillian Slovo**.

## Fashion.

**M9.** Blogger and YouTube royalty, **Fleur De Force**, tells India Block how to turn your hobby into a lifestyle and career.

## Music.

**M15.** Hatti Linnell talks to veteran indie rockers **The Pigeon Detectives**, fresh from their fourth album.

**M16.** We catch up with **Concrete Knives** and a sound that "combines universes"

## Film.

**M19.** Steven Roberts talks to **Michael Baig-Clifford** about directing on a micro-budget (and his BAFTA...)

## Food & Drink.

**M20.** In a spree of summer enthusiasm, Mary O'Connor learns about the new trend for garden to gastro. And it's not just for the retired.

**M21.** Ryan Bentley's in pre-drinks heaven with a case of boxed wine...

## Image Credits.

Cover and above right: David Jay  
M2 and M3: Courtesy of Mupesh Kapila (far left), Bill Bowers (middle) and Charlotte Christie (M3).

## Muzzy's Musings...

### The Battle of York

If the best chemist of chem-soc  
Stirred the words of men-soc  
With emotions and notions of fem-soc  
The potent potion produced would blow through the roof  
And overly explosive hoax of 'blokey jokes'  
Exposing a truth that gender-wars rage in York...

Exams are in progress, campus is so stressed  
The air vibrates like silent phones in quiet zones,  
Dimensions of tension and unpaid library loans  
Still awake late in the nights dying throes,  
Fighting frightening foes of revision and time  
Typing notes with the dice on its final throw,  
So no one cares if Cafe Barista,  
Just might be closed.

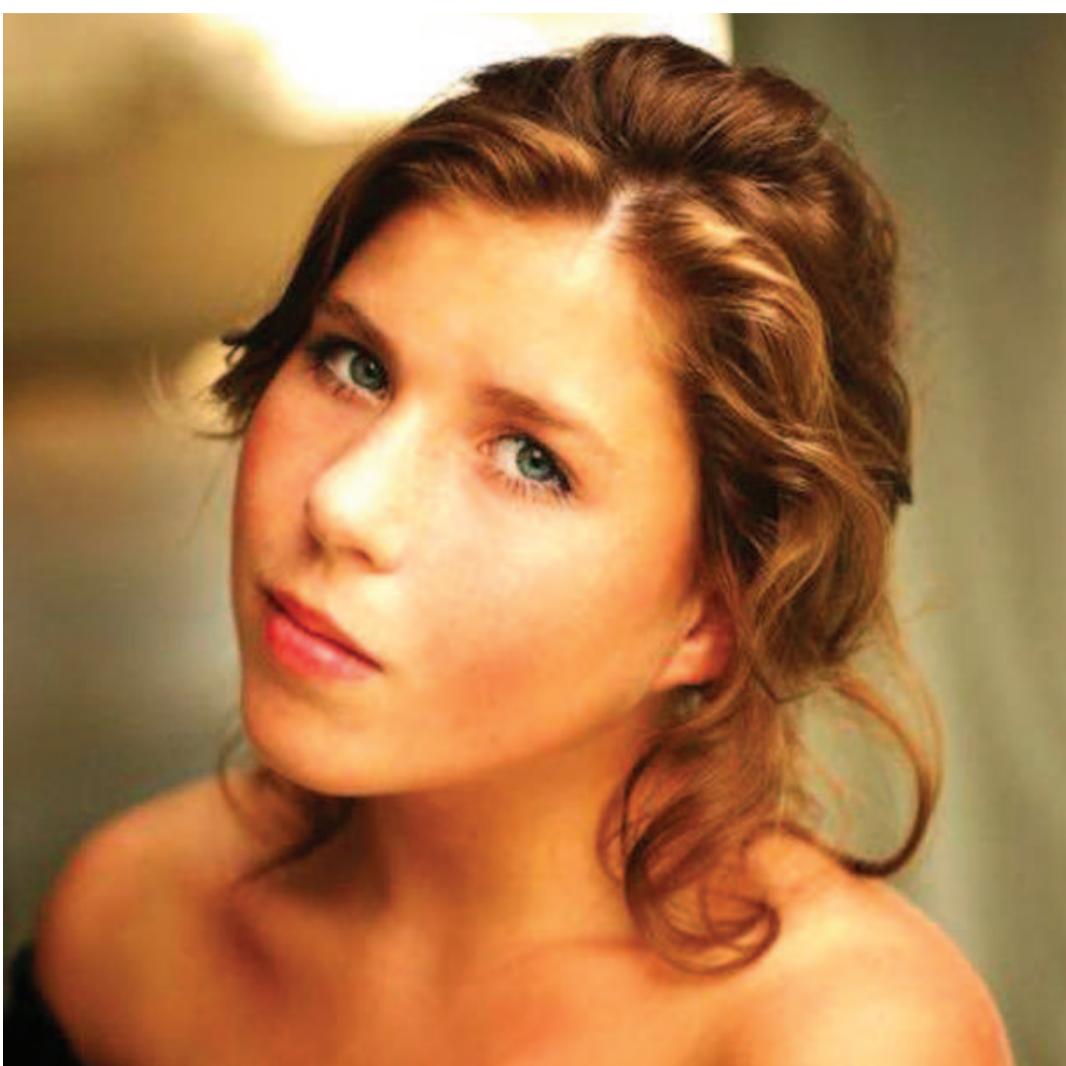
From D-bar to V-bar, a vaccine of caffeine  
Prevents collapse. I see icy stares and cold glares  
Frosty as wintertime from rivals in printer lines  
Till one of us cracks.

Take this musing, get perusing and pass it round  
Tell all you meet on cobbled streets and shambles town  
Campus is at war, welcome to the battleground



# Charlotte Christie

Actress. Feminist. Bullshitting Student.



## Why do we still need feminism? (Would you ever burn your bra?)

The way the media have sneered at Kim Kardashian's pregnancy bump is proof enough as to why we still need feminism. HOWEVER, I am a 30 FF and quite like them up by my chin. So, no, I wouldn't burn my bra.

## If you could have a dinner party which five guests would you invite? (Dead or alive)

Jean Rhys, Rupert Birkin (He's not dead or alive-but alas, imaginary), Sacheen Littlefeather, Shakespeare, my Great Grandmother, affectionately named Ranee.

"I think for employability's sake, I shouldn't answer that..."

## If you were another profession what would it be?

It hasn't even crossed my mind what else I could do...

## Your most outrageous moment?

I think for employability's sake, I feel I shouldn't

answer that...

## What sort of student are you at university?

A lazy, talkative, bull shitter. So, probably quite annoying.

## If you could be born in another era what would it be?

Ah, I just had a really good day. So, currently I'm happy with living in the present.

## Three words to describe your mantra for life?

I'M. NOT. BEX (everyone, all the time, mistakes me for my identical twin sister, called Bex - the joke is 21 years old people! )

## Best or strangest thing anyone has ever said to you?

I was once asked: "if you could have sex with a dead chimp with HIV or a live chimp that could potentially rip your head off, which would you choose?" - If your answer isn't "I'd rather die". Please tweet me your thoughts @ccspeak and I'll endeavour to hook you up with a therapist.

## If you could go back in history and give someone a message, to whom and what message?

Go back to The Battle of Thermopylae and tell them: "Fantastic abs, I mean, er, most importantly- it was all worth it guys!"

# The Lonely Smoker

Rose Troup Buchanan

**I**t's usually at this point in the term that people start discussing their holiday plans. There's never been a better time for it as we seem to be living through a very damp apocalypse here in York, and with nothing but more rain expected in the immediate future, the prospect of some sun could be great.

The kind of escape people book tells you a lot; there are the French chateau troop, whose fathers' generally own the 18th century pile they stay in; those that go away and work saving malnourished orphans in Outer Mongolia, and are nearly always that over-eager PPE student petitioning for something outside the library; or the prospect of the hideous 'lash' (can be substituted for 'gash') tours that parade their idiocy round the fine cultural hotspots Malaga and certain pockets of Greece have to offer, in which case please see the majority of male sports clubs in York.

Of course, if you're a smoker, going on holiday can fulfil a more important purpose: simultaneous to frying your skin to a shade more usually seen on Donatella Versace, you can also stock up on that most essential of products.

Within the E.U. you're allowed to bring back 800 cigarettes, or 40 packs. Outside the E.U. it's a paltry 200 cigarettes. Obviously, buying cigarettes in Europe isn't that much cheaper than here, but it does have the added bonus of a more controlled market, which means you're less likely to wake up alone, with a banging headache, and wonder why your mouth tastes as though a cat defecated in it. Nonetheless, the further afield you go, the cheaper the smoker becomes.

The problems come when trying to get them home. I'm lucky enough to be going away this summer, and I plan to take as many packs back as I can lay my nicotine stained fingers upon. Without asking my friends to be my willing drug mules through security, I've been considering the best way to get through customs.

Firstly, obviously, there's really no point in attempting to put them in the hold. The thought of some souped-up drug hound sticking his nose anywhere near my belongings and then having them firmly detained I fear might be too heartbreaking. I could break up the bricks (ten packs for the uninitiated among you)

and then hide them on my body. However, seeing as I don't weigh 20 stone (and therefore should require two seats on the plane) and would probably find it hard to secrete a mere 20 packs on my body, I somehow don't think stacking 40 upwards packs over my figure is going to be an overly successful operation. And would probably result in my exclusion in one of those dark, scary little rooms always present in airports located in the more 'interesting' corners of the globe. Really, what I need to do is dress up like a businessman, stride my way through security, scowling ferociously over my moustache at the expense of my time, and pin-suit my way back into smoky delights. Of course, the fact I don't own a suit might be a slight flaw in an otherwise brilliant plan.

My only past experience of airport infringement came during a European flight shortly after 9/11. During the course of the flight not only did I discover that my battered coat pockets contained more BB pellets than I could safely dispose of down the back of the seat, but I was also carrying a collection of 9" nails, which had worked their way through my pockets and were now comfortably lining the interior of my jacket. Wasn't a great flight, if I'm honest.

What does your holiday say about you? Well, even if unemployment post graduation does beckon, however lucrative, I don't think drug smuggling is a viable career



ARTS.

# Susie's Yorkshire Homecoming

India Block catches up with **Susie Steiner** after the release of her debut novel and ahead of her return to York for next month's 'Festival of Ideas'.

For those of us soon to be shunted into the jobs market, reading Susie Steiner's resume is like looking into a magic mirror. After graduating from our very own University of York with a degree in English Literature she moved back down to London where, after a brief work experience stint, she landed a succession of full time job as a news reporter on publications such as *The Daily Telegraph* and *The Times*. Steiner then made the move from news to features, and spent eleven years as a commissioning editor for *The Guardian*; you may remember her article 'the Top Five Regrets of the Dying', which went viral. Her recently published debut novel *Homecoming* has been received with high critical acclaim, and she's already working on her second.

When I talked to Steiner over the phone last week, however, it became apparent that her soaring career trajectory wasn't always that clear. She began to write for *Nouse* in her third year at York to "make it look like I always wanted to do journalism". A high point was scoring a feature interview with the ever-controversial local Archbishop. She admits she "never felt comfortable in news" with its "very macho environment". "I never have the 'hunger'", she told me "the motivation to be the last one in the office at night, or to drive down to Dover at 5am".

The move to features suited her better; she enjoyed the more "thoughtful, measured approach" and found it "a relief to spend a lot more time thinking about what I was writing". She wouldn't, however, describe her transfer as her big break; it was "a break and a regression at the same time". On the one hand lifestyle was "lovely, great fun", but she wishes now she had tried for something more "intellectual" than lifestyle writing, but always felt that "I wasn't good enough about something like arts". In the end though, it was good to be

doing something "not too stressful when you have babies".

Ah, the much debated feminist conundrum of the mythical work/life balance. On this, Steiner vehemently disagrees with Sheryl Sandberg, the COO of Facebook, and her infamous manifesto 'Lean In'. "I can't stand her", she said of Sandberg "she's just telling other women how to be her - that's egotism, not feminism". Steiner says, "I would definitely view myself as a feminist, that we should have choices and freedom", but warns "women are not made free by trying to do what men do." Steiner knows, "I've got it as good as any woman could - I can work and still see my children a lot". Writing freelance, it seems, is a good way to combine a serious career and motherhood and avoid the pitfalls of the working world that still discriminates against women; she admits that her life is "not something every woman is lucky enough to have."

For Steiner, being a writer and an author was always the dream: journalism was just a means to an end in that sense. She began writing *Homecoming* when she was thirty years old, but has spent the past ten years "playing with how to do it, learning how to write fiction", the story growing in her subconscious whilst she juggled her career and a young family. Her passion for literature was ignited when she took a year out travelling before university. "I was having a particularly miserable time in India," and found solace in reading George Eliot's novels; "The Victorians rocked my world". Now, Steiner finds inspiration in reading contemporary fiction by authors such as Kate Atkinson and other "women who write about relationships".

Relationships are a key theme in *Homecoming*, and Steiner skilfully weaves her narrative around the age-old concern of how we relate to other humans. Families and their complex webs of love and loyalty are always a ripe topic for writers, but Steiner has breathed new life in to any clichés by setting

her story with a family of Yorkshire sheep farmers. As anyone who has come into close contact with farming families will understand, the bonds of kin and the tensions placed upon them are magnified tenfold by a family business at the mercy of the weather. If you don't know about the emotional intensity that farming brings, then you will after reading *Homecoming*. Steiner's writing is lyrical in its attention to detail, but don't let that fool you; her story will hook you in emotionally from the first page and won't let you go.



Behind the gripping family drama is a landscape that may be familiar to many of you; the beautiful Yorkshire moors. Up until now, their most famous literary outing has been in the works of the Brontë sisters, but this wasn't just a case of Steiner paying homage to some more world-rocking Victorians. She "fell in love" with the countryside around York when she was at university here, and even when she returned to her native London she couldn't break the connection. Steiner "carried on visiting the moors" whenever she could, and when she met her husband (Tom Happold, also of *The Guardian*) who hailed from Leeds they started "visiting together, so it became a place that meant a lot to me." This emotional connection was why she chose the moors as her setting for *Homecoming*; it was a place she "felt confident writing about" but could maintain her need for "distance and perspective, being set far from where I lived."

Steiner firmly believes "all that talk of writing about what you know is rubbish!" She maintains, "The act of writing fiction is an imaginative leap. Once you have made that decision about where your writing is set, it's all part and parcel of imagining yourself into the lives of your characters." Her next book, which she is already working on, is another such imaginative leap for her. It's a thriller set in Cambridgeshire, and her central character is a detective. Despite the "very different pace" of this next novel, Steiner assures me that it will still be "very much about relationships".

I wanted to know what tips Steiner had

for those who wanted to break into the world of journalism. Her answer was typically down to earth: "I'd really warn against a career in journalism. It's much harder for people now than it was for me." With the rise of the digital age, she counselled that it would be hard to find a well-paid career in traditional print journalism. She is saddened by how work experience has morphed into a culture of lengthy unpaid internships without hope of employment at the end. "Of course I did unpaid work I remember doing work experience on *The Independent*, transcribing an interview with Jimmy Saville... it was probably one of the most boring weeks of my life! But anything more than two weeks is ridiculous - people shouldn't be used as free labour."

But she doesn't think anyone should have to give up on his or her dream of becoming a writer just yet. Steiner urges anyone who wants to write to "read, and read voraciously. Notice how it's done." It's always refreshing to hear sound advice from someone who clearly takes her own counsel to heart. *Homecoming* is a wonderful culmination of Steiner's love affair with the literary greats and her passion for the Yorkshire countryside.

If you want to hear more of Steiner's tips for aspiring novelists, then make sure you attend her talk for the upcoming York Festival of Ideas. On June 15th she will be reading from her debut novel and answering your questions on how to get published, at the Ron Cooke Hub. Visit [yorkfestivalofideas.com](http://yorkfestivalofideas.com) to book your free ticket now.



# Portrait of an Author: Gillian Slovo

Jordan Licht talks to York writer-in-residence and English PEN President about writing crime and fighting apartheid.

**T**racking down killers, resisting imprisonment, coming face to face with your mother's murderer... All things that would normally have more in common with the world of fiction than the ordinary world of lived experience. But for Gillian Slovo life has not been all that ordinary. Slovo's work is embedded in her memory of growing up in South Africa in the 1960s as the daughter of radical anti-apartheid activists, an experience which has translated in the political issues and the human relationships that her work depicts.

I asked Slovo what made her take up the position of writer in residence here at York. Her answer was to the point: "I was approached by somebody at the University and I accepted. I have done writing workshops in the past but I've never done them with university students, and I wanted to try something different". Slovo also insisted upon the workshops being conducted in a relaxed manner, where students share their own work, and learn from each other in a judgment-free, supportive environment. "The point is that students should come because they want to, not because they have to."

But writing wasn't always on Slovo's agenda. As a youth she had been immersed in the sciences, completing a science degree, before taking on the writing profession. "I started writing because I wanted to see if I could do it". The only question was, where to start? The detective novel offered a solution. The central importance of plot and structure provided a secure starting point from which to branch out and experiment. Having been raised in an environment rife with political intrigue, coercion and secrecy, the detective novel was perhaps an appropriate form of expression. Yet her early work did not directly address the politics of her past. Her first series of thrillers, featuring the female detective Kate Baier, are gripping and stylistically sleek, whilst clearly influenced by mas-

ter crime novelist, Raymond Chandler. But soon, politics began to play an increasingly important role in her work, exemplified by *The Betrayal* (1991), a political thriller about the trial of a white ANC member and his love affair with an English woman, situated within the climate of corruption and political unrest during the final throws of South African apartheid. The crime novel also gave Slovo an essential authorial distance, which liberated her in order to explore more personal themes. The autobiographical turn in her work is shown in works such as *Façade* (1993), which

timate experiences and relationships, and polemical, depicting these experiences against the backdrop of political struggle, activism, and the fight for freedom. The politics of her work is not limited to South African struggles, though this has been a shaping force on her work, but extends to global struggles and injustices. *Guanatanamo* (2004), a verbatim theatre piece shown at London's Tricycle Theatre, exposes American abuse of international law, whilst her latest novel *An Honourable Man* (2012), retells the stories of individuals caught in the web of European colonialism through re-imagining General Gordon's disastrous mission in Khartoum in 1884.

Slovo's political activism has taken other forms, including campaigning for women's rights – she contributed to the recently published *Fifty Shades of Feminism* along with 49 other powerful and influential women, writing about the relevance of feminism today.

With such a diverse body of work and personal projects, where does one begin at trying to identify the common strands connecting all her work? Slovo's response to my question has two levels. The theme that drives all her work she says, is an interest in understanding how the present has been arrived at, through studying the implications that the past has on the present and the future. Why something happened and how it happened are crucial questions. It is easy to see how the detective novel suits her investigative approach to the understanding the here and now. But yet another driving force is an interest in the people of the world who are buffeted by political change, and relating to their experience. Underlying this is Slovo's belief that we are all political beings, inevitably caught up in the political and social forces surrounding us even if we are unaware of the full extent of our involvement. Slovo's work articulates this tension between private and public, and unravels it to full effect.



traces the story of a woman attempting to discover the truth behind the circumstances of her mother's death and her father's work for an international relief organisation. But her most explicitly autobiographical is *Red Dust* (2000), the seeds of which were born, she wrote, "out of my grave-side realisation that if the country would not leave me alone, then I would have to face it". The thriller now became a lens through which to engage with past. Her work is at once personal, relating in-

## Get Your Fix

*The Dreamboys Fit and Famous 2013 Tour*

### Grand Opera House

The boys are back in town! And this male glamour group are not for the faint hearted

Mon 6th - Sat 11th May



### Secret Cinema

### Museum Gardens

Outdoor cinema celebrating Orillo's third birthday. There will be food, champagne and live music acts

21st June, Doors open 7pm, screening at 9pm



### Being Tommy Cooper

### Grand Opera House

Learn about the life of the British comedy legend and get some laughter therapy

29th May, 8pm



### The Lesson by Eugene Ionesco

### Drama Barn

Come see the Barn in full absurdist swing

Fri 31st May - Sun 2nd June

## 'Not He, Not I'

*Beckett's play is a cacophony of voices demanding to be heard*

**Francesca Stephenson**



**T**his week sees Beckett's astonishing *Not I* arrive in the West End. The play is constructed on voices and only voices: fixing a scrutinising spotlight on one mouth and blacking out all other surroundings, the voice becomes inescapable. Graphic accounts of a loveless existence, combined with the disjunction of broken phrases and interjecting thoughts make for a challenging theatrical experience, but grant a long silenced voice a platform to be heard.

Beckett focused much of his work on the importance of being heard, perhaps alluding the anxieties that unite writers and actors alike. His similar piece *Krapp's Last Tape*, recently performed at Ardhowen, in Enniskillen, depicts an elderly man listening to tapes of his own recorded voice, accounting events from across his life: as his life draws to a close, the only person sufficiently interested to listen to them is himself. Accounting his frustrations in the process of "getting known", and selling a mere seventeen copies of his last literary venture, his voice comes to only bear significance to him: a devastating realisation. As with *Not I*, Beckett sustains this sense of desperation for opportunity of expression in *Krapp's Last Tape*: to speak but also to be heard.

*Not I*, though short in length, at a mere 8 minutes and 45 seconds, thrusts the voice into the spotlight, and is undeniably gripping. Given the absence of body, the voice becomes inhuman, to the point that you fear the exposure of the person behind the voice. The mouth, whilst serving as the medium for the voice, becomes an object of terror and repulsion: the prominence of the teeth, as the mouth grins and screams, creates a sense of the spectral. This, combined with the revulsion of the scrutiny of the tongue and saliva both fascinates and repels. It becomes the only fixed point of the piece: totally unavoidable. And to cap this off the entire piece is performed at "the speed of thought", as detailed in the stage directions, meaning that the show has actually reduced in length from the 18 minutes that the first performance, directed by Beckett himself, took.

It's certainly not an enjoyable show, but you cannot fail to be gripped by its sheer force and intensity. Excruciatingly so, in fact.

Best known for his devastatingly existential *Waiting for Godot*, fascination with the work of Samuel Beckett, it seems, continues to grow. His often experimental exploration of man's search for meaningful existence has established himself among the greatest play-writes of the twentieth century. The plays of this avant-garde writer continue to be performed across the country and the rapturous reception of the latest production of *Not I* reminds us all of his theatrical genius.

Being performed at The Royal Court Theatre until 25th May, it would seem that it is one not to be missed.

## FASHION.

# De Force of Nature



India Block talks to top UK YouTuber and blogger **Fleur De Force** about turning her hobby into her dream career.

**F**leur De Force is one of the YouTube beauty blogger generation's biggest stars. Her most-watched YouTube video has had nearly two and a half million views, whilst her channel's sister blog currently ranks at number six on glovin.com's top UK blogs. For the uninitiated, YouTube beauty gurus upload short videos of themselves reviewing products and demonstrating hair and beauty tutorials. It's like having the stylish big sister you never had guiding you through your make up routine and personally recommending you products. Thanks to girls like Fleur, gone are the days where you had to painstakingly teach yourself by lengthy trial and error how to perfect a winged eyeliner flick, or shell out your hard-earned money on products that disappoint.

The story of how Fleur began her career in beauty blogging is something approaching internet lore: she made a video, showed it to her Mum, who gave it her seal of approval. I asked Fleur what prompted her to begin the hobby that has become a full time career: "To be honest I was just feeling a little bored and uninspired while at university. I wasn't doing a creative subject and the uni I went to was a solely academic one, so I think it was just fun for me to be able to be creative in my free time. I've always loved fashion and beauty, and was an avid blog-reader and video-watcher so it made sense really!"

That was three years ago. Now Fleur has over 683,000 subscribers to her YouTube channel, with more than 51,570,000 video views. When I asked her how she built up such a large and obviously loyal fan-base, she told me her secret "is being consistent and being true to yourself in your videos. That way your subscribers not only know to expect a constant stream of new content from you, but they also get to know you too, and you build up a good relationship with them." Fleur credits her "wonderful, supportive subscribers" for keeping her motivated: "If I'm ever stuck for ideas, they are always there to suggest something new."

It's this ongoing online conversation between bloggers and their readers that has revolutionised the beauty industry in recent years. I asked Fleur if she had witnessed the changes brought about by this new peer-review culture: "Definitely; I think it's a lot more cut-throat for brands these days. Before blogs, magazines were the only real way to hear about beauty products on an individual review basis, and they are often very biased based on keeping their advertisers happy. I think blogging has created a new consumer-led beauty experience for women."

With consumers taking the lead, Fleur acknowledges that "it may be harder for brands to work through negative reviews and feedback from bloggers at times, but the majority of posts and reviews on blogs are very positive, and good products get good reviews, so if brands are bringing out great products, blogs are a wonderful means of promotion for them." All this ultimately benefits their buyer: "Blogs make it a lot easier for consumers to navigate their way through all of the glossy advertising and product placement."

When I asked Fleur what she thought the best part of being one of the UK's top beauty bloggers was she didn't hesitate to tell me it's "Getting to do something I love as my job. I never thought my fun hobby at university would turn into a business for me. I really have to pinch myself sometimes to check it's

**"It's 100% a lifestyle. It is essentially my 'job' but it's also part of me."**

not all a dream. I love it." Her hard work cultivating her online following has also given her some incredible experiences, of which "getting the opportunity to interview Taylor Swift has got to be the best one. I'm such a huge fan and she was so nice to me (she actually said she had seen my videos! Eek!) She told me "going to events like VidCon in LA and Playlist Live in Orlando is pretty amazing too. I love getting the chance to meet my subscribers in person and get to know them a little."

Fleur has also started a vlogging channel, where she uploads videos of her daily life. It's a great way for internet personalities to connect with their fans on a deeper level. Luckily her friends and family have reacted positively to her internet fame: "My family have been supportive of my YouTube channels right from the start, which is awesome. Some of my friends took a while to get their heads around it, but once they got to understand it a bit better, they've been great. Some don't want to be in my videos themselves and that is something that I totally understand and respect, while others love getting in-

volved which is wonderful."

Being fascinated by Fleur's life is a very human thing; I've even caught my fashion-hating boyfriend watching her and her boyfriend Mike's vlogs of them skiing or holidaying together in LA. Their last trip together was particularly exciting for viewers as the couple announced their engagement. Most of us share a great deal of our lives online now, but Fleur has a finer balance than most to tread: "I do vlog my daily life experiences, but there are also aspects that I keep private. I think you have to."

Part of Fleur's charm is her down-to-earth attitude. I asked her what skills any beauty blogger worth her lip gloss needed: "I'm the first to admit that I'm not totally clued-up when it comes to the technology side of things. Obviously you have to be good with a camera and a computer, but you don't have to be an expert. I've learnt most of what I know along the way and I think that's the best way to do it." Apart from basic computer skills, then, Fleur reckons "you need patience and persistence (it doesn't happen overnight), and sometimes a thick skin (YouTube's audience especially can be tough critics!). But apart from that, there are no specific 'skills' required. That's what is so great about blogging... Everyone can give it a go!"

For a beginner, the world of online blogging can seem a little daunting, but Fleur is endlessly encouraging, her "number one tip for people wanting to start a blog is just to do it, you won't know until you try it if its 'for you' and you can always delete it if you decide it's not." However, financial gain shouldn't be your motivation: "I would discourage anyone starting a blog just to make money. It really is a labour of love. It's hard work, and it takes a while to even make a penny."

Being a full time blogger is a lot of people's dream career, but Fleur tells me that it's more than just job. "It's 100% a lifestyle. It is essentially my 'job' but it's also part of me as a person. I'm sharing my life and thoughts with the world, so inevitably it becomes more than just a job." The blogging lifestyle is a 24-7 experience: "I never walk away from my desk and leave it behind like you would with a normal job," says Fleur "some people wouldn't like that, but for me it really is a dream job."

Finally, it would have been negligent of me not to ask Fleur what her top three beauty products of the moment are: "That's always a killer question, there are too many! But at a push I would have to say... Illamasqua Skin Base foundation, L'Oreal Telescopic Shocking Extensions mascara and Fresh's Sugar Lychee perfume." M

# Get the Look...The Roaring Twenties



RALPH LAUREN SS/12

"Can't repeat the past?" Gatsby cried incredulously. "Why of course you can!" In terms of fashion, this line from F Scott Fitzgerald's timeless classic could not be more appropriate. Arguably the most fashionable decade in history, the 1920s has come back into fashion in a big way. There are those who may shy away from the era's more daring night time outfits but this problem can be overcome for day with some fantastic twenties inspired accessories. Boys, also take note. Nothing looks better on a man than a well-fitted suit and the roaring twenties was the era of bespoke. Look to Leonardo DiCaprio in the new Gatsby film for your ultimate wardrobe inspiration.

Ralph Lauren designed the costumes for the 1974 *Great Gatsby* film. Back in Spring/Summer 2012 he looked back to his Gatsby collaboration and found his inspiration. The collection was a rip-roaring 20s extravaganza; the tasseled and sequinned dresses were the garments of dreams. Travel back in time like Ralph Lauren and work his glamorous 1920s style by wearing an extravagant collar over dresses, preferably in fur, à la Carey Mulligan's Daisy, in a perfect pastel shade. If you can't find a fur collar, you'll surely be able to find a fur stole. Drape it over your shoulders and feel like your at one of Gatsby's parties.

The décor of the era was excessive: feathers, sequins and beading covered evening dresses in exquisite patterns. Gone were the corsets and heavy dresses of centuries past. In were the drop waists, looser fits and glimpses of skin, something women embraced. The silhouette of the dress was fairly boyish but this was offset by the femininity of the dress itself. Etro has a more contemporary take on the embellished dress. Keeping the drop waist shape, fresh colours and deep V-necks updated the

look for the modern woman. Look to ASOS for Art Deco decoration: there needle and thread midi-dress should help you to be well on your way to becoming a 21st century flapper girl.

Gucci produced the most beautiful evening dresses for their Spring/Summer 2013 collection. A little shorter than the original flapper dresses, the black and gold shimmering masterpieces were accessorized simply with dark smoky eyes and plenty of sex appeal. If this look sounds a little too hot for you to handle, get to the high street for some gorgeous sequinned tops. Wear with black jeans and a fierce pair of heels to gently work your way into the trend.

This trend is not just for women. Having seen the latest Gatsby film, I can safely say that I would like every boy I know to channel the 1920s Brooks Brothers suit catalogue. If this thought is a little daunting to those of you who live in trainers and a t-shirt day in day out, work your way into the trend by rocking a hat. Men in the 1920s did not leave the house without one and, as summer approaches, the straw boater is just the accessory all of you should be wearing to those BBQs down by the lake. Hatsandcaps.co.uk have the best pick of the bunch so you could even invest in a fedora at the same time. For a quirky touch, add a brightly coloured ribbon around your hat band to attract very welcomed attention.

So here it is, the Gatsby guide to getting dressed. May it be feathered turbans, a simple drop pearl earring or a pocket-handkerchief, make sure you dress to impress.



TOBY MAGUIRE AS NICK CARAWAY THE GREAT GATSBY



JAXON HATS STRAW BOATER, HATSANDCAPS.CO.UK, £21.95

## Spend/Save/Steal: Sharp Shirts

I think we can all agree that Leonardo DiCaprio looks pretty good in a suit, even those of us who are extremely bored of girls' incessant swooning ever since his role was announced. But we can be thankful that to achieve that sharp look you don't need to resort to Savile Row, or even film outfitters Brooks Brothers. Top trends for boys this summer run from pastel pinks and blues to neons and metallic. We can leave the latter for the fashionistas; for the rest of us, here are some strong options that'll keep you up to date with the likes of Burberry and Bastian. Team any of these with jeans, chinos or tailored shorts for a look that'll carry you right through to Autumn. And of course, don't forget to grab a bowtie while you're at it – we all need more of them in our lives.

### SPEND: FARAH VINTAGE BREWER RASPBERRY SHIRT.

£55, Urban Outfitters. Real men wear pink, and this summer those of you with a keen eye on the catwalk will too. A big trend for men and women alike, you can't do much better than this – made from quality cotton, Daisy would have been sobbing her eyes out at the sight of these. Gatsby would have placed it with a Turnbull and Asser linen suit, but for us mortals a pair of jeans is fine too.



### SAVE: BLUE LINEN LONG SLEEVE SHIRT.

£30, River Island. From vintage quality, we move to summer's best friend – linen. With a button down collar and long sleeves this shirt will take you from the splashing waves of the Algarve to a long lost cousin's wedding. Comfy, cool and suave, this shirt is multi-purpose and can be dressed up or down at a moment's notice. You never know when the next invite will hit the door mat...



### STEAL: BURGUNDY GEESE HIGH ROLLER SHIRT

£18, Bargain prices, and a motif close to the hearts of any Uni of York student – in this case we can promise the docile variety. With short sleeves this casual shirt is one for the beach, or take it for a stroll in your 20 acres of gardens (or, indeed, the park). Wear it with chinos, or tailored shorts, with a sleek pair of deck shoes.

- Tom Witherow



## The Gatsby Effect

Francesca Butcher  
DEPUTY FASHION EDITOR

Just incase you've missed it, Baz Luhrmann has finally released his film adaptation of F Scott Fitzgerald's beautiful 1920s tragedy, *The Great Gatsby*. After much anticipation, and a release date that was pushed back and back (it was originally scheduled for Christmas 2012), our cinemas have been flooded with Prada's twenties glamour and a catchy, although anachronistic, Jay-Z soundtrack. However, not only the cinema's have been alive with Jazz Age decadence, fashion has gone 1920s mad. Huge names, such as Harrods and Temperley, have decked out their shop windows in glorious roaring twenties inspired displays. Harrods have even opened a twenties cocktail bar to celebrate the films release. Not only high fashion has been given the Gatsby makeover, but the high street has been getting in the 1920s mood too. Debenhams have claimed to have had a 266% increase in sales of vintage-inspired items, including beaded capes and feathered accessories, and Asda's flapper dress sold out within two days.

With 20s inspired Spring/Summer 2013 collections, from the likes of Roberto Cavalli and Gucci, now pouring into the shops and inspiring high street trends, *The Great Gatsby* has come at a perfect time. It is not surprising that the film has caused a stir in the fashion industry. Even before its release, eager fashionistas were teased with Miuccia Prada's stunning costume sketches and movie stills of beautiful people draped in endless pearls and Tiffany & Co. jewels. Carey Mulligan's (Daisy) Tiffany's jewels were so lavishly large she had to be followed around set by a body guard. I for one, as I watched the first Gatsby trailer released over a year ago, was on the edge of my seat, pulse racing, was awaiting those

party scenes like a child awaits Father Christmas. The film is a fashion lover's dream come true: the glitter, the glamour, the diamonds, the decadence and not to mention, DiCaprio - it is heaven in cinematic form.

Baz Luhrmann's wife Catherine Martin was the film's costume designer, with the 1920s now so culturally saturated Martin claimed that they had to find a 'new way to excite people'. Having previously collaborated on the 1996 film *Romeo & Juliet*, they asked Prada to bring the excitement and design forty cocktail dresses. Prada perused her previous collections and found she could create numerous 1920s looks with 'little reinvention' of past designs. The 'chandelier dress' Mulligan wears in the film is a high point of the Gatsby costumes. It was so heavy Mulligan had to wear Party Feet pads on her shoulders, but combined with a fur stole and a Tiffany's diamond headpiece, it is nothing short of a visual masterpiece. Martin claims the films acrid colour palette was inspired by the work of Otto Dix and used to represent the vulgarity of Gatsby's behaviour. The jades, yellows and reds are acrid yet vibrant and rich and all the costumes ooze opulence and vividly show the wealth of Daisy and Gatsby, not to mention the films grand budget. The men's costumes don't disappoint either. Brooks Brothers provided over 500 specially designed suits to ensure all of Gatsby's party goers were decked-out in 20s style. Both Brooks Brothers and Tiffany's have released Gatsby collections available to the public. However, if you can't afford the £155,000 Tiffany's Great Gatsby headpiece, then the highstreet awaits you with Gatsby-inspired designs galore, so throw a Gatsby party, dress up, and for one night pretend you're Daisy, the object of DiCaprio's desires. It's what everyone else in the fashion world is doing.



# 'Look at my scars dammit'



Fashion photographer **David Jay** talks to Charlotte Wainwright about uncovering the harsh reality of breast cancer

**A**s the 2013 Pink Ribbon Walks get underway across the UK in the next few months, it is that time of the year again when the country becomes dominated by pink. The pink ribbon, as well as the popular slogan of 'wear it pink', have become staple images for breast cancer care across the UK in its campaign to raise both funds and awareness about the disease.

While most of us will don a pink ribbon this year to show our support for the campaign, the photographer David Jay has taken an alternative view on the token, questioning its value to those directly affected by the disease.

In his shocking yet enlightening exhibition 'The SCAR Project', Jay reflects the seriousness and harsh reality of breast cancer to a public that he states has become "anaesthetised by pink ribbons and fluffy, pink teddy bears".

Breast cancer has become the most common form of cancer in the UK. Around 55,000 people are diagnosed with breast cancer each year, and just fewer than 12,000 are lost to the disease. While it is important to remember that the pink ribbon does do a great deal to raise awareness about breast cancer, for the women in this exhibition, it has become little but an empty, meaningless image, undermining the reality of the disease.

David Jay, a fashion photographer, began 'The SCAR Project' after his close friend Paulina was diagnosed with breast

cancer at the age of 29. After undergoing a mastectomy, she agreed to a topless photo shoot with David, displaying her scars. As Jay explains, the project "evolved organically" from there. 'The SCAR Project', an acronym for 'Surviving Cancer Absolute Reality', is a collection of images of young women who have undergone surgery for breast cancer, displaying the physical and emotional scars that have come as a result of this.

The moving images present an unflinching view of breast cancer that Jay believes is important for raising more accurate awareness about the disease. "I have yet to meet anyone who has said they previously knew what breast cancer looked like. Really looked like. In our society breast cancer is hidden away behind a little pink ribbon. The public needs to be educated.

"Many women battling breast cancer dislike the pink ribbon. They resent the commercialisation of breast cancer that it represents. One of the SCAR Project subjects said to me, 'If a man got prostate cancer, do you think someone would give him a pink t-shirt and teddy bear?' It (unintentionally) diminishes something that is terrifying, disfiguring, and deadly."

The images focus primarily on young women diagnosed with breast cancer, aged between 18 and 35, a focus group that David Jay felt had been largely ignored. "As 99 per cent of media attention on breast cancer is focused on women over 40, The SCAR Project was created as an awareness raising vehicle for younger women. More than 11,000 young women are di-

ALL PHOTO CREDITS: DAVID JAY



agnosed with breast cancer each year in the US alone. Worldwide, the number is enormous. Young women have lower survival rates and die more frequently from breast cancer than any other cancer."

One of these women who stood out to Jay was a woman named Jolene, who was diagnosed with breast cancer at the age of 17. After photographing her for the first time, Jay discovered that the cancer had since spread throughout her body. "It spread to her jaw which they had to remove and try to reconstruct. A tumour then grew near her skull, pressing on her brain and causing her to have strokes. I went out to photograph her in California and it was a beautiful but emotionally difficult shoot.

"Jolene was on a journey which, unless something drastically changed, was going to end relatively soon. She was in a wheel-chair and basically on home care. This disease had completely transformed her body and her life. Knowing that it would be the last picture I would ever take of her. It was a very poignant moment." She passed away on October 30th 2011.

Sadly, Jolene is not the only subject to have passed away from the disease. "Statistically, approximately 10 per cent of the women I've photographed will die from breast cancer." Despite being emotionally difficult, Jay continued to shoot different women from across the globe, in his mission to raise true awareness about the disease and those it affects.

"I have photographed women from many countries: Australia, Mexico, Italy, Brazil, India and many others. In general The SCAR Project is photographically complete. I do still add images to The SCAR Project but these days they tend to be reserved for some of the most unfortunate situations. Although many of the women recover, many do not. As the disease pro-

## "Reality is not always pretty."

gresses I continue to shoot them . . . until they pass away. This final picture is then added to the exhibition."

Despite his determination to fulfil this mission, the shoots are often moving for David, as well as many of the women. "An unforgettable moment was perhaps during the shoot of Sara, the red haired woman with tears running down her face. The shoot was going well. The pictures looked good, honest. There was laughter. I was pleased with the images we had captured. I loaded the pictures into the computer and called Sara over to look. She came and stood behind me in silence. Then tears. Mine too. I grabbed the camera again... Now, we take pictures."

Like Sara's photograph, all of the images in this exhibition are moving, yet some have often been seen as quite shocking for the viewer, a reality that Jay embraced. "It can be uncomfortable for the viewer. It forces us to confront our fears and inhibitions about life, death, sexuality, sickness, relationships, etc. Reality is not always pretty. This is reality. Let's address it. The SCAR Project presents an opportunity to open a dialogue about issues we are not necessarily comfortable with."

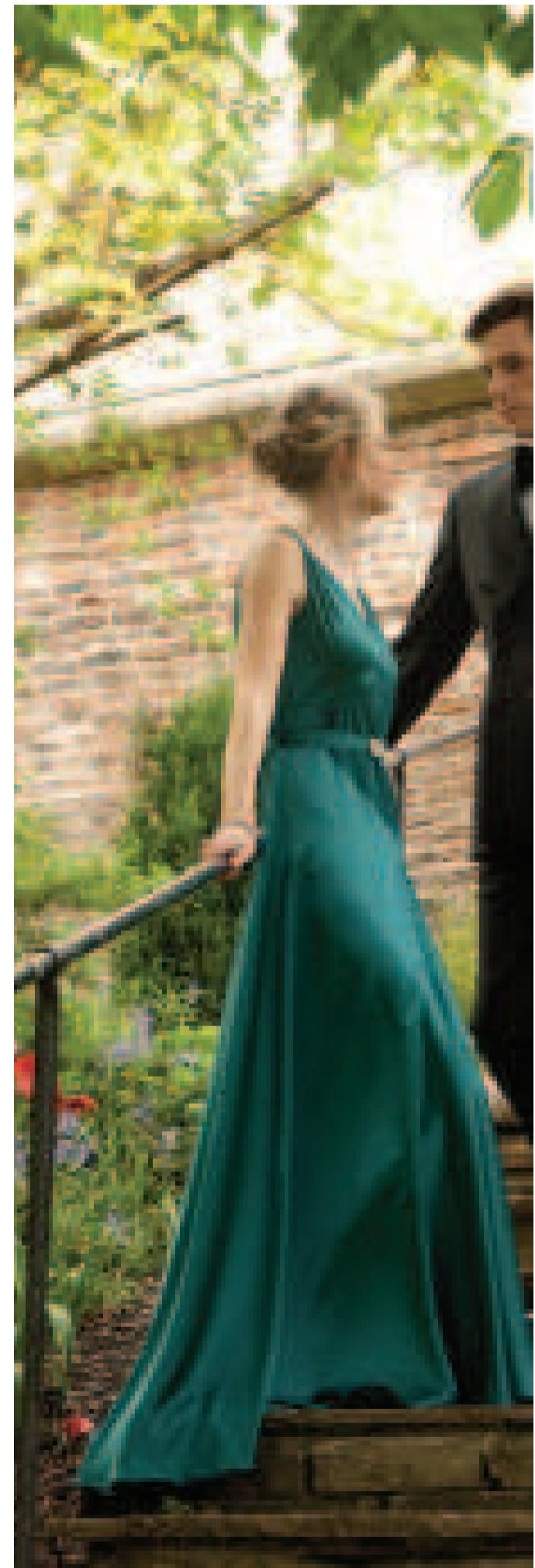
The issue of breast cancer has been disguised by a pink ribbon, so that it is easier to confront and discuss. This exhibition removes this disguise, forcing us to acknowledge the seriousness of this disease, and the pain that comes with it. We can no longer hide behind the pink ribbon. These images force us to really think about breast cancer, and the consequences of it for these women.

Despite its shocking nature, the exhibition has had enormous impact across the globe. "The SCAR Project exhibition opened in NYC in 2010. No one walked by the gallery without coming in. Thousands of people. It was like a beautiful, heart wrenching magnet. There are now nearly 27,000 people on The SCAR Project's Facebook page. Millions have gone to its website." A documentary about the project, entitled 'Baring It All' has also been aired around the globe, and has even won a prestigious Emmy Award. The impact has truly been astounding.

For the women in this exhibition, the impact on them personally has been enormous. Andrea, one of the women photographed, said, "I wanted to take part in The SCAR Project for two reasons. One is selfish; by letting others see my scars I continue in the healing process in accepting my 'new' self in my 'new' skin. The other reason is that The SCAR Project can't be ignored; LOOK AT MY SCARS DAMMIT! I want to be a part of anything that could make women think more about taking care of themselves and prevent someone else from going through the long dark fall down the rabbit hole."

So as breast cancer care events take place across the UK this year, it will be important to keep in mind The SCAR Project's simple yet poignant message: breast cancer is not just a pink ribbon. M

# GATSBY'



CREATIVE DIRECTORS: MARY O'CONNOR AND FRANCESCA BUTCHER  
PHOTOGRAPHER: PETROC TAYLOR  
HAIR STYLIST: JULIA PANAYI, MAKEUP: KAT RONSON  
MODELS: POPPY YOUNG, POPPY BULLARD, TESSA BARRETT, BARNABY SPINK

# S GIRLS



MEN'S CLOTHES: COURTESY OF BROOKS BROTHERS; LADIES' DRESSES: COURTESY OF GLORY DAYS VINTAGE; JEWELLERY & SHOES: MODELS' OWN; WITH THANKS TO GRAY'S COURT HOTEL



# Speaking through silence

Edinburgh Fringe mime artist **Bill Bowers** talks to Fiona Parker about growing up gay in Montana and falling out of love with Marceau.

**I** usually play a mime that somebody is either running away from, or knocking down, or making fun of. I'm a bit like Charlie Chaplin but less beloved... I guess it's hard to compete with a guy who fathered eleven children."

This, according to Bill Bowers, a contemporary American mime artist, is a fair description of his personal filmography. "I think that the white face, striped shirt, beret, all of that – it has such strange connotations. People find it so strange and foreign and they don't know how to read it."

Mimes in films are rarely loveable characters, and the art of mime itself, is the undeniable outsider of the arts clique. Bill tells me later, "I don't call my work mime now – I call it 'the M Word', visible theatre or silent storytelling. I find different ways to position it so people won't just hear the M word and think 'No, not for me'."

For Bill though, what is the most disconcerting aspect of mime, goes beyond the uncomfortable French-originated stereotype, the thick layers of non-gender specific monochrome make-up, the ominous and unfathomable black crosses, which mark eerily-expressive eyes, and the perverse childlike fashion of constricting stripped polo necks and black three quarter lengths. It is the experience of silence itself and the foreign nature of silence which initiates the classic "No, not for me" response. "I think that asking people to sit in silence or consider something in silence makes you very vulnerable. It just opens up portals in you to receive things in a different way."

As he was growing up, Bill consciously felt more comfortable living in a silent world than in a verbal one. From an early age he became aware of his sexuality and from this point onwards, he recognised that it was not something which could be spoken of comfortably. "I grew up in Montana in the Wild West. Montana is a big state with very few people, so it's very quiet. Really early on I got really interested in the idea of quiet. I was the youngest one of one of those families that talk about absolutely nothing. I'm also a gay man, and I was a gay kid growing up in Montana in the sixties when there was just no conversation to be had about being gay. I didn't even think the word "gay" existed then. I just knew exactly what that it

was to be voiceless because I had spent a huge amount of time in all of these different levels of silence."

After striking up a companionship with a teacher who had a keen interest in mime, Bill began a long self-teaching process. According to Bill, he has never "not been able" to communicate non-verbally. "It is safest and clearest for me. I find it easy to put on a bodily façade. It's just that my vocabulary is physical."

Bill took me through his process of creating a portrayal through mime of the story of Matthew Shepard, a 21-year-old man, who was tortured and murdered near Laramie, Wyoming in October 1998. During the trial of Shepard's murderers it was widely reported that Shepard had been targeted because he was gay. But despite the fact that the leader of the Westboro Baptist Church led his followers to Shepard's funeral bearing signs such as, 'No Tears For Queers' and 'Fag Matt in Hell', Shepard's murderers, who had begun by pleading the gay panic defense, were not charged with any kind of hate crime. No Wyoming criminal statute at the time provided for such a charge.

"I was very affected by it because I grew up in a town very much like that – a small, quiet town in the West, and I thought, that could have been me. I was so moved by it that a friend of mine wrote a poem and sent it to me about the event, which I carried around with me. At an arts symposium at Harvard one year, I met a songwriter who was doing a project on why people pray and what prayer sounds like. I handed her the poem and explained that although I wasn't a religious person, the poem sounded very much like a prayer to me. It was the collaboration with that artist that brought the piece together, but ultimately I was thinking about the idea that everybody in that story was at one point a little boy. We have this innocence at childhood until our culture says what's right and what's wrong. That's something we need to destroy."

I used this as the frame for my piece: innocence and brutality."

Bill's developed understanding of his own concepts of 'physical vocabulary' and 'physical imagination' quickly led him to achieve international critical acclaim across the USA, Canada and Europe. One of his shows, "Under the

ALL PHOTOGRAPHS PROVIDED BY BILL BOWERS



"Montana Moon", has been performed at venues all over the world. Bill credits a lot of his appeal to his contemporary take on the French art form.

He admits that, "A lot of traditional mimes don't look like me, I just look like the average American guy with this heightened sense of movement and a language that you can't hear. I feel that the success I've had is probably attributed to this – people can relate to me."

However, at the start of the new millennium, while Bowers was performing in the Broadway show *The Lion King*, he received news which would alter all of his plans. "I heard that Marcel Marceau was doing his 80th birthday world tour and I just had this realisation that if I didn't work with him then, I never would." However, Bill's experiences with the man behind the persona of Bip the Clown provided no fairy tale ending.

"I think it made me into a better artist, but it was also really hard being a newcomer to the very territorial world of French Pantomime." Marceau came from the masterclass period of teaching, the pupils sat below him and there were no questions and infrequent opportunities to stand up and practise. Bill's contemporary ideas did not meet harmoniously with Marcel's commitment to the French tradition and Bill remembers frequently being told "You'll never do this".

"I cast him to be my loving mime grandfather and he wasn't that person. He was a very famous man with a very large ego and a very great talent. He was also at the end of his life and I believed that he was asking himself "Have I left a legacy?" I'm a little hesitant because I don't want to paint him as a terrible person and I have incredible respect for him. He brought mime around the world and he's probably the reason you and I are having this conversation."

Bill continued to gain praise for his contemporary style of the art form. He teaches workshops to a range of people who do not all necessarily want to be mimes. His pupils include aspiring dancers, actors and non-performers. Bowers believes that in this modern age, many of us have lost touch with our physical presence, something Bill hopes to change.

"I feel that one of the main changes I see in students is that they are less able to be "present" in conversation and group interaction. I think that has something to do with technology, I am guilty of it too. Just being able to be in a room with

somebody and not talk to them without texting or watching the TV across the room. People find it so easy to create online personas nowadays." Bowers is fascinated by how comfortable we can feel while our physical presence is hidden. We would complain if our speech was restricted, but the removal of our bodily beings through technology does not seem to disturb us in the slightest. "To trust in the impulse to play in space and work off another person physically – it's less and less required in the real world, I think."

Every now and then, Bill is still reminded of the feelings that a confrontation with mime can incite. He tells me of how one woman brought her pet rabbit to a workshop which she believed was a mime. "She was convinced that Rocky was trying to communicate with her, and she thought that if he learnt some mime he would be better. She was very serious by the way. It was strange."

## "I cast him to be my loving mime grandfather and he wasn't that person."

I wanted to know if Bill had ever recognised himself as "strange" in the eyes of the beholder. It was then that Bill began to tell me about an invitation he received to an Amish colony.

"I came into this little school room and there were all these little kids wearing little white tie bonnets and sitting at seats in their desks with their hands folded. Everybody looked exactly the same. I was doing a little opening mime piece that I do for everybody which is like the "wall", and being trapped behind the wall. It scared them to death and I could see their little Amish faces, terrified! They had no idea what I was doing, so I opened the door and that terrified them even more! For them I was probably like a Martian coming into their classroom – this silent, demonstrative gay guy... I ended up feeling terrible. Later on, after I left, my friend Dorothy called me, she was laughing so hard. She had gone over to ask the kids what they thought. After I left all the kids had got together and prayed

for me because they thought I was retarded. To them, I was some outsider who moved in a strange way and walked into walls that weren't really there."

Finally, I want to ask just what Edinburgh can expect from Bowers this August. He tells me about his play *It Goes Without Saying*. "It's the story of how I became a mime, it's all spoken, although there is a lot of mime in it. I suppose I've found my voice in the last few years and I've started to talk a lot now about the phenomenon of what being a mime is."

I wonder just how and when Bill became comfortable with stepping out of his silent world and it is when he tells me the story of how he came out, that I begin to understand the sheer significance of the turning point that this must have marked in his life.

"I didn't come out until I was 30 years old. I had moved away from Montana - 2500 miles away from my home life in the Northwest. I wrote everybody in my family a letter on the same day and the reason I did that was because I had fallen in love with a person called Michael. I wrote to everybody to say "I'm gay and I'm in love", and in a classic way of my family, nobody responded for days. I think my Mom referenced it in one line saying something like "I got your letter, it's something I've always known and it's none of my business".

Shortly after coming out, Bill's partner contracted AIDS and died in the following year. In a darkly ironic twist of fate, during the final stage of his illness, Bill's partner lost the ability to speak, something that forced Bill to retreat back into his silent world. "I think it's part telepathic because when you care about someone there is just that energetic thing between you. I also think I was just really good at it. You know – it's my language."

At 54, Bill is now happily married, and his four sisters and one brother attended his wedding. When I ask him what was going through his head when he wrote that letter thirty years ago which revealed himself as openly gay, and allowed him to step past the threshold of a silent life he answered firmly and concisely. "I realised that this is what love is – it is the thing you have to speak about." M

*Bill Bowers will be performing *It Goes Without Saying* at the Hillstreet Theatre at Edinburgh Fringe this August.*

MUSIC.

# Meeting at Sea



Their fourth album has just hit the shelves, making **The Pigeon Detectives** veterans in their field, writes Hatti Linnell.

The Pigeon Detectives' moment is now. Last month, they released their fourth album, a formidable achievement for any group, and over the past few weeks have announced a shedload of UK tour dates for October and November.

I interviewed the band's bass player, Dave Best, on the phone just before the release of the album. Dave was very positive about the upcoming release: "We're all just excited to release a fourth album. A lot of bands don't get this far so we're definitely excited and we can't wait to get back on the road again."

The run-up to the release of *We Met At Sea* brought with it an exciting buzz, with the lead single, 'Animal', reaching almost 100,000 YouTube views. Dave told me that the anticipation around the release had heightened the band's fervour even more: "I mean we just write these songs, us five, all together, and we just hope it connects with people. The fact that people responded to 'Animal' really positively is good for us because you can never know how long you're going to hold people's interest, but yeah the reaction to 'Animal's' been brilliant so we can't wait to get the album out and see what everyone thinks to the rest of it."

The most common criticism levelled at the Pigeon Detectives is the claim that their sound has never evolved. Pondering this, I asked Dave whether fans of the previous albums will notice any sonic development in the new record. "We try to write it for the live show as much as possible as we've always

been a live band. We've always felt most comfortable touring and being on stage. Our first album was basically like a live set put onto CD that we'd been playing for a year or so. We wanted to take it back to that after a very much studio-based third album. We wanted to try and write an album that would come across live really well, because that's our favourite part so there's a lot of high-tempo, energetic songs that people can jump around to

And to add to their woe, the album wasn't stocked in HMV until the Saturday after its release, the official charts are calculated - surely a major photo factor in its underwhelming chart performance.

Beyond hindrances to physical sales the album itself isn't overwhelmingly good, which perhaps explains why it exited the charts so soon after its release. The overused formula which worked so well on their debut album,

spoke to me about the band's ambitions when creating the album: "When we first started we kind of wrote about growing up, getting drunk and going out with mates and stuff like that, all about being a kid our age. We're a bit older now so themes are a bit broader but it's still the Pigeon Detectives, we're still trying to sing about relatable things that people can kind of recollect in their lives and stuff like that. I think it's kind of a more broad sort of, this is what it's like today, and we're trying to relate to as many people as possible."

"I think that's what made the first couple of albums so successful. We're not going to start writing songs about pink elephants, it's not really our style."

In spite of a recent slump in album sales, the band still has a large and enthusiastic fan base. For the video for their second single, 'I Won't Come Back', they saw an opportunity to acknowledge the support they receive locally. "We involved lots of our fans in filming a new video in Leeds yesterday. We just put a little invitation out seeing if people wanted to come and the tickets went within a couple of hours. We're excited, we're going to play a couple of songs for them as a thank you and we'll keep it very much on a Leeds basis - we're from Leeds and it's like a little thank you to all the people who have always come to watch us, and stuck by us. If they've taken the time to turn up it would've been a bit of a boring long day but we'll try to make it as entertaining as possible, try and put on a bit of a show for them." M

**"We're trying to relate to as many people as possible. We're not going to write songs about songs about pink elephants"**

and there's a couple of anemic ones and I think it'll go down really well live and we're really happy with it.'

Despite positive expectations for the album, it peaked at a disappointing 41, and was out-of-sight of the charts the following week.

*Wait For Me*, was wearing thin by *Emergency*, and is now like the musical equivalent of a bad rom-com where the two main characters get together very predictably.

It's listenable, but you might not remember any of it after hearing it three times. Dave

## REVERB.

**"You know when yo' cat gets bad, ya gotta spank 'em, ya gotta pop dat pussy"**

Lil Jon, on the subject of feline companions

# Be Your Own King

**The Concrete Knives** speak to Charles Davies and Steven Roberts about nightmares, and their commitment to change.

Succinct definition of the Concrete Knives' (CCKS) sound is a pretty futile activity. Lead singer Morgane says under dissection, their music feels like blues and folk, "but it's also like a mix of all the things we like, with voices in unison. All our songs are different, some are violent and full, some are quiet and minimalist, depending on our emotions." Thankfully, the band have evolved from their high school metal group phase; the early 2000s indie scene softened the boys, favouring bands like Clap Your Hands Say Yeah and Cold War Kids. The later addition of Morgane brought about, in her wonderful Anglo-French phrasing, "different universes" of musical leanings. "Some of us listen to trap music and dubstep, it makes me sick," she jokes. "Nico is the main composer, so his tastes are the most represented in our music." The result, heard in debut album *Be Your King*, is a glorious mix of youthful exuberance and bracing melodies that almost unwaveringly demand a response from the listener.

There are glimpses of Anglophilia running through the album, not least in 'Greyhound Racing' and the ironic 'Happy Mondays', where an identification with English culture is really felt. Their gigs reveal this affinity: "we feel closer to the English crowd, they react to things that we care about in music, and most importantly, they come to see live music, while a lot of French people come to a gig to hear the album and see a very adjusted show." Crowds both sides of The Channel have come to appreciate the band's chanting vocals and stirring rhythms, which have fostered a reputation for outstanding live performances. "We have fun on stage and we feel at home, wherever we are in the world."

The group's credo seems to be that home can be wherever the music



is. When Morgane reflects on what it's like growing up as a musician in the Normandie city of Caen, the essential point is that "the best way to grow up as a musician is to play, no matter where you are." CCKS is not the only successful band to come out of Caen, which boasts the lazy pop rock sound of Granville and the more electronic, trip-hop duo Superpoze to mention just a couple. The bands meet when they can, "Superpoze and Granville are mates, we occasionally have a drink in the same place." The popular

**"Our music is a mix of all the things we like, combining different universes..."**

browsing service Last.fm has since adopted the tag 'Caen' for their online database. One link between Granville and CCKS could be their dwelling on life's youthful years, which might bring us back to their home province. Then again, with songs like 'Brand New Start', CCKS seems to sing more a song of transition from naivety to independence, that has always made early adulthood so life-affirming. The playful line 'love is a trick' in 'Happy Mondays', if recalling teenage infatuation and our first loves, is at the other extreme a mature and wary sentiment.

'Happy Mondays' was featured on the soundtrack of the 2013 French romantic comedy *The Kids*, alongside

Iggy Pop's 'Lust for Life', but the song's own music video aspires to a very different aesthetic. Featuring grainy archive footage, the moving backdrop to 'Happy Mondays' is entirely "inspired by Nico's obsession for the wall of Berlin," the same mind behind the bulk of the composition of music. The combination of bouncy lyrics and 8mm film of everyday life in a divided Berlin offsets a more legendary event, the destruction of the Berlin Wall; in this way the video catches the line 'in your minds, there's a picture, in colours' in an interesting light, since film can write and alter our perspective of the past. The black and white video for 'Wallpaper', directed by Julien Langendorff, is also vintage in style though Morgane didn't comment on any unifying artistic spirit unless we can spot an 'obsession' with memory surfacing: "we wanted something like a weird nightmare, I think it works well in black and white. I can't really remember the colours of my dreams."

"We were freaking out too much when we recorded the first album, and there was stuff we didn't dare to do." Still, we are told the raw sound of CCKS has evolved, "... and hopefully it will forever." For album two, they "are ready to try new things, including on the vocals," which would mean experimenting with the energetic set up of their male/female duet. In the mean time, the band will return to their darling tour stop, the UK, this summer for Great Escape, in Brighton, Liverpool Sound City, Hop Farm, Camden Crawl, in Dublin, and more.

## Changing Gigs

Ellie Rice

Live music, whether at artists' own gigs or at festivals is splitting into one of two routes. One tributary leads to the sea, with plenty more fish and 'intimate' performances. The other directs the select few towards an idyllic pool, with all eyes on them for their glitz, expensive shows.

In the music industry, this gulf between the two ends of the spectrum is widening. Is it fair that those starting out in their career cannot afford all the glitz that comes with a sold out O2? Or does it inspire smaller acts to create their shows as more of an experience? After all, music isn't like most other industries. These shows are expressions of the soul, not just someone filling market niches.

In terms of enormous shows, just consider Beyoncé's and 1D's recent sell out tours. The trend is not lev-

eling out, 1D are on for another next year. Their performances aren't just a voice; they come with extra fluff.

The title of Beyoncé's tour, The Mrs. Carter Show, demonstrates how obvious these developments are to the industry and its consumers. Competing with other acts of a similar caliber has led to a distortion of 'gig'; it's now a performance, with increasing self-awareness of the plot line, using actions and singing as opposed to traditional acting. How are emerging artists, or those returning to the public eye, to properly compete?

And this isn't just a trend seen in individual concerts - festivals are falling in number, but increasing in volume. For example, Hop Farm has been cancelled this year. The last time the festival sold out was 2011, with Prince roping in the crowds. Reading and Leeds have also failed to sell out since 2011 despite strong headliners: Muse, The Strokes, and Pulp. Meanwhile, Glastonbury continues to expand and keeps people returning - the

feeling of missing out on something in the field beyond is intoxicating.

In business terms, in order to make consistent profit, your product, i.e. the festival, must keep growing and changing. Sadly, however, this can serve as a distraction from the talent. Others could argue that the growth of festivals allows for smaller acts to take the stage, but they're not always expanding into more music. Comedy and burlesque are gaining increasing amounts of stage time.

Overall, the disparity between the two types of performance creates two types of consumers, each available to be more specifically catered for and allowing the businesses to become ever more profitable. This, as far as I'm concerned, is extremely positive, allowing artists to reach those they can most easily and suitably connect to - one type is no better than the other. It is logical to see that the industry, just like all of the others, needs to adapt in order to survive the world's economic problems.

## Review.

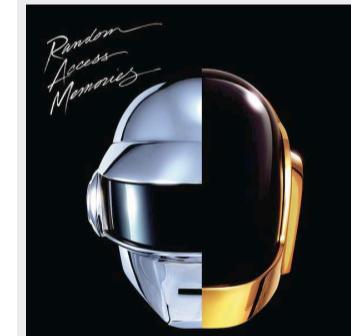


### ALT-J

O2 ACADEMY LEEDS  
Friday, 10th May  
James Bailey

Alt-J are one of those extremely special bands who upon first listen instil a sense of intrigue. Upon my first hearing, there was something really very good that I instantly recognised, yet so much more that I knew I had missed. It became apparent when their debut album *An Awesome Wave* was released: they expertly craft such an amazing variety of sounds and genres, and this can be overwhelming. The soaring melodies and voice remind us of Neil Young; their psychedelic indie-rock sound distinctive to Radiohead. The harmonies are reminiscent of Simon and Garfunkel and even medieval plainchant; there's definitely an air of minimalist Drum & Bass.

So how does such a complex



### RANDOM ACCESS MEMORIES

DAFT PUNK  
*Daft Life*, Columbia  
Alex Donaldson

And lo, Daft Punk have returned to the world with a mission to "save dance music". Five years since their last release, the infamous duo have conjured up an album that's rather more of da funk than robotic rock, so to speak.

Opener 'Give Life Back to Music' immediately transports you to a nirvana where the very air you breathe is a major 7th, guitar featuring predominantly as groove master. Stand out track of the first half is certainly 'Giorgio by Moroder'. Beginning with an interview with the man himself then, another classic DP riff casts serenity into disco chaos echoing "the sound of the future". Several tracks open up the more tender side of these anonymous robots. Crooning vocals on 'Within' are about as emotional as a vocoded Frenchman in a shiny bike helmet can

sound translate from the studio to the stage? With inspiring ease: the band both seamlessly glided and indeed surprised, as they launched through their more well-known items. Thom Green's drumming was punchy and precise, mastering the military-like rhythms - Gwil's guitar and bass playing, delicate and poised; Gus' keyboard sound, mellow and yet satisfyingly reverberating, especially in the weightier 'Fitzpleasure'. All three compliment Joe's reedy nasal voice which stayed perfectly in tune and sublime throughout the whole gig. The surprises came because the band members are contemporary masters at creating musical suspense, evident only in an intimate setting like the O2 Academy. The band would deviate at the end of songs, ending on more unusual cadences, before hurtling into the more up-beat tracks, or simply pausing to play on a previous motif to then gently slip into a slower song. They kept me enraptured through musical skill alone, without having to resort to crude showmanship.

Alt-J have rightly earned headline act on the NME stage at Leeds and Reading, and this is testament to their vast improvement as a band. I really do urge anyone to go and see them.

sound.

Strokes front man Casablanca's mouths one of the standout songs of the album, 'Instant Crush', synths and paramount to involuntary foot tapping. Pharrell Williams features once more with perhaps an even catchier tune in 'Lose Yourself to Dance' – iconic space vocoders pitch warped into a tirade of funk. However, 'Touch' would sound more at home in a mediocre musical in its utter lethargy! It's from here on out you question the nature of 'R.A.M.'

The crucial difference on this album is the use of live drums, it's impossible to say whether more overt production would benefit the record or if their power's been lost by that nostalgic choice. There are moments where you unashamedly beg to be slapped across the face with that 'Discovery'-esque bass. It'll be interesting to see if Daft Punk can transpose these slower, softer songs into live shows. The saviour of these doubts comes in penultimate song 'Doin' It Right'. We see the return of the drum machine and some serious house, with almost dub-like breaks. It's just appalling, and too slow to ever be played in a club. Album finale 'Contact' is the definition of epic. Just listen to it and try not to smile.

Daft Punk have either redefined the dance genre with the comeback of live musicians or accidentally just made the greatest pop album of the decade so far. I just wish they'd made it that bit harder, better, faster...

FILM.

# Directing on a Micro-Budget

Steven Roberts speaks to **Michael Baig-Clifford** about BAFTA success and working with Ray Winstone.

**A** way of introducing myself is to look at the people I'm not," says BAFTA winner Michael Baig-Clifford. He began his film directing career in TV documentaries, and his short films take a raw look at life through the eyes of shaken, distinctly human subjects. "Human beings are quite messy, if you like, and I like to run with that and let it dictate the work I do compare that to Kubrick or Wes Anderson, where the architecture and design of the film comes first, and the characters and the action are placed within that, they're subservient to that."

"Right from the beginning I was interested in characters, real people, but also form at the beginning of the 1990s most documentaries had a more straightforward style." His first, stylish project was about Scala, a cult cinema in King's Cross London nicknamed Sodom Odeon - "quite a notorious place." In 1993, just three years after Michael finished filming, the cinema caused significant trouble for itself after screening *A Clockwork Orange*, which had been banned in the UK since the 70s.

"I spent two or three years breaking

into television. It can take a very long time to achieve things." Eventually, he was recommended to Channel 4 by an admirer of the Scala doc at BBC Bristol, but in his first meeting found he would have to dig deep to impress them. Michael lived in London, the one region of the UK the commissioning editor had no interest in. "So thinking on my feet I said 'well, I'm from Birmingham and I've got loads of stories about Birmingham,' which I didn't but I thought 'try and grab this opportunity', so I

hotfooted up the motorway and immediately started looking for documentary ideas."

Keeping the broadcaster's attention resembled something like a lazy love affair. "I would pitch an idea to Channel 4 and they would say no, but wouldn't say the conversation was over, so I'd go back with another one." Then Michael met Shaun Kent. This intrepid scrap dealer had acquired the largest shipwreck by tonnage in the world for the incredible sum of £1. The 190,000 ton bulk carrier named 'Kowloon Bridge' had sank off the coast of West Cork in 1986, along with its cargo of iron ore.

Shaun was "an absolute gift of a character", and gave Michael his next documentary,

*The Flying Scrapman*. Even if we don't see

Shaun complete the salvage operation, the

film retains a wonderful tension, cutting skittishly from one scene to the next. That was

1997. "Believe it or not he's still trying to sal-

vage the ship, and Sean was best man at my

wedding, you do spend a lot of time with your

subjects and can become close friends."

In the following few years, Screen West Midlands was set up, funds became available

and things were looking hopeful for new filmmakers. With the spirit of a neorealism, and struck by the natural style of

Michael Winterbottom's *Wonderland* (1999), Michael experimented with street level drama. "But actually, working with non-actors does present problems, they don't understand what the director is asking of them." Then a colleague of his was approached with a drama script about a nightclub bouncer, and it soon evolved into a film project. For the first time,



Michael recruited a casting director so that he could work with professional actors. "In the first meeting I said the best person to play this role is Ray Winstone. And then we thought 'well, when he says no, who are we going to get?' So we sent it to Ray and he really liked the script and said yes!" Before he knew it, pro actors Shaun Parkes and Paddy Considine were also interested in the short, which was nominated for a BAFTA in 2002.

The following year, Winstone proved to Michael he was "the kind of person who would really look after newbie like myself," when he became executive producer on *Brown Paper Bag*. A story of alcoholism, it won Michael a BAFTA for Best Short Film in 2003. He enjoyed the red carpet treatment, and meeting famous directors like Martin Scorsese. After that, however, nothing happened for a long

time. Even a BAFTA win is not a guarantee.

Michael returned to television between 2003-2006. Despite directing over 29 episodes of the serial-drama *Doctors* for the BBC before beginning his micro-budget feature length, *Turbulence*, he still admits to the steep learning curve he experienced: "Doing a feature film... that transition has been the most difficult one to make and I think it's also quite personal and painful to talk about."

The micro-budget director is preoccupied in matters of funding because it more directly shapes (it would be unmindful to say 'limits'), the end product's look and feel. However, Michael's artistic vision remains unwavering within these bounds - perhaps his preoccupation with down-to-earth drama makes the micro-budget his habitat, the terrain is at least navigable enough for now. M

## The Hangover: Part III

★★

Director: Todd Phillips  
Review: Alfie Packham

"It seems like you haven't learned anything" Alan scolds his co-star Stu in the latest chapter of the biggest bromantic comedy of the last decade. The very same would apply to the creators of *The Hangover Part II*; the regurgitated sequel that could have been written by wedging the original script into a photocopier. As for Part III of the trilogy, the man-child's words have never been more appropriate.

The Wolf-Pack's latest outing sees their past roofies-induced misadventures return to haunt them as Alan, Stu, Phil and Doug (Justin Bartha) are caught in the crossfire between the crazed-as-ever Mr Chow (Ken Jeong) and newcomer Marshall, John Goodman's menacing drug lord. We soon enter familiar territory as Doug needs rescuing again, and Las Vegas' Caesar's Palace is once more on the cusp of wreckage.

To its credit, *The Hangover III* is at least not the precise replica of the original that its predecessor was. Then again,



Todd Phillips' Hangover cure for Part II's imagination deficiency hasn't proved to be much more effective with his new screenplay. One problem is the film's lack of an actual "hangover" - an especially glaring one since this is a franchise whose name and premise is based entirely upon just this.

The omissions don't end at an eponymous headache either. A lack in focus on its central characters is another, as

Alan (Zach Galifianakis) is assigned as many lines as possible in the hope that some will be as quotable as when the pack first formed. This leaves little room for macho Phil (Cooper) and anxious Stu (Helms), who mostly parrot the phrases "What the f\*ck?" and "Oh my god!" whenever Galifianakis does or says something. When the cameras aren't fixed on Alan they're on the fortunately fully-clothed, yet overused and increasingly irritating Mr Chow, on his cocaine-fuelled pursuit of cash and more cocaine.

By far the greatest oversight of this comedy, however, is the comedy. Laughs are intermittent with the biggest already hampered by the trailers, while many jokes are marginalised by uneasy dips into darker tones and action-based genres. Without its traditional wit and chummy chemistry, a tired fetishizing of stupidity is laid bare. Some lift is provided from the familiar aesthetic sheen and a peppy soundtrack, yet they ultimately serve as a reminder of better Hangover days.

Spewing all the trademarks of a lazy Hollywood comedy sequel, *The Hangover: Part III* is yet another exercise in diminishing returns. Part II may have tried nothing new, but without even the infamous R-rated shock-value this lacklustre offering is no more tempting. Part III is itself a hangover from the drunkenly forgotten party of the original.

# Gastronomy in the Garden

**Lucy Boyd** reveals the joys of growing, and her seasonal sins to Mary O'Connor

From the bustling hum of small town French markets to the sleepy hills of Lucca, Tuscany, foraging for wonderfully fresh varieties of ingredients has always been a mainstay of Lucy Boyd's way of cooking. As a trained chef and the head gardener of Petersham Nurseries, (where the restaurant's dishes contain ingredients mostly grown on site) Lucy treasures not only growing and picking your own aspects of the kitchen, but the entire process, especially when it encompasses family and friends, who can contribute, armed with "a board, a knife and a glass of wine". Her time spent in Italy equipped her with a wealth of knowledge, "There was an enormous variety of Italian ingredients, which was very exciting for us. Having lemon trees at the end of the garden, places where we could find broccoli and pick chicory - there were thousands of varieties in Italy."

Lucy's curiosity to different combinations of ingredients didn't come solely from her surroundings however. Her mother, Rose Gray, (the founder of the River Café and daughter Royal Horticultural Society-loving parents) was a nurturing hand to Lucy's own explorations as she explains, "she influenced my love of my cooking by taking us abroad with her and through her own passion and inquisitiveness about ingredients, and the ways

of cooking, she brought that back to the kitchen table." Lucy's recent book, Kitchen Memories pays tribute to her mother's generational approach to cooking, as Lucy acknowledges, "cooking was my way of being close and getting to know her."

In keeping with this, Lucy selects "the best of everything" from her home grown produce, which she swears by, above simply going to the supermarket: "you have the opportunity to go and pick them when they're very small, rather than going to a supermarket and getting the huge ones... You're much more in control of not only the taste, but also you can choose when you want to harvest the plant." For Lucy, there is also the added bonus of its sustainability, "growing your own ticks that box big-time. As well as being incredibly rewarding, it's easy to grow and harvest... There's no plastic or transportation costs involved."

Because it works so well for Petersham Nurseries, Lucy is keen for this garden-to-gastronomy link to be furthered. Although she admits that "there's quite a long way to go with that," more recently some of the "grander supermarkets like Waitrose have started producing and working with markets in Italy and France so they can get in some of this produce that is being delivered in restaurants, generally unavailable to the wider public."



Lucy relishes the personal rewards of this approach saying, "It's not only an education, it's a joy, because in the winter there are three vegetables on our shelf: cabbages, turnips and potatoes." But in growing and importing authentic produce, "we suddenly get twenty other ingredients, that we are just beginning to learn how to grow in this country."

Aside from the borage and courgette flowers that are apparently wonderfully delicious deep-fried, one wonders at how a student might go about leading a similarly fresh and healthy lifestyle, keeping to a budget. "I think if you have a piece of feta, you can do wonders with that. If you have a good bottle of olive oil, and a pot

of rocket growing, you could make a great salad from that, rather than buying a small bag from the supermarket. Or you might griddle some chicken and then pair it with some courgettes and Greek yoghurt."

It seems the possibilities are endless for Lucy Boyd, but this doesn't mean she's a stringent foodie all of the time. When asked about eating foods only when in season, she replies "I'm not religious about it. I buy lemons in the middle of summer when they're not in season in this country. And pineapples! How many people grow pineapples in England? Or bananas for that matter? Obviously there are some things that you wouldn't eat out of season, but I couldn't do without my lemons."

## The Naked Baker: Pear Tarte Tatin

Helena Parker

Tarte tatin, along with many of these fads from across the channel, is one of those recipes which seems to have a bright orange sticky label emblazoned with "This recipe is hard. Do not attempt" stamped across the mental recipe book of every student cook. What lies the French tell. It's just upside down. Simples.

Tarte tatin began its long and illustrious life, like many culinary delicacies, as a mistake. The story goes that the two sisters who ran Hotel Tatin in the small town of Lamotte-Beuvron during the 19th century were stressed from cooking one day, and made an upside down apple tart by accident. Not all the French agree with this story, including certain Parisian patissiers of the time who claim the glory for themselves.

However, whatever the origin, the tart remains a classic, and in a slight twist on the recipe I am using pears instead of apples, and liberals amount of brandy. Because as my father says, "no pudding is properly pudding unless there's some alcohol in it."



**Ingredients:**  
6-8 small pears  
100g granulated sugar  
100g butter  
cinnamon  
3 tbsp brandy  
500g puff pastry

Preheat oven to 200C. Core, peel and halve the pears.

Put the butter and sugar into a wide-based pan with a metal, not plastic, handle, on a high heat. Gently stir together until the butter is melted and becomes syrupy.

Add the pear halves and cinnamon to the pan, and keep turning them and covering with the syrup. It should eventually turn caramel coloured and the pears will begin to caramelize themselves. Continue for about 10 minutes until pears are golden brown.

Add brandy and flambé for a minute (depending on how much alcohol taste you want) then take off the heat. Don't let the sugar burn.

Roll out the pastry to about the thickness of a pound coin. Arrange the pears flat side up with thin end pointing inwards in the pan, in a tight circle, then cover with the pastry, making sure to tuck it in around them.

Put the whole pan into the oven and cook for 25-30 minutes, or until pastry is golden and flaky. You may want to pour off some of the syrup after about 15 minutes cooking.

Place a large plate over the pan and carefully flip the tart onto it. Prepare for a bit of spillage, and serve hot with lashings of cream.

## On a Budget: Box of Booze

Ryan Bentley



As a student, the hardest issues you will face are not the pressure of exams, nor deadlines, nor money. No, it is the far more serious matter of what to choose for predrinks.

The inevitable trawl through the supermarket or off-licence before your night out is fraught with difficulties. Do you choose the beer, a good, but often overpriced option? Perhaps you opt for spirits: they get the job done, but the unavoidable hangover the next morning has you wondering why you ever laid your eyes on that discounted Polish vodka in the first place. That is why, ladies and gentlemen, I propose a solution. The boxed wine.

"Boxed wine?" I hear you yell, shaking your newspaper with disbelief. This unassuming staple of the supermarket wine shelves brims with both untapped potential and alcoholic goodness.

A box of wine is very much like Doctor Who's tardis; it always seems to be much bigger on the inside. Within its humble casing is a miraculous 4 bottles worth, often for the price of just half of that in real bottles. And this isn't cheap plonk, oh no, you won't be handing over your hard earned government loan for what amounts to a crate of lambrini.

A boxed wine is very often of good quality, and if you don't take my word for it, wine critic Oz Clarke (who I had the good luck to meet at a food show) says that they are the best wine a student can get, and for a reasonable price, too.

If I cast my mind back to my very hazy, and slightly terrifying, memories of Freshers' week, I can recall with some fondness that, every evening, as we gathered to get pleasantly drunk once again, I would trot out a boxed wine I had bought at Morrison's. Maybe I was just dreaming (or slowly succumbing to alcohol poisoning), but to me, it seemed like it would never run out.

A boxed wine also has the added benefit of making you look considerably more classy than you actually are, just don't, whatever you do, go and spoil the effect by drinking straight from the tap. So next time you're in the shops, wandering up and down the drinks aisle, go boxed, you won't be disappointed.

# A Whistle in the Darkness



A decade after the genocidal conflict in Darfur, **Mukesh Kapila**, former Head of the UN in Sudan, tells Mary O'Connor of his ongoing fight against “gross inhumanity”

The year 2013 marks the tenth anniversary of the beginning of the crisis in Darfur. People around the world remembered the suffering in the Sudan in different ways; some by writing letters, others by partaking in campaigns such as a ‘100 Day Fast for Darfur.’ Mukesh Kapila, the man who witnessed the genocide unfold before him, wrote a book. In writing his testimony, Mukesh became the whistle blower for Darfur, and the resounding voice in the call to bring resolution to a conflict still on-going today.

With an overwhelming heaviness in his voice, Mukesh explains that “there are about 2.5 million people affected in Darfur. There is still on-going ethnic cleansing, and those who perpetrated the genocide, President Al Bashir and his henchmen, still remain in power.” His book, *Against a Tide of Evil*, is the product of his frustration with the deadlock the situation has reached, as he explains, “there was something nagging inside me, haunting me... Exposure to the circumstances I experienced made me very angry, and the book in one sense, is a product of that.”

Nobody knows exactly the number of people who died in the genocides, nor do they know the full extent to which officials failed in their duties to protect. Mukesh, in his book, seeks to dispel these dangerous ambiguities, “I was an insider,

right at the heart of the story. I was an actor in it. No one was better placed to blow the whistle, and call all those into account who failed in this situation. This is my contribution to get the truth out and get it widely known amongst ordinary people.”

As a veteran of humanitarian crises, including Bosnia, Rwanda, and Sierra Leone, Mukesh’s journey, which took him to “the heart of the story” began after he qualified to be a clinical doctor and from there moved into international aid work. After over a decade working within international aid for the British government, the dynamics of Mukesh’s work experienced something of a change when the events of 9/11 reverberated around the globe.

From then on, Mukesh became heavily involved in “dealing with problematic countries like North Korea, Iraq, and Burma” and came to specialise “in disaster and crisis management relating to natural disasters and war zones.” After witnessing some of the world’s worst atrocities, he was propelled further when he was approached by the UN, who initially appointed him as their special adviser in Afghanistan in 2002, before choosing him for the job of head of the UN in the Sudan in 2003.

Mukesh reveals that he never deliberately looked for

scenes of mass destruction, but rather his career and its meanderings brought him to the feet of such crises. The clinical gaze of the medical doctor continued to guide his perception of such events, and was undeniably the life force of his profound ability to continue his work against the tide of evil, as he charts in his book. Mukesh remembers that “in the 1980s and 1990s, the word ‘humanitarian’ hadn’t even been invented. It was all about emergencies and disasters.”

This soon changed in the years following, yet his rational intake of such events remained consistent, “Coming from a medical background, you are clearly used to dealing with the extremes of the human condition.”

As a doctor you deal with cases on an individual level, which is more intense in my opinion, than dealing with it on a mass level.” During the Darfur crisis, it was these personal stories that deepened his conviction that the world had to take notice of what was going on.

The story of the northern Sudanese woman, Aisha, was one such encounter that brought falters to his normally levelled voice as he recounted, “She had been subjected to mass rape in front of her family. In front of her husband. In front of her sons and the whole community of about 130 other women.” From listening to her account, Mukesh realised that “she

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MUPESH KAPILA

“Ethnic cleansing is still going on, and those who perpetrated the genocide still remain in power.”



symbolised the utter and complete impotence of the ‘powerful’ international system to do anything about it.”

The “curious reluctance” of UN countries to act upon the harrowing information they were being presented with was an all too familiar bitter pill for Mukesh to swallow. During his posting as an aid official during the Rwandan genocides of 1994, he saw that “there wasn’t much of an interest in Rwanda. It wasn’t an Anglophone country. Nobody knew much about it, nobody had been there. There was no embassy there.”

Desperate in his quest to prevent further butchery, Mukesh visited the sites of atrocities himself, in the hope of convincing the world to take notice. “So I found myself travelling to Kampala, literally on the heels of the RPF (the Rwandan Patriotic Front), led by Kagame as he seized control... I was in Koma on the day that the infamous exodus took place, I saw for myself the million people leaving. I remember when I first arrived in Rwanda the blood was still dripping down the walls of the churches. The bodies were still rotting on the streets, and the dogs were beginning to eat them. It was completely indescribable, these scenes of gross inhumanity on an industrial scale.”

For Mukesh, the experience of Rwanda was enough. Pre-

venting the reoccurrence of such “gross inhumanity” became the motivation for his work in Sudan, pushing him to take more radical action.

He recounted: “I decided that if the world’s governments would not listen to me, I would speak to the world’s peoples. In March 2004, I decided to speak out publicly and ‘blow the whistle’ on what was happening.”

Mukesh agonised over how to present the information relating to such boundless suffering to a world that had been largely oblivious or apathetic, “I pondered over it carefully before I did this because I knew I only had one chance, it had to be done in such a way that there would be no turning back, and in one instant it would change the world’s perceptions, and the perceptions of the decision makers, who had previously refused to act.”

A far cry from Mukesh’s outwardly benign personality, he executed his liaison with the world’s media in “a very cold, calculated manner. I had heard that Margaret Thatcher listened to BBC Radio 4, so I thought her successors might. That’s why I decided to give them an exclusive on what I had to say.”

Immediately after the interview, the world was in a paroxysm of disbelief and panic, inundating the former Sudan chief with frenzied requests for interviews and further infor-

mation. He remembers that “all this global media saturation happened before my bosses in New York were even out of bed. By mid-afternoon Nairobi time, it was really old news.”

Mukesh’s gamble had achieved the desired effect however, “never had before had the UN moved so fast in such a short space of time... within a couple of months there were the first peacekeepers on the ground.”

Like the use of the media, *Against a Tide of Evil* is an instrument of a much bigger campaign. Mukesh sincerely hopes that “by stripping away the excuses and the alibis that people have been offering over time, and by refocusing the attention on Darfur, ten years after it started, that the world will not forget.” In addition to revisiting what happened, with initiatives like Remember Rwanda Day, he stresses the importance for justice and accountability, and “the acknowledgement of wrongdoing.”

After what seems like a lifetime of witnessing the unreserved evil man is capable of committing, Mukesh has but one message for the world, and those policy makers who have the power to affect change: “Today’s battles are not won on the battlefield, but in the hearts and minds of all men, connecting across the globe. Just because there are a few that instigate evil, that doesn’t necessarily mean people will follow them.” **M**



## Tea and Troubles.

Dear Sophie,

*I'm about to graduate from York, and I'm starting to feel really nostalgic about everything. How can I avoid missing it so much once I'm gone?*

Get a tattoo of Central Hall. All the cool kids are getting tattoos these days so you'll fit right

in if you get one of the coolest place on campus. Central Hall is an architectural masterpiece and is very symbolic not only of the history of the university but also probably your time here. A sneaky kiss with a male model after Fusion 2010? A cheeky cigarette on the rooftop? Whatever the memories, get it inked forevermore on a body part of your choice (I'd go for a large one on the right bicep) and you'll never forget the great times you've had in the vicinity of that whopping, grey, spaceship.

*Exams are really stressing me out and my comfort eating is getting out of control. I don't want to get fat for all the great end of term events though, what can I do?*

Get a dog. Dogs are a great way to keep yourself active and taking it for walks every day should help stave off that gargantuan appetite of yours and start shedding the pounds. In fact, I've heard the staff at the Library Costa are so accomplished, that they will be running a doggy crèche in the foyer where all over-eaters can leave their pooches. It has also been proven in psychological studies, that stroking a pet for a few hours a day significantly reduces stress, so rumours are that the crèche will offer 'Stroke Sessions': £2 for ten minutes.

*My parents are coming up to York at the end of term to pick me up, and I'd like to take them somewhere really nice. Where would you recommend?*

Efe's. It's unlikely your parents have ever been anywhere so rustic, so give them a taste of the true student culinary experience. Take a cloth and spray sanitiser to wipe the tables before you sit down. I'm sure they'll be thrilled to try DIY dining, complete with charming Turkish gentlemen to top off the cultural experience. Get your father the 16" pizza challenge, and perhaps the shish kebab for your mother. Just to warn your parents that there won't be an extensive wine list. Or cutlery.

*I keep seeing people posting photos on Facebook of their freshly bound dissertations and looking really smug. I don't have a dissertation, so how can I not feel left out?*

Bind a copy of *Nouse*. It might (or might not) have been a large part of your student experience. So find your favourite edition (which you'll have kept under your bed), and walk proudly up to the Uni Printers with your copy, camera in hand. Post that photo dear and feel part of the crew in no time.

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## Comment



Nicole Sørlie

Society needs to readdress the role that our culture plays in establishing superior gender roles, and the effect that this can have behind closed doors

# The forgotten victims of domestic abuse

We live in a chauvinistic society where men and women simply cannot agree on which gender should be superior to the other. The presupposed problem being, of course, that we feel there is a need for a superior gender in the first place. Whether we fight for gender equality or we bask in our gender's self-proclaimed superiority, we have a twisted mindset all the same when it comes to issues such as domestic abuse. Why is it that women being victims of abuse is generally accepted and it's surprising that 40 per cent of victims are actually men?

**“It’s not as clear cut as saying that domestic abuse is a battle of wills”**

Maybe it's too far to say that the fact women are abused is accepted, but it's definitely no longer a surprise in any western society. The high statistics may still come as a shock with an estimated 1.2 million (7 per cent) female victims of domestic abuse reported in the UK in the last year. However, it could be argued that 800,000 (5 per cent) male victims in the last year is a more surprising figure; an under-estimated figure. It's predicted that twice as many male victims than

women suffer from domestic abuse and refuse to tell anyone out of fear of how they will be perceived. This in turn makes it more challenging to report accurate figures when so many people, both men and women, are living in fear and silence.

The consequence and very nature of abuse is that it breaks the victim down emotionally and cripples them psychologically until they think they have no means to stand up for themselves and accept help. Victims start blaming themselves for the suffering they endure and fear the likelihood of further abuse if they speak out, and so struggle to find a way out as a result.

Ideologies of what it means to be a man and what it means to be a woman are continually filtered down, from the media and from history, through society which skews our perception and understanding of gender roles. It's in accepting these gender roles that men can get away with victimising women (who are already insecure about their lack of authority) but naturally in challenging these roles the reverse is made possible; women want to be superior to men in a society where they know men struggle with the idea of being inferior to women. It's not surprising then that the number of women who are abusers has quadrupled in the past seven years.

A similar pattern emerges, however, within same-sex relation-

ships where the percentage of homosexual or bi-sexual men who suffered partner abuse in 2008/09 (6.2 per cent) is nearly double that of heterosexual men (3.3 per cent) and homosexual women (12.4 per cent) suffered far more partner abuse compared to heterosexual women (4.3 per cent). These figures are also somewhat surprising, if not confusing, and leave a lot of unanswered questions.

**“40 per cent of domestic abuse victims are actually men”**

Homosexuality still receives a lot of negative attention in the media and society is still a long way off accepting it. The added external pressure on same-sex relationships certainly doesn't help with the situation or make it any easier, but there's something very alarming being revealed by these statistics.

It's becoming apparent that reported cases of domestic abuse aren't always seen as urgent by authorities, which might explain why 17 men and 88 women (one every four days) died at the hands of their partner or ex-partner in 2011/12. Police can't prevent every case if it hasn't been reported, but there's

definitely an outcry for police to be more pro-active.

The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) recently made an inquiry into the death of Maria Stubbings who reported several incidents of domestic abuse before being murdered by her partner. The IPCC have criticised the delayed response of the Essex Police who were contacted by her a week before her murder, but they were slow to respond. When they eventually went to her house, they were met by her abuser who had not only jailed for 15 years for killing his previous partner, but he also told the police she was away, so they checked her room and left. The thing which makes it even worse is that when they went back, they found her body in a different room. This is just one example of a preventable case, but is now just another shocking statistic.

Of course it's not as clear cut as saying that domestic abuse is a battle of wills; fighting either for or against gender roles the way they are at the moment. There's so much more happening which is unique to every individual case and it's equally unfair to blame the increasing statistics on police who aren't acting fast enough. However, something more needs to be done to tackle domestic abuse in the UK and there needs to be more awareness of men increasingly becoming victims of domestic abuse.

## Topical Tweets from the Twittersphere



 @CassandraaBrown  
Cass Brown,  
York Sport President

22 May

Oh god. I have the fear.

23 May

Matt Darling

@matyd123



How can you get confused between EDL and EDF Energy?! I mean, this little fella wouldn't hurt a soul... #TopLad

 @caitlinmoran  
Caitlin Moran  
Writer for the Times

22 May

Twitter is more fired up by “Gif-pronounced-jif” than any other matter. This is real heartlands stuff.

27 May

@neilbarnes101

Neil Barnes



Labour Councillor for Hull Road  
No EDL turnout at #yorkmosque but over 100 members of York community showing solidarity.  
A victory for peace and understanding

 Henrietta Thomson

## Protecting the guilty

For me, the recent adaptation of F.Scott Fitzgerald's novel The Great Gatsby had a distinctly 21st century feel. And it wasn't just the jazzy remixes of Amy Winehouse and Alicia Keys. The point that stuck in my mind was the presence and power of the media, in particular the newspaper headlines towards the end of the film, which took no pains in destroying the reputation of Jay Gatsby without a shred of solid evidence, and with no chance for him to protest his innocence (sorry for the spoilers).

Now this for me had echoes of a case much closer to home than 1920s New York.

A couple of years ago, in the week before Christmas, Joanna Yates was murdered in Bristol. This was a brutal murder at a time of year when goodwill and peace are supposed to shine through, and families are meant to unite and spend time together. So it was no surprise that the media took this tragic tale and ran with it; the outrage of the public and their determination to bring Joanna's killer to justice was understandable.

What was not understandable was the way in which the press attacked the first man taken in for questioning by the police. Joanna's eccentric looking landlord Christo-

pher Jefferies 'underwent a monstering,' according to the *Guardian*. Before the police had even finished their enquiries Jefferies had been painted as a killer, a paedophile, a 'nutty professor' (*Daily Mail*) and a 'Peeping Tom' (*Daily Mirror*).

**“Revealing suspect names gives free reign to the media to speculate, and paint the chosen victim in whichever way they choose”**

Personal comments about his personality and appearance, right down to the colour of his hair were made. Jefferies was 'guilty' in the eyes of the world, and there was no doubt about it. This was not due to evidence, it was simply because the press wanted someone to blame.

The only lucky thing for Jefferies was that he, unlike Gatsby, was there to protest his own innocence, after it was found that Yates' boyfriend Vincent Tabak was to blame. This led to a huge libel case which saw Jefferies win damages from no

fewer than eight national newspapers. But the indelible damage to his reputation and the mental trauma he went through remain.

Jeremy Browne MP also brought up this case on a recent broadcast of BBC Any Questions (Friday 17th May), when the question of whether the suspects of serious crimes should be named before they are charged arose.

The argument posed in favour of revealing suspects' names was that once a name has been released it will encourage further witnesses to come forward.

This may be so, however it does not address the terrible effect of a false allegation on the innocent suspect. After all, the police cannot be right every time.

Revealing suspect names gives free reign to the media to speculate, and paint the chosen victim in whatever way they choose.

Now I am not suggesting that the press should be restricted in some form of Orwellian nightmare; I believe in freedom of the press. However I do believe that the phrase 'Innocent until proven charged', if not 'innocent until proven guilty' has to have some resonance.

After all, isn't justice meant to be based on evidence, not a popularity contest?

# Politics

## STUDENT HACK



UK immigration numbers continue to fall as the number of foreign students is shrinking. Figures show that there are around 56,000 fewer foreign students since last year, along with fewer who remain upon completion of their studies.



Greg Mulholland, liberal Democrat MP has come under fire after a row with one of his constituents over the same sex marriage vote. In a heated Twitter dispute, Mulholland called the Leeds University student a "little sh\*t."



The National Union of Students have criticised a report by the activist group, "Student Rights", for grossly demonising Muslim students. The campaign group, which released a paper on gender segregation on British university campuses, claims that little is being done to tackle campus extremism.

## Fee rise amounts to less than half an hour extra teaching a week

**Rosie Shields**

DEPUTY POLITICS EDITOR

A RECENT survey has shown that despite the rise in tuition of up to £8,000 a year, teaching time has only seen a rise by approximately 18 minutes a week. In addition to this the amount of independent study students are expected to undertake has increased. In 2006 the average student was expected to spend about an hour a week on individual study. Between 2012-13 students were expected to undertake an average of 14 hours a week.

These findings seem outrageous in a time when students are paying so much money. It could be argued this shift in balance between contact time and individual time, has increased pressure on students to teach themselves, which could impact on their achievement. Students in 2006, certainly by this data, had much better value for money. So what is the impact of this decrease in hours on degree success? Nicola Dandridge, the chief executive of Universities UK, argued that contact hours do not directly equate to course quality. Indeed she stressed that tuition fees don't just include teaching time but cover all support facilities like employment advice, training, libraries and any enrichment activities.

In total, around 26,000 undergraduates from 103 universities were assessed on contact hours, including seminar time. The survey was undertaken by Which? and the



Students are paying much more than seven years ago, but this has not resulted in improved contact times

Higher Education Policy Institute, which enabled the data to be collected from a wide field. Not only was teaching time criticised within the findings but also the disparity between universities. In particular it seems that at some universities a typical student would receive 20 hours a week, yet at a different university, doing exactly the same

course, they could expect to receive 40 hours. This could be very threatening for any university. Applicants are now likely to make their choices on the basis of such criteria as value for money not just subject quality.

Rachel Wenstone, the Vice President of the National Union of Students, stressed the idea that students are now consumers. Thus why

would they pay £9,000 for 20 hours when they could be getting 40, and more importantly why should they? Institutions need to be held to account and provide a better service. However there is a danger that these institutions could change completely, with people replacing the real value of education with thoughts about value for money.

## Swaziland NUS President arrested

**Alex Osborne**

POLITICAL REPORTER

THE NATIONAL Union of Students has reported that Maxwell Dlamini, the outgoing Swaziland NUS President and current Secretary General of the Swaziland Youth Congress, was last week detained by the country's government on charges of sedition.

This is a severe charge in Swaziland and entails actions that are considered to be insurgent or rebellious towards governmental authority.

Arrests such as Maxwell's have become all the more frequent in recent years, with student unionists unable to carry out their work free from fear of harassment or detention from governmental forces and police.

As such, the UK's NUS has called on students to provide nationwide support to Dlamini and have asked students to "urge the Swaziland government to listen to and act on their legitimate calls for democracy and rights for the people of Swaziland."

Support for the NUS's cam-



Dlamini's arrest is merely one of many, with unions increasingly pressurised

paign is already widespread, with calls for Dlamini's unconditional release with immediate effect, being backed by numerous organisations including the NUS itself. Action for Southern Africa and the Free Maxwell Dlamini Campaign.

The NUS added: "We are also calling that any and all wrongdo-

ings committed by Swaziland's police forces and security forces towards Maxwell Dlamini and other members of Swaziland's democratic movement are investigated, and that any perpetrators are brought before a court of law."

The NUS has asked that the British government put pressure

on Swaziland authorities to free Maxwell and has written to Mark Simmonds MP, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, with this request.

In a video replying to the NUS' actions from the 2013 NUS Conference, Maxwell Dlamini speaks of the struggle that the Swaziland NUS has endured to operate effectively since its formation in 1986.

Dlamini recounted that "a number of student activists were forced into exile and some systematically kicked out of their universities." He states that the support and backing he's received from a large amount of organisations has given him the "strength and courage to fight even more."

To support the campaign, the NUS is urging students to sign a petition via the NUS' website, write to the Swaziland Ambassador, contact their local MP, and send messages of solidarity to Maxwell via campaigns@nus.org.uk.

The NUS will have to gain the backing of more organisations, but with momentum increasing, it is hoped they will be successful.



politics@nouse.co.uk  
www.nouse.co.uk/politics

# The Tories must change their image

**Rohan Banerjee**  
**POLITICAL ANALYSIS**

**Y**ou're not a Tory, are you?" Throughout my time at university, the revelation that I voted Conservative was usually met by some level of disgust or disbelief. Nights out were a safe haven – only killjoys chatted politics – but I remember plenty of kitchen table debates in my first year, defending my apparently terrible choice of party.

But for all the pejorative leftism at York, I don't think bad reactions stemmed from any particular affinity to political theory itself. The truth is most students don't actually know too much about politics yet plenty are certain being 'right' is wrong.

My Tory friends assure me that by the time they start earning real money, the naysayers will have come round to conservatism's acquired taste, but these days I'm not so sure. Angst is accompanied by apathy and there's a seated disenchantment with most senior politicos – I'll even admit Michael Gove is a fundamentally dislikeable man.

Conservatism and in turn British Politics is in bad way. Detachment has reached new levels and the major parties are doing nothing to attract a new type of voter.

It's not wrong to fill a cabinet with Oxbridge any more than it's not wrong to down ten shots of Sambuca, but in doing either you have to face the consequences. Indeed, the Conservative party have been suffering a hangover ever since Cameron

became leader in 2005.

Admittedly, the Tories have always been high-born, but amidst a renewed obsession with class war, this time it's really come to the fore. Consider the social pedigree of our incumbent; Cameron, Gove and Osborne went to private schools whose fees are higher than the average wage. More than a third of the current Commons were privately educated and lots have double barrelled surnames.

Labour is nowhere near as posh, but even the supposed sons of toil aren't blameless; nowadays

**“The Tories have always been high-born, but amidst a new obsession with class war, this time it's really come to the fore”**

it pays to be middle-class and to go straight into politics after Oxbridge.

The Labour leader, Ed Miliband, went to Oxford from well-heeled north London, graduated in PPE and was soon working for Gordon Brown. Ed Balls is another Oxford grad, who also took PPE and also grabbed a cushy career boost under Brown.

Let's recap; in supposedly modern, meritocratic Britain, the Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition, the Chancellor and the shadow chancellor all went to Oxbridge.



David Cameron has tried to modernise the Conservative Party, but the image of posh boys still remains

Three of the four did the same degree and all were privately educated bar Miliband.

It's little wonder that people feel alienated or under represented. It's little wonder that politicians, Tories in particular, are seen as "posh twats." In persisting with this quasi kingdom of philosophers, Britain risks inculcating new levels of resentment.

I vote Conservative because I agree with the line of policy and family driven ethos, but I've become increasingly irritated by their reluctance to reinvent. The same is true of Labour.

I'm not saying that cherry picking politicians from Oxbridge is wrong, but there is a bottomless pool of talent that is constantly being overlooked. If there is a glass

ceiling for women in politics then there is also one for ethnics, the working class and those educated by the state.

The John Major experiment was an example of tokenism gone horribly wrong, but that doesn't have to be the case now. If the Tories want to tackle issues of image, then grooming Gove for leadership is certainly not the way to go.

# Do the private lives of politicians matter?

**Adam Seldon**  
**POLITICAL ANALYSIS**

**L**ast Monday, three senior judges ruled that voters have the right to know that Boris Johnson conducted an extramarital affair with a woman who later gave birth to their daughter.

In April, Boris's misdemeanours were exposed in a damning interview with Eddie Mair and in the follow up BBC documentary. The focus of the coverage was that he had lied to his former party leader Michael Howard, not that he committed adultery. On the latest ruling, the mayor's official spokesman said: "We don't comment on matters pertaining to the mayor's private life." But does it matter whether or not a man it would appear aspires to be Prime Minister of our country, committed adultery, as many as three times?

In the UK, sex and politicians rarely hits the headlines. John Major the former Conservative Prime Minister had a four year long affair with Edwina Currie, but this didn't come out until after he left office. Affairs within government aren't a sackable offense; Chris Huhne's liaison with Carina Trimingham isn't what got him fired from the cabinet. Just after news of Huhne's affair came, aides were said to be amazed at how seemingly indifferent he was.



Boris Johnson may be in danger of the misdemeanours in his private life overshadowing his political triumphs

So is the Boris off the hook then? A poll by YouGov after the interview and documentary suggested that, with him as leader, the Conservatives might win 40-50 seats more than under David Cameron. In a slightly less comprehensive poll by The Independent after

last Monday's courts verdict, 56% of respondents said their opinion of Boris would stay the same. Desire for the tantalising Boris alternative remains amongst rancorous backbench Conservative MPs and it would appear amongst voters Boris's charm and his radiant optimism in

a time of economic woe trumps his antics in the bedroom.

However, if incidents like this recur, it's going to hurt Boris. Isolated incidents in themselves are rarely enough to bring down a politician or indeed a government. But when they accumulate into a wider narra-

tive, it can be seriously damaging. In contradiction to John Major's 'back to basics campaign' (an attempt to revitalise the nation's waning collective morality), numerous Conservative ministers were caught indulging in acts of sexual impropriety and the Conservatives were easily smeared as morally corrupt. One of the main impediments to Boris is that he isn't considered serious enough to bear the responsibilities of the highest office and sexual indulgences nourish this perception.

On a more fundamental level though, I would hazard actually it really does matter that Boris has committed adultery three times. It exposes a fragility of the psyche that Boris is able to let his libido overcome his rationality or his obligation to his wife and children on so many occasions. Prime Ministers are often forced to make excruciating choices in which morality weighs into decision making. Of course, great leaders are alleged to have committed adultery, such as John Kennedy and Martin Luther King, and this didn't ruin their reputation—it's the other stuff they did that secured their place in history. But Boris is in danger of sliding into a ramshackle resemblance of the abhorrent Silvio Berlusconi, whose stubborn stand at the top of Italian politics is a sorry reflection of the state of the Italian nation.

## Politics

# Don't buy into UKIP's Tea Party politics

Hussein Kesvani

POLITICAL ANALYSIS

Does anyone remember the 'Tea Party' coup that befell the Obama administration in 2010? A recap: The US economy was performing horribly, Obama's stimulus package had failed to produce its expected short term effects and the Democrats hadn't shown much of the reforming tenacity they had promised in 2008. The result? Obama lost control of Congress, and the thumping majority held by the Democrats had all but diluted. Instead, the US was left with a new cohort of Republican candidates, directed and funded by an ideologically radical 'Tea Party'. That movement, which claimed its intention to 'restore' constitutional values through reforming the Republican Party, then went on to lose the 2012 election by a considerable margin.

It seems that something remarkably similar is now happening on our shores. UKIP's victory in the local council elections last month continue to send cold shivers to the Tory party. Now, backbench revolts aren't anything new. Historically, both Conservatives and Labour have had to deal with their own rebellious MPs, especially Gordon Brown, whose premiership saw the highest level of party rebellions- including a fair amount of planned coups, in post-war political history.

Backbench, inter-party disputes are for the most part, easy to deal with. What David Cameron currently faces is a different beast entirely; while sustaining attacks from both his party and the press, one thing he can't seem to quell is who's pulling the strings.

Enter UK politics' own mad hatter, Nigel Farage - a charismatic, but ineffectual troll turned Machiavellian whose stated ambition is to stage an ideological coup of the Conservative party. Which means spending less time with the dwindling number of 'progressive Cameronites' and more time chatting to disenchanted Tory voters.

Farage, just like many of the Tea Party Patriots, has found that the most effective way to talk to a disen-



UKIP may have grown into a serious political force in recent months but we should not buy into their rhetoric

chanted grassroots is by personally relating politics to their lives, even if that means overstating the effects of an EU exit, immigration freeze and... that's pretty much it. With a pint and a ciggie, that type of soft power might give Joseph Nye a run for his money.

Following the Tea Party, Farage's strategy has reaped its short term gains. In the US, the new right-wing radicals helped build the foundations of the GOP's 2012 strategy. Similarly in Britain, UKIP seem to be determining the shape of the Tories come 2015, only vocalised through the mouthpiece of former Tory beasts, Nigel Lawson and Michael Portillo.

In the most recent debacle over the Same Sex Marriage Bill, where less than half of his backbenchers supported him, the Prime Minister

is facing even more criticism for supposedly prioritising "socialist" policies. To the Tory old guard and their activists, many of whom belong to an older generation, returning to a morality politics anchored in tradition offers the clearest route

**"Spooked as he might be, Cameron is better off staying on course."**

to electoral salvation. It's the same sort of principle that guided John Major's "Back to Basics" ethos, only this time guided by mischievous political phantoms, rather than party sleaze.

General elections are a completely separate kettle of fish - not

simply because of its national focus, but also that the British public are less likely to take risks in voting for radical parties.

Though bleeding hearts on both sides make no attempt to hide their contempt for centre politics, it still remains a determining factor for any party wishing to seek office. In addition, the increasing number of young voters- many from diverse social and ethnic backgrounds - demands a reasoned, rational and inclusive politics.

While UKIP risk losing their core constituency through changing their flagship policies after their surge, the Tories still have a fair amount of time to claim the centre ground to secure a majority in 2015. Spooked as he might be, Cameron is probably better off staying on course.



**@MaajidNawaz**  
Maajid Nawaz,  
Quilliam Foundation

"Vast majority of us Britons despise mouth-frothing frenzied #Jihadists & cringe at uncouth hooligan #EDL thugs. A plague on both your houses." 23 May

**@SJacksonMP**  
Stewart Jackson  
MP for Peterborough

"Cameron's disdain for Conservative Party membership & for proper Parliamentary scrutiny of #samesexmarriage bill will come back to haunt him." 23 May

**@Nigel\_Farage**  
Nigel Farage  
UKIP Leader and  
MEP for the South East of England

"This olive oil ban was virgin on the ridiculous." 23 May

**@PennyRed**  
Laurie Penny  
Journalist

"Dogwhistle racism is no way to respond to an act of brutality committed by individuals. We can be better than this, London. #woolwich #edl" 24 May

**@DPJHodges**  
Dan Hodges  
Columnist, The Telegraph

"Unbelievable. Someone gets hacked to death by terrorists in a London street, and people more outraged by how Nick Robinson reports it." 24 May

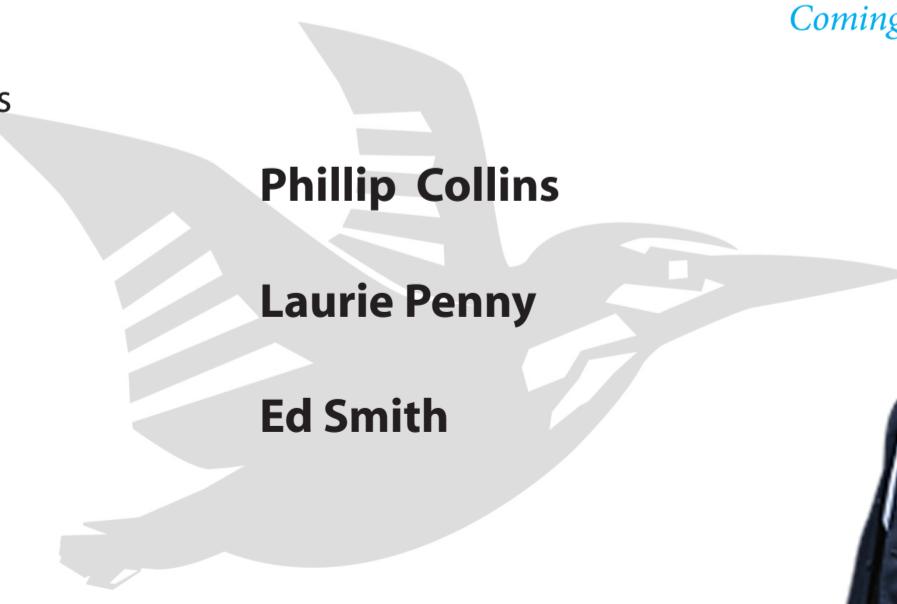
Nouse  
**Events**  
Presents

Phillip Collins

Laurie Penny

Ed Smith

Coming soon



# The silence on Syria

In a candid interview, Laura Hughes talks to journalist Charles Glass about Syria and the silence emanating from the world powers



MARIJKE LIPMAN

**C**harles Glass is a broadcaster, journalist and writer, who has in his lifetime covered wars in the Middle East, Eritrea, Rhodesia, Somalia, Iraq and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Charles has witnessed the October Arab-Israeli War on the Egyptian and Syrian fronts. In 1988 America refused to acknowledge Charles' uncovering of Saddam Hussein's then-secret biological weapons program, until Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990.

Charles was the only US television correspondent in northern Iraq covering the entire Kurdish rebellion in 1991.

Since the spring of 2011 Syria has been plagued with a devastating internal conflict between the current regime and protesters calling for the dissolution of the Ba'ath party government.

The Obama administration recently admitted to Congress that there was evidence that chemical weapons, most likely involving the nerve agent sarin, have been used in Syria, against Saraqeb, a rebel-held town south-west of Aleppo on 29 April, something that Obama has referred to as a "red line."

Critics have suggested American inaction stems from a fear of supporting Islamist rebels with links to al Qaeda.

Charles commented, "Who is Obama to set red lines, whatever they may be? There are international conventions on the use of chemical weapons that have severe sanctions attached. Has no one heard of international law?"

It is counter to the interests of

the Syrian government to use chemical weapons. In a desperate bid to avoid chemical conflagration, this might provoke foreign military intervention.

It is worth recalling that the West tolerated Saddam using poison gas on a mass scale against Iranians and Kurds in the 1980s. Commentators have said there is a real danger Syria's huge chemical weapons stockpile could either be used or fall into the hands of so-called 'jihadists.' Charles suspects

“Who is Obama to set red lines, whatever they may be?”

"there is no possibility of that."

Syria is a country that has actively advanced the growth of Iranian influence into the Arab world, has provided headquarters for Hamas, and has supported Hezbollah

with the transfer of advance missile systems.

The United States has been slow to act. Iran meanwhile is pouring vast resources into the country, including Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps encampments, weapons and advisers.

Hezbollah has denied sending any fighters into Syria; however Charles believes Iranian and Hezbollah actions are in fact supporting the Assad regime. The leader of the Lebanese Shia militant Hezbol-

lah movement, Hassan Nasrallah, has promised his supporters they will prevail in Syria, where they are backing President Bashar al-Assad.

US Secretary of State John Kerry recently accused the militant Lebanese Shia Islamist group Hezbollah of perpetuating President Bashar al-Assad's "campaign of terror."

The latest figures from the United Nations suggest more than 80,000 people have been killed since the uprising began in March 2011. An estimated 4.25 million internally displaced people and 1.5 million refugees.

Supporting the ill-equipped rebels will intensify the chances of a sectarian civil war.

Western intervention poses far greater a challenge than it did in Libya - where the Transitional National Council, the Arab League, and the United Nations endorsed intervention.

Syria is almost 30 times as densely populated as Libya, and the Syrian army is better equipped and five times larger than the Libyan army was.

Furthermore Syrian opposition forces are fragmented; there is no unified credible chain of opposition command.

In light of a video which appears to show a Syrian rebel taking a bite from the heart of a dead soldier. How does Charles believe this war can possibly end? "It could end at the Geneva Conference, if the backers of the two sides are serious about ending the war. It's unlikely they are, so it may go on for some time. Terrible for the Syrians."

# Marriage equality must be forced through

**THE LAST WORD**  
Rosie Shields

Last Monday MPs in England voted to back the Marriage Bill which would allow same sex couples to get married. Already this has caused controversy, including some quite prominent splits within the Conservative party itself.

So where does the UK actually stand? At the moment the bill is not law and it will now be debated within the House of Lords. Only when the bill is passed in both Houses will it become law and its outcome is still uncertain. The bill has been prominently debated for over a year now. In fact, the same old arguments just keep cropping up.

What's the practical difference between the marriage contract and a civil partnership? What impact will it have on religion? Isn't it just a matter of equality?

Yet this time progress has actually been made. Unlike France we haven't physically passed the bill just yet. But France could perhaps show an example of our future. It

is only the ninth country in Europe to legalise the union and so its unsurprising really that there has been opposition.

However with the increasing weakness of Catholicism in France, and as a pretty secular state, it seems

“Some of the arguments in opposition are downright ridiculous”

worrying perhaps that there has actually been quite so much hostility. In fact just days ago, far-right essayist Dominique Venner shot himself at Notre Dame Cathedral in protest to the ruling. France has seen the biggest conservative and right wing protest in approximately 30 years.

Could this be the way England is heading? Certainly the Conservative Party is cracking, with some of the greatest opposition coming from within Cameron's own party.

I don't believe either the French right or the UK right have enough of a solid argument to really make any change away from the bill. To



terms of politics, for me gay marriage shouldn't have such a large debate surrounding it. Okay, so it might be a more liberal idea but we are living in a modern society. If civil partnerships and marriages have the same legal rights and broadly the same secular sentiment as each other, why shouldn't gay people politically be allowed to marry?

Within the church, traditionally marriage is for procreation, between a man and a woman. Yet countries continue; Spain hasn't fallen apart since 2005 just because it allowed gay marriage. David Cameron is allowing churches to follow their own discretion and actually if the bill were to become law such institutions would have no obligation to marry gay people.

Could this bill be then a positive thing for the UK? People need to start realising the importance that this bill could have on someone's life. This could be the sanctity that they feel they need. I

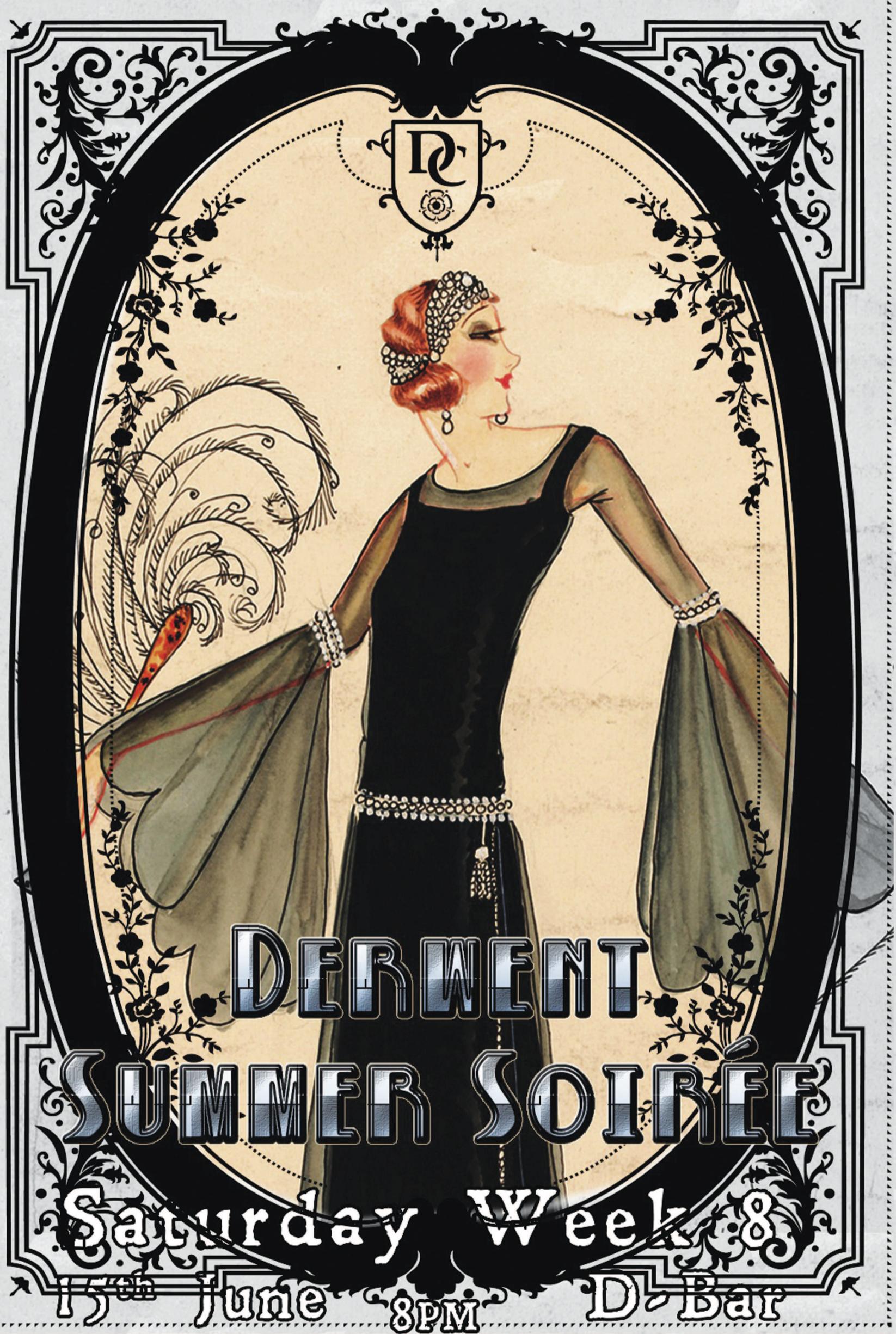
In fact why do we still discriminate with the term civil partnership? Marriage for me is about how much you love someone, not what gender they are. We should follow France and push through the bill.

me some of the arguments even seem just downright ridiculous. Indeed a French politician warned that the passing of this bill would lead to people marrying objects and animals.

Similarly Norman Tebbit, a former Conservative cabinet minister, has said that the law if passed could lead to a lesbian queen or fathers marrying sons. Unless I've missed something I don't think gay marriage can quite be thought of as the same thing as marrying a table or a

donkey. Surely two human beings who love each other should be given more respect than that. With civil partnerships having the same broad legal rights as marriages surely if this was a rational fear it would've happened already. In respect to the idea of a lesbian queen I find myself asking, so what? Does it make any difference to how she rules the country?

Personally I don't think so. I'm not sure the fathers marrying sons comment even warrants a reply. In



# Science

## Cloning produces human cells

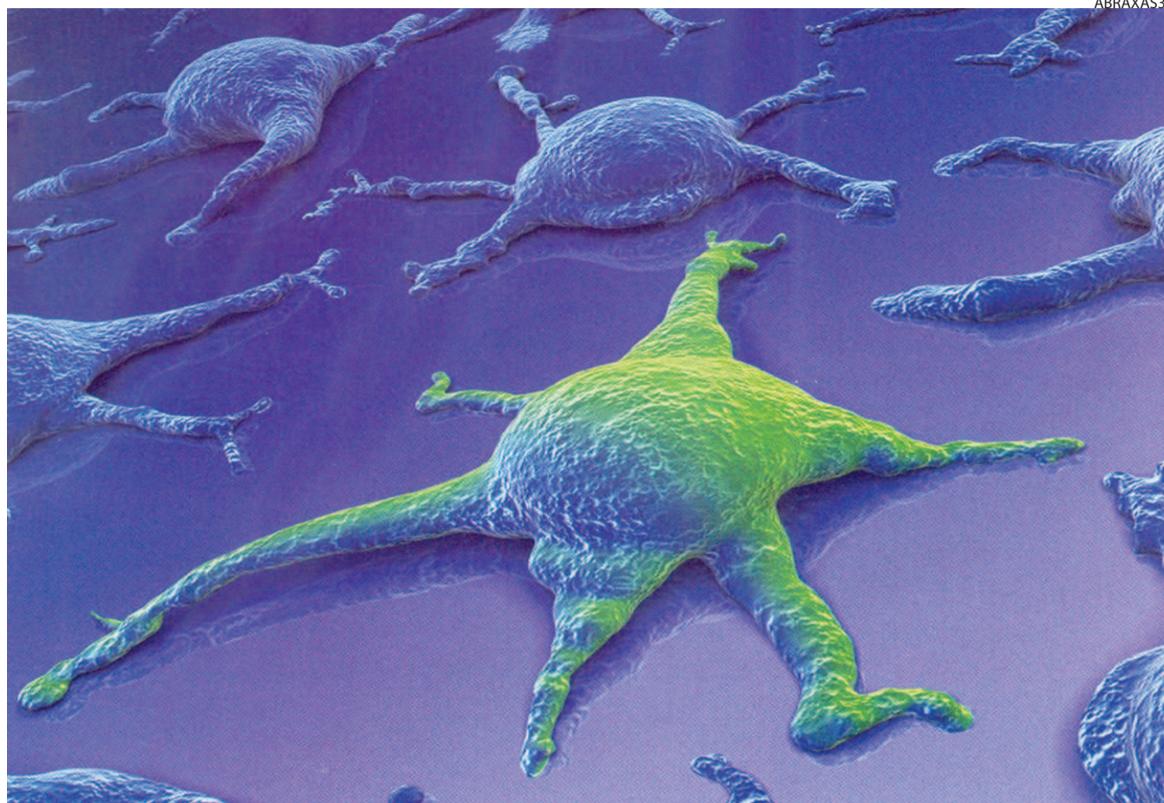
**Nicola Farthing**  
DEPUTY SCIENCE EDITOR

STEM CELLS are capable of specialising into any cell in the human body and because of this they are extremely useful in medicine. However, they are comparatively rare and can only be found in embryos, fetuses, and some adult tissues such as bone marrow.

Whilst fetal and adult stem cells are useful, embryonic stem cells are pluripotent, meaning that they possess the ability to divide and multiply for long periods of time whilst retaining their ability to specialise. This pluripotency makes them the most valuable for research and therein lies the problem. Embryonic stem cells can only be collected by completely destroying a fertilised embryo; for some, this amounts to murder.

This week, a team of international scientists at Oregon National Primate Research Center announced that they have been able to create human stem cells by cloning older, fully mature human cells. Though the process uses the same technique as was used to create Dolly the sheep, to grow specialised cells that fulfil specific functions. For example, patient-specific liver cells have been grown and even heart cells which pulse on their own.

The technique essentially involves removing the nucleus (containing all the genetic information of the cell) from an adult cell and inserting the nucleus into an egg cell which has had its own nucleus removed. This is the first time the method has worked on human



Stem cell therapies are incredibly promising but producing them reliably has remained difficult

cells. The team attributes this to a chemical reaction they used to slow down a phase of a human cell's natural process of dividing.

The hope is that the technique could be advanced so that whole organs can be grown. Not only would this mean we would no longer need to rely on organ donation, but since the organs would be grown from the patient's own cells, there would be little or no risk of the body rejecting the transplanted organ. This technique may even be able to

treat diseases such as Parkinson's by replacing the dead cells from the central nervous system that cause the disease.

Since this method of creating stem cells uses unfertilised egg cells, which have no potential of becoming a human, the team at ONPRC hope it will not encounter the controversy that has limited stem cell research so far. However, Dr George Daley, a Harvard stem cell scientist warned that whilst "a huge scientific advance...it's going to, I

think, raise the spectre of controversy again."

The publication itself has caused controversy after an anonymous online commentator found four problems with the paper. These problems have mostly been attributed to a rush to publish, with just 15 days between submission and publication. Mitalipov admits there were three innocent mistakes but denies the fourth being a problem, claiming "The results are real, ...everything is real."

## Oxford research improves maths skills through brain stimulation

**James Cameron**  
SCIENCE EDITOR

RESEARCH AT the University of Oxford's Department of Experimental Psychology has shown that all it takes to improve your maths skills is five days of cognitive training and a little non-invasive brain stimulation. The research doesn't promise to awaken your inner-Einstein but will give you a boost in your ability to do mental arithmetic like splitting your next bill. In the near future it might have a place in assisting people with learning disabilities and those with neurodegenerative diseases.

If the brain stimulation sounds intimidating, it's not. It's a far cry from the electroshock therapy of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. It works by applying very small amounts of electricity, specifically something known as "random electrical noise", to specific regions of the brain via electrodes placed on

the scalp. A literal thinking cap. This increases the excitability of the neurones, allowing the brain to generate signals more easily.

The exact technique, "transcranial random noise stimulation" (tRNS), is a relatively new one, only a few years old. How the technique increases the excitability of individual neurones is currently unknown, but on a larger scale it's believed to increase the synchronisation of their firing, and increase the efficiency with which oxygen and other nutrients are transported to the stimulated areas of the brain.

This technique differs from an older one, transcranial direct current stimulation (tDCS). It too, involved the application of electrodes to the scalp but care had to be taken that the polarity was in the right orientation, and it only allowed subjects to increase their ability to learn new numbers or solve puzzles. This improvement in rote learning and recall didn't transfer

to wider mathematical abilities.

tRNS, however can be applied in a polarity independent fashion, meaning that it is more simple to set up and it's also less perceptible during stimulation, meaning subjects are less aware that they are being stimulated than with tDCS.

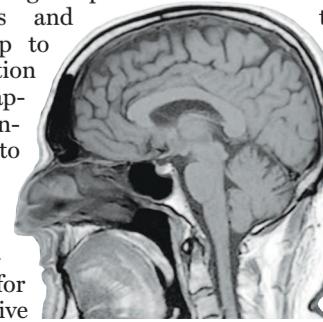
This study recruited only 25 volunteers, divided between the control group and a group to receive the brain stimulation. Both groups were trained at two varieties of cognitive tasks; calculations, which involved doing complex arithmetic tasks and drills. The group to receive stimulation had the tRNS applied for 20 minutes in addition to these tasks.

This cognitive training and brain stimulation continued for five consecutive

days, after which subsequent tests confirmed improvements in both the speed of calculation and recall based learning in the stimulated group. This is promising but what is amazing is that six months after this initial test, the improvements still remained.

This could point towards a future in which this technique is used in classrooms around the country to enable individuals to fulfil their potential, in particular those who fall behind in class or who have learning disabilities. Further

research into any potential downsides of transcranial electrical stimulation are still needed, as are further experiments into how long the improvements last but in the meantime these results promise much in the fields of cognition and memory.



## Undersea mining soon to be licensed

**James Ellis**  
DEPUTY SCIENCE EDITOR

OFFSHORE OIL rigs have become common place around the world, yet deep sea mining of mineral veins on the seabed is currently banned. This could soon change due to increased prices of raw materials and advances in technology.

The UN's International Seabed Authority (ISA) recently carried out a study and has announced that companies could apply for undersea mining licenses as soon as 2016. This has caused conservationists to express their concern over the potential detrimental effects that mining will have on marine life.

The ISA recognises this, however with the increased demand for raw materials it is inevitable that sacrifices will have to be made. There are many resources on the ocean floor which are of interest to us, including gold and copper as well as rare-earth minerals.

This increase in demand is mainly due to the increased demand in the developing countries such as China and India. Many of the rare earth elements (the name is misleading as they are not overly rare) are found in particularly high concentrations on that ocean floor.

These rare earth elements are heavily used in modern technology such as in phones, televisions and many touch screen displays.

There has currently been no commercial mining of the sea floor at depths greater than 200m, yet the proposed mining go over 500m deep.

This will require far more advanced mining equipment than is currently used, however, various private companies insist that the technology is sufficiently developed and available.

A real point of concern is that mining may cause the extinction of unique species. Hydrothermal vents are home to a vast number of species, many of which have not yet been categorised.

Then again, if it does go ahead, which seems likely, deep sea mining will become a major industry, potentially employing hundreds of thousands of people, particularly beneficial in today's economic climate.

As well as this, a new way of extracting natural resources will result in a price decrease and cheaper consumer electronics.

Clearly a balance needs to be struck between obtaining the resources we need and the damage that it will cause to the ecosystems. But given industry's dependence on these minerals, not mining the ocean floor is becoming less and less viable.

Currently, 17 licenses have been issued to allow companies to prospect for minerals. It seems likely that this venture will go through and deep sea mining will become a reality.



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# Business

## The route into Law School

**Fergus Nolan** on how to maximise your chances of getting into law school

The route to becoming a lawyer can be a very daunting one, requiring considerable time and financial investment. This article aims to offer prospective lawyers some basic understanding of the path to becoming a lawyer (more specifically a solicitor) whilst also looking at the application process.

I spoke to Chris Wilkinson, employability tutor for York Law School, who answered some general questions regarding the legal profession. Providing useful insights and thoughts on the application process, Chris helps shed some light on issues which prospective lawyers might be concerned about:

**What is the standard route to becoming a solicitor?**

This process differs between law and non-law graduates but for the most part they are very similar. For non-law students they must first complete their degree then undertake a conversion course known as the Graduate Diploma in Law.

They will then be required to complete the Legal Practice Course followed by a two-year training contract with a law firm which is essentially professional work experience. The process is the same with law graduates however they do not need to do the GDL and so will qualify a year before non-law graduates.

**Is there any advantage to studying law over a non-law degree?**

Although some might think it's better to have studied law, there really is no distinct advantage. Most law firms nowadays do not have any particular preference as to what a candidate studies.

If there is a high (or sufficient) level of academic achievement in



**There is stiff competition to gain two-year training contracts with law firms from law and non-law graduates**

their application, firms do not tend to be disinterested. In fact, it is often seen as a benefit to have completed a non-law degree as it demonstrates wider knowledge and experience, but each degree has its own advantages.

*Each firm often has its own criteria for applicants, but what might make one CV more appealing than another?*

With numerous amounts of applications each year, firms need a way to sift through qualified candidates so academics become very important. Aside from grades, there are a few things which do appeal to firms. Legal work experience is certainly worth engaging in as it firstly evidences a genuine interest in the profession but also highlights knowledge of the working environment.

It also provides students with a greater awareness of what a law

career is like, helping to reinforce whether it is something they want to pursue. Other types of work experience can also look favourably on

**“ Although some might think it's better to have studied law, there really is no distinct advantage ”**

a CV, as firms essentially want to see that you are able to balance work and extra-curricular activities.

Further to this, any societies or sports clubs you join can help applications as it proves you have other interests and are not confined solely to studying.

*If you don't manage to gain a training contract, what would be a good way to spend the year?*

There tends to be three main

options: further study, work or travel. Doing a masters can aid applications, but nowadays firms tend to prefer that it focuses on a particular area of law such as commercial or intellectual property. However, all firms are different so it is worth emailing them directly if you are unsure.

Working is another good option especially if you are able to go into an industry that links to law; for instance working for a bank if you have aspirations of later becoming a commercial lawyer.

Of course, there is no reason why you can't go travelling, but it might be worth structuring the year so you have some professional exposure at some point for rather than 12 months travelling. Each firm is different though, so it is important to properly research them and see what they might find appealing in candidates.

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## Red hot ice cream price

**Alastair Ellerington**  
DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

The sparse days of recent summer has now officially arrived, and if the remarkable change in TV adverts is anything to go by, we can expect a general price inflation for all things plastic, colourful and vaguely relevant to a beach scene.

Most notable though is the yearly trend of increasing ice cream prices. Earlier this year British tourists were charged £54 for four ice creams in a Rome gelateria, whilst last year Time Magazine's reported on 'The Summer of the \$5 Ice Cream'. This was preceded by record high prices of raw ingredients in 2004.

Statistics New Zealand offers a useful insight into just how dramatic these changes have been. Between March 1981 and September 2010, ice blocks rose in price by 768 per cent, whilst novelty ice cream prices rose by 581 per cent. This reads for a staggering average annual rise of 7.6 per cent and 6.7 per cent respectively. Meanwhile, New Zealand's annual inflation rate has been consistently below 5 per cent - hovering generally around 3 per cent - since 1991.

So is the consumer being ripped off? The Time Magazine article disagrees, highlighting the original causes of the \$5 ice cream, linking it mainly to bad harvests. Rising global demand for sugar is quoted alongside milk, which since 2000 has risen at farmgate prices from 18p per litre to 28p, though inflation can account for most of this.

Moreover, it's clear that whether in New Zealand, the US or the UK, the price of ice cream cannot be simply due to bad harvests or inflation. Rising demand globally was to blame, but 'SNZ' further notes most increases have come since the recession.

The increased price can also be attributed to changing trends, as consumers are increasingly willing to shell out for higher quality, premium brands.

Students seeking respite during exams can thus expect to pay more (and not just because they're buying from Costcutter).



## Business Bitesize



MARK RAMSAY



KENJON BROWN



Rachel Webster

**T**he Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) has announced that it will cut 1,400 jobs over the next two years as it continues to restructure its operations. The beleaguered bank, 81% state owned, has already slashed thousands of jobs since it was rescued. Ross McEwan, CEO of UK Retail, said: "To serve our customers well we have to ensure that our resources are focused on the things that matter most to them. That is why we are investing £700m in the next three years in new and improving services. Regrettably, we can only do that by restructuring". The Unite union described the cuts as "brutal", warning of the impact that the cuts will have on local economies and customer service. Since the beginning of the year, RBS, HSBC, Barclays and Lloyds have announced plans to slash around 6,900 jobs; prompting fears of an impending jobs crisis.

**M**orrison's, the UK's fourth-biggest grocer finally joins the online shopping revolution after its recent annual sales figures suffered from the absence of a home delivery service. Morrison's is the only big four supermarket that doesn't sell food online, a market which is forecast to double in size to sales of £11.1bn by 2017. The new deal with Ocado is thought to be worth £170m over 25 years, yet poses an ominous threat of legal action from fellow supermarket giant Waitrose. Since 2001, Waitrose has provided a 40 per cent cash injection to the Bradford based grocery firm, which by 2014 will be almost entirely Morrisons branded. Shares in Ocado have rocketed by more than a quarter, as the deal strengthens its previously weak balance sheet in one-fell swoop and gives it funding to invest heavily in technology and its delivery service.

**D**ell has reported a 79 per cent slide in net profit, underlining a fall in personal computers sales as more consumers shift to smartphones and tablets. Net profits fell to \$130 million (£85 million) in three months and revenue declined by 2 per cent to \$14 billion. The founder of the software giant, Michael Dell, is battling against activist investors to take the company private. The man who started Dell from a college dorm room wants to privatize the firm for \$24.4 billion, arguing that its transformation into a provider of enterprise computing services is best done away from public scrutiny. Two of the company's largest shareholders have proposed a rival bid which offers shareholders \$12-a-share, whilst keeping the company public. This dispute has given rise to the formation of a committee to analyse the private equity deal and the other bids.

ROBOPPY

# Amazon shopping for Apps

Jonathan Legrand

Among the many rumours orbiting Amazon's new products, the ones concerning its new smartphone seem the most credible. Apple's usual subcontractors - including Pegatron and Foxconn - have already been contacted about building such a device, and the production of a new smartphone seems to be the most logical and lucrative next step for the internet giant following its successful break into the Android tablet market.

However, it can be seen that the Android smartphone market is even more competitive. At Google's recent I/O conference, it was revealed that 900 million devices use Android as their operating system, with 48 million app downloads on Google Play (the virtual store set as default on all Android devices).

In addition to this, Amazon faces stiff competition in the form of the new Samsung Galaxy S4 smartphone, which will be available on Google Play for \$640 (£421). Moreover, Google has decided to release some of its services - such as Google Hangout, and Sementique Search - to non-Android devices, in an effort to branch out and challenge Apple's FaceTime and Siri services. Moves like this make it ever more difficult for Amazon to persuade potential customers to buy their products over others.

But the news from Google is not all doom and gloom for Amazon; as Google revealed some new software gifts that will soon be available on all Android devices. These include:

- Google Games - a multi-platform interface that will allow multiplayer gamers to switch between computer, Android and/or Apple's iOS devices without interrupting the game play.

- Play Music All Access, a 'radio on demand' store working under paid registrations ranging from \$9.99 to \$7.99. This allows users to download some songs and listen to them offline, hunting for customers on Spotify's land.

- An ameliorated cloud storage space for high resolution photos -



Amazon's 3D smartphone promises to revolutionise the industry

this has an automatic filter that repairs, on its own, all the small exposition, cropping or/and luminosity errors as soon as a user uploads his/her photos.

- Augmented Google Maps (looking more and more like Google Earth). This app gives the possibility to switch to a 3D view and see clouds' movements and traffic infor-

**“Amazon face stiff competition in the form of the new Samsung Galaxy S4 smartphone”**

mation live. The app will also 'learn' about its users over time, resulting in tailored recommendations suited to each individual.

Even with such a solid background and reputation, Amazon could give birth to unsuccessful products. As a result, the com-

pany has decided to try and override the Android software by allowing users to use Amazon application, films and games without the use of Google Play. This unique selling point might attract some customers, but more could be required to truly stand out amongst the competition.

According to the *Wall Street Journal*, Amazon will be presenting two new smartphone models, one of which promises to revolutionize the industry. Specifically, this model will possess a revolutionary interface and an autonomous 3D screen (without the use of special 3D glasses). Furthermore, the device will rely on users' eye movements for internal navigation (similar to recent innovations in Samsung's new smartphone, the Galaxy S4).

If Amazon truly plans on releasing a new 3D smartphone and counts on its user's eyes to control it, this ambition from the creator of the Kindle could consist of too much of a risk.

# The rise of student crowdfunding

**Jasbir Norris**  
BUSINESS EDITOR

At a time of economic gloom, low employment prospects and stagnant credit, the outlook for students entering the job market looks bleak. In this situation, combined with increasing cuts in support agencies and organisations that provide a kick start, student entrepreneurs are ever more turning towards crowdfunding the funds they need.

## What is crowdfunding?

Crowdfunding refers to the collective effort of individuals who pool their money to finance projects and ideas. In these markets, an individual can propose an idea that requires funding, and third parties can contribute funds to support the idea. Typically, these projects receive relatively modest contributions

from a large group of individuals, and are conducted online through dedicated crowdfunding platforms. PleaseFund.Us is one such platform, currently working with a variety of universities and projects to kick-start student enterprise.

## What ideas are 'crowdfundable'?

The beauty of crowdfunding lies in its breadth - any project or idea can be crowdfunded, regardless of size or scope. Whether you are an entrepreneur with the next big idea or an individual looking to raise money for a charity, crowdfunding platforms provide the perfect opportunity to gain maximum exposure and engage with potential investors.

## What is the process?

The process at PleaseFund.Us is very simple, consisting of two steps. Firstly, a video pitch is made. This

is the first thing that individuals see upon viewing the project, and is an essential selling tool to entice potential investors to invest.

The second part is deciding

**“Crowdfunding refers to the collective efforts of individuals who pool their money to finance projects and ideas”**

'pledge rewards' - what is offered to financial backers in return for their pledge. These play a huge part of any crowdfunding project and can take many forms; including products, experiences, acknowledgements and accreditations.

# What does the future hold for Hollande?

Harry Ashcroft

In early May last year, the newly elected French President was enjoying his first month in office following the defeat of Nicholas Sarkozy, the first incumbent to lose office since Valery Giscard d'Estaing in 1981.

But what of the hope and exultation that followed him to the highest office in the French republic? Could such a political style ever be expected to maintain such momentum? Was his election based upon the extreme apathy held towards UMP, or is this more serious?

In the age of deficits, austerity and 'being all in this together', is this the first real crisis of the 'Plan B', and the Keynesian approach to the worldwide crisis of debt that we find ourselves in? The French economy is now in recession, and that recession is not the legacy of his right wing predecessor, but of the policies enacted (or not enacted) during his time in office.

Approval ratings give Hollande a 75 per cent disapproval, with his first year in office marked not by radical reform, but protest and a perception of inaction. This fact can be best demonstrated through the rejection of his landmark 70 per cent plus taxation on the wealthiest by the constitutional courts.

Whilst France has deep seated social problems, worsened by massive economic polarity across the political spectrum, this cannot really be an excuse for the French president. Hollande's Socialist Party last year won both legislative houses on top of the presidency, a mandate far beyond the political achievements of his year in office.

Hollande may be forgiven seeing as his presidency is still young, yet with regular press announcements declaring the intentions of himself and of his party, one begs the question, with such a mandate why would he do so little?

I believe Hollande cannot truly enact a Keynesian remedy to France's deficit crisis, simply because of the sheer size and scale of

the Republic's fiscal problems. Not only does France have a comparative fiscal deficit to the UK, but is also trapped in the European Economic Community's Fiscal Pact, a last laugh from Nicholas Sarkozy and everyone else removed from the French political sphere in 2012.

By having to maintain a deficit no bigger than 3 per cent of his budget, Hollande can do little to stimulate the economy through spending, and with his tax rises currently on hold, what remains is the stark lack of support for private enterprise. This, alongside the broken promise of public investment, does not bode well for the recovery.

Hollande's mantra focused on the role of the public sector in the revival of the French economy, yet both reality and the laws governing the Eurozone have stopped that. To save France, himself and his presidency, Hollande must be bold and remove himself from the political inertia he has found himself in.

PARTI SOCIALISTE



sults. The potential benefits for student entrepreneurs and fundraisers are innumerable, and with all things considered, crowdfunding is sure to catch on.

WAYNE LARGE



# Sport

&gt;&gt; Pages 27-28

Reports from Monday's College Cup action, as James firsts continue their fine form



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## PARK LIFE

**George Barrett**  
 SPORTS EDITOR

**A**t a time when heads are starting to explode because of exams, the College Cup has gripped campus in a way that I never realised it would.

As a first year, I must say that I was a little surprised by the build-up that surrounds this event. I have spent many a cold morning over the past two terms covering college football or rugby, bemused by the general lack of interest people take in the grass leagues. Now I understand why.

There is nothing quite like the College Cup. With passion, romance, drama and the lot, York exposed the sad truth that modern British football currently faces. There is no national equivalent to it.

**“College Cup is everything the grass leagues are not, and everything we want the national cups to be”**

What about the FA Cup or the League Cup? I hear you cry! But lucrative TV revenues and Champions League places mean that the league takes precedent year in, year out. In some ways, that is a great thing. The 2011-12 season was breathtaking, but this year it was not.

Let's be honest, in comparison to the national league, no one really cares about the cups. If I were to offer Wigan a place back in the Premier League in exchange for their FA Cup win this season, they would jump at the chance. That's not to say that winning the FA Cup wasn't a big deal (it was) but they would be better off in the top flight next season than in the Championship.

Of course, there's nothing that can change this. So let us take a rare moment to enjoy a knockout cup that is greater than our leagues.

The support is testament to this. On day one of the College Cup an army of Langwith supporters popped over from Hes East to support their firsts whilst having a barbecue beside the JLD. They far outnumbered the Langwith support that had gone down to the 3G over the Christmas and Easter terms combined in just one afternoon.

And the players seem to care a lot more. I frequently hear subs on the side of the pitch determined to score a winning goal in order to improve their Fantasy Football stats. We don't get that in the league either. Added to this, social networking sites have exploded with gossip and banter. It won't be long before some bright spark sets up a 'Spotted' page for it.

As a reporter, this is a joy to see. My impression of College Cup thus far is that it is everything the grass leagues are not, and everything we would love the national cups to be.

And long may it last!

# Sun debate missed the point



### **SPORT COMMENT**

**Jules Delay**

**A**s I write this article, I am aware of the shrapnel I am about to bring down around my head, the prospective comments I am likely to receive for breaching this topic. But for me, the criticism is worth it because I want to bring up an issue that I think is worth raising and one that was noticed primarily by a female friend of mine from this university who comes from Liverpool – that in a recent YUSU Referendum, feminism got in the way of a more serious issue that should have

been raised.

I am talking about the debate over whether YUSU should keep selling the Sun. The debate might be over, but in my view, the arguments within it missed the most important point: Hillsborough.

In 1989, 96 people died at the Hillsborough stadium in Sheffield. The immediate aftermath saw the Sun report and help fabricate an elaborate story to present the incident as being the supporters fault, and not that of the police. 116 different police reports were altered; the Chief Superintendent directly accused Liverpool fans of causing the

tragedy, and a lie was woven using the Sun as the primary outlet. The Sun claimed under a headline "THE TRUTH", that fans had been drunk, urinated on police officers, violated dead bodies and stolen from those dying and injured around them. None of this was true.

One of the greatest smear-ups in media history? Probably.

Kelvin Mackenzie, the sickening editor who oversaw these lies being published and reported, only gave a pathetic excuse for an apology 20 years later, after previously repeating he hadn't done any wrong. 'The Scum', as its better known in

Liverpool, is sold at almost no newsagents, and Liverpool FC refuse to publish any of its articles through its website.

So where does YUSU come into all this? The question over the Sun's sale came up in a recent referendum. As I read the arguments for and against the motion, I was shocked as not one part of any of the four different statements even mentioned the Hillsborough tragedy as a reason that we shouldn't be selling it. Instead, the debate was centred solely on whether or not page three girls were a problem.

As much as people will hate me for saying it, feminism should have taken a back seat on this one. I'm not saying there is anything wrong with feminism, far from it, but in this specific case I feel that it got in the way of a bigger issue, and of what the debate should have been.

It is my view that the importance of page three girls is insignificant compared to one of the greatest sporting disasters this country has seen, which saw the government and media collaborate to form a despicable lie.

The debate should have been over Hillsborough, not whether page three is indecent. Whether we should sell something which caused that misery and humiliation with their lies is the question, not whether a girl can expose herself for money. Feminism, and perhaps YUSU's obsession with it, in this case blocked what mattered the most in that referendum.

Does this come under a bigger issue? Is feminism getting too much student media and YUSU attention? I don't know, I'm not qualified to say and that's not what this article is about. All I can say honestly is that for me personally, YUSU and that referendum missed the point completely.

# Boxing Club set for first exhibition night

**George Barrett**  
 SPORTS EDITOR

ON SATURDAY 15 June the Boxing Club are hosting the University's first ever live exhibition sparring night. There will be 12 bouts that will utilise boxing or thai boxing.

Doors to the Roger Kirk Centre, where the event is being hosted, will open from 17.45 with the first fight expected to commence at 18.30, the final fight will finish at 22.30.

All tickets will get a free Kuda wristband on arrival at the event which will then allow free entry to the official after party before midnight.

All competitors will be from York, with guests from the Chokdee gym.

The event is aimed at promoting the sport and the club, and demonstrating the club's work to the University. The club will not announce winners publicly. Instead,

winners will be announced back stage.

Club Vice President Oli Whear has said that the club "are proud to announce both sexes [will be allowed to compete] and that a few different countries will be represented in the event!"

On the night of the event there will be a raised fight ring, with full lighting and audio, and the room will be lit blue and red with dazzling white light over the ring.

The club are in communication with other societies to perform during the 30 minute intervals, however, nothing has been confirmed yet and the club are taking a variety of offers.

There will also be a DJ from Breakz who will be providing music on the night. The Lounge Bar will be open throughout the event as well.

Whear was quick to thank YUSU. "I cannot begin to express how supportive and enthusiastic

[YUSU] have been!" he told *Nouse*.

"Kerry Schneider the health and safety officer has helped lift the club and allowed us to carry ourselves as one of the larger sports clubs with 150 members."

"YUSU President Kallum Tay-



Members from the Boxing and MMA Clubs will be competing in the Roger Kirk Centre

lor and Charlotte Winter, YUSU Sport's President, have done wonders promoting the event so far, Kallum has even decided to join the club!

"The event is going to be a spectacular exhibition and I want to get as many clubs involved as possible. Breakz are giving us music, MMA are competing and Medsoc are pro-

viding physicals!

"I've even been contacted by Tom Day, Film and Television Production Student, as he wants to make a video of the night!"

"If any performing society would like to get involved please do not hesitate to email the boxing club."

"As lead organiser I am open to ideas and am 100% committed to giving as many members of our student community the chance to show their talents."

Boxing Club president Wilson Lui commented, "It is a unique event for the university and will be the first ever competition for the club."

"I hope this will be the first event of many and I hope that we can demonstrate the high level athleticism and sportsmanship within the boxing and MMA community. Please feel free to come along to the boxing club!"



# Alcuin secure top spot in Group A

**Beth Jakubowski**  
SPORTS EDITOR

ON A boiling hot JLD, Alcuin firsts took on Halifax seconds, with Alcuin in a strong position at the top of their College Hockey Cup table.

It was a definitive 6-2 victory for Alcuin, who have put in a number of impressive performances in Group A over the weeks.

It was a cagey opening few minutes, with Alcuin making several errors and giving Halifax a chance to build pressure.

But Alcuin were soon into their stride, with captain, Dave Washington making a lovely run showing excellent vision.

It wasn't long before Alcuin converted their pressure and possession into a goal. Ruth Mason flicked the ball into the net after a good build up to give Alcuin a 1-0 lead.

Alcuin were defending brilliantly, with Washington marshalling his troops excellently.

Alex Wilson slotted another past Halifax after Washington gifted him a lovely ball down the length of the pitch. Wilson was left to slot the ball into the net with ease.

Halifax were able to pull one goal back, but it was a mere consolation as Alcuin started to score with ease.

Robin Willows put Tiffany Deans-Green through on goal twice in quick succession to make it 4-1 to the team in red.

A cracking strike from Willows smashed into the post in the dying minutes of the first half and Washington made a fantastic last ditch tackle to deny Halifax.

At half time it was 4-1 to Alcuin and Halifax needed something special to snatch a point.

The start of the second half was fairly uneventful with neither side looking like scoring a goal. Alcuin's Nick Yates finally made the breakthrough though, as Alcuin started to look very threatening.

Deans-Green was on hand to score her hat-trick, as Alcuin started to make everything look easy. They were defending brilliantly and attacking with spirit, making it very clear why they are league leaders.

Halifax were able to score a late consolation goal through Graeme Osborn, but the game was already over.

Alcuin had been in fine form all afternoon and despite Halifax's best efforts, they appeared unstoppable.

In other matches in Group A, James firsts held off a spirited Goodricke thirds 6-4. But the Goodricke firsts were on hand to beat Langwith seconds 7-4.

Next week Alcuin firsts will take on Derwent's second team and will look to extend their lead at the top of the table. Halifax will face Langwith seconds who will be hoping to bounce back from their defeat at the hands of Goodricke firsts.

Elsewhere in Group A, there will be a crucial clash between James firsts and Goodricke 1sts, with both sides hoping to make up some ground.

But as it stands, Alcuin are top of Group A with 12 points, while Goodricke firsts and James firsts sit in second and third respectively with nine and six points apiece.

# Derwent defeated in James clash

**Beth Jakubowski**  
SPORTS EDITOR

IN A tense clash in Group B of the College Hockey Cup, James seconds were victorious over Derwent firsts.

James won with a decisive 9-5 margin and a multitude of goals from Hugh Markham and a fantastic performance from Jambo Talbot ensured them the win.

It was a fiesty and fierce affair, but it was Derwent who were on top first through Chris Daniel, who was in excellent form throughout the match.

James were pressing well however, and were only denied by some fine defending from Simon Varley and Phil Hammick.

But James soon equalised through Talbot, after a very impressive build up. The game was poised at 1-1 but James were starting to look dangerous. Markham was on hand to score his first, he beat Varley with ease to the delight of his teammates.

But the see-saw nature of this clash saw Derwent equalise moments later through Chris Daniel again. Derwent were ahead moments later, before a frantic few minutes of play saw Briony Peters score a fantastic goal to make it 3-3.

James were incredibly aggressive on the counter attack but were running into some great Derwent defending from Hammick who was turning in a captain's performance.

However Peters was on fire and was through on goal for James to make the score 4-3.

There was tension and controversy in the

run up to half time, a nasty collision between Talbot and Hammick saw tempers start to fray and the umpire was forced to speak to the captains in order to calm things down.

The whistle blew for half time with the match delicately poised at 4-3 to James and both sides had everything to play for in the second half.

But it was not to be for Derwent in the second half, as James re-grouped to score two goals in quick succession to make it 6-3.

Chris Daniel dragged one back for Derwent and a lovely piece of defending from Anna Cook ensured Derwent stayed in the game.

The absence of several Derwent key players was telling as Markham and Talbot were both able to extend the score line in James' favour. At 9-4 to James and with them dominating the match, Derwent scored a late consolation goal through Varley.

Daniel slotted a pass through to Varley who stuck the ball assuredly into the net. But it was too little too late for Derwent as the match finished 9-5 to James.

Elsewhere, Vanbrugh firsts beat Alcuin seconds 8-1. Halifax firsts were able to beat Goodricke seconds with a decisive scoreline of 7-3 to send them to the top of Group B.

Next week, James will be taking on Alcuin seconds and Derwent will be hoping to bounce back against Goodricke seconds. The highlight in next week's fixture list for Group B will be the clash between Vanbrugh firsts and Langwith firsts.

Derwent firsts now lie in second place in the Group B while James seconds are third.

## Sport

# College Cup: The Story So Far

### Group A

Team	Pl.	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts.
Halifax 1sts	3	3	0	0	11	0	11	9
Langwith 1sts	3	1	1	1	5	5	0	4
Derwent 3rds	3	1	1	1	4	4	0	4
Wentworth 2nds	3	1	0	2	4	10	-6	3
James 3rds	3	0	2	1	2	4	-2	2
Alcuin 2nds	3	0	2	1	2	5	-3	2

### Group B

Team	Pl.	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts.
James 1sts	4	4	0	0	28	1	27	12
Vanbrugh 2nds	4	3	0	1	6	5	1	9
Derwent 2nds	4	2	1	1	10	3	7	7
Wentworth 1sts	4	2	0	2	13	10	3	6
Alcuin 3rds	4	0	1	3	1	15	-14	1
Goodricke 3rds	4	0	0	4	0	24	-24	0

Three weeks into College Cup 2013, the Nouse Sport team pick some of their highlights from the tournament so far....

Honourable mention should also go to Derwent seconds for their 5-0 win over Wentworth firsts.

#### Best Save

**Kallum Taylor, Vanbrugh 3rds vs Goodricke 1sts.** Taylor pulled off a beauty of a save with the scores poised at 0-0, as Dalton Harris put in a cross for Dan Gorringe to head towards the top corner from close range. The YUSU President dived at full stretch to tip the shot over the bar. It was all in vain however, as Vanbrugh went on to lose 3-0.



#### Best Goal

**Tom Chadwick, Alcuin 1sts vs Halifax 2nds.** The UYRUFC fly-half turned Alcuin striker conjured up a moment of magic to give his side the lead. Coming onto a Will Dodgson pass on the left hand touchline, Chadwick struck a curling effort from 25 yards first time that nestled beautifully into the top corner and earned a deserved round of applause from the crowd.

#### Most Controversial Moment

**Vanbrugh 1sts vs Derwent 1sts.** This match was one controversy after another, but Derwent's opening 'goal' will go down as one of the most bizarre moments in College Cup history.

After just three games, James striker Tom Clarke had broken the record for most College Cup goals in a season, and looks certain to become Fantasy Football's highest ever scorer.

**12**  
Tom Clarke

**6**  
Connor McCoy  
James Davies

**3**  
Osborne, Jopson,  
Green, Garness,  
Kirk, Martin

**2**

Teams yet to concede a goal - Halifax and Goodricke 1sts

**10**

Games where more than five goals have been scored

**24**

Number of clean sheets kept so far

**56**

Highest score in Fantasy Football - Tom Clarke

### Group C

Team	Pl.	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts.
Goodricke 1sts	3	3	0	0	8	0	8	9
Halifax 2nds	3	2	1	0	12	1	11	5*
Alcuin 1sts	3	1	1	1	4	3	1	4
Vanbrugh 3rds	3	1	0	2	4	8	-4	3
Langwith 2nds	3	1	0	2	2	13	-11	3
Wentworth 3rds	3	0	0	3	3	8	-5	0

\*Halifax 2nds docked 2 points

### Group D

Team	Pl.	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts.
Vanbrugh 1sts	3	3	0	0	6	1	5	9
Derwent 1sts	3	2	0	1	13	2	11	6
James 2nds	3	2	0	1	11	2	9	6
Halifax 3rds	3	1	1	1	3	7	-4	4
Langwith 3rds	3	0	1	2	1	17	-16	1
Goodricke 2nds	3	0	0	3	1	6	-5	0

### Davies leads Fantasy Football

HIS TEAM have been the star performers of College Cup so far, and James Davies is maintaining that form in Fantasy Football, sitting top of the table.

At time of writing, the James midfielder's team has amassed a whopping 204 points, largely down to the contributions of Davies himself and his teammate Tom Clarke, each of whom have broken the 50 point barrier. Davies' team is further enhanced by the presence of Connor McCoy, the third highest scoring player - had McCoy been registered to play for Halifax firsts and seconds then he would have

another four goals to add to his already impressive tally.

Davies' team is closely followed by two others who have passed 200 points, *Hardly Athletic* and *I love Taylor Swift*. With almost two weeks of the group stage still to go and the knockout stages of the Cup afterwards, there is still plenty of time for things to change. But right now it looks like anyone without Clarke and Davies will struggle to top the table.



### Top Scorers

**12**

Tom Clarke

**6**

Connor McCoy  
James Davies

**3**

Osborne, Jopson,  
Green, Garness,  
Kirk, Martin

### Top Assists

All data is taken from Fantasy Football. Players are only given goals and assists for the highest team they are registered for. Data correct as of Monday 27 May.

# Derwent demolish Goodricke

AGATHA TORRANCE



Derwent seconds put Goodricke thirds to the sword on a sunny and bright JLD on Monday afternoon with John Garness and Ryan Gwinnett scoring

## Derwent 2nds 3 Goodricke 3rds 0

**Beth Jakubowski**  
SPORTS EDITOR

DERWENT SECONDS brushed aside Goodricke thirds on the JLD yesterday. A brace from John Garness and a fantastic solo effort from Ryan Gwinnett sealed an impressive victory for the men in blue.

Three goals in the first half was enough for Derwent to sail past Goodricke. A nightmare opening 15 minutes for Goodricke saw Derwent take a rapid 2-0 lead.

Garness opened the scoring for Derwent with a lovely strike from 20 yards out. The ball sailed into the net and nestled in the bottom left corner to the delight of the Derwent players.

Some shoddy defending from Goodricke allowed Garness a sec-

ond only minutes later. A well-placed cross from Mashasi Novaki allowed Garness to place a lofted shot over the leaping keeper to put Derwent 2-0 up.

Goodricke gathered themselves soon after the second goal. Captain Dan Weston was on hand to produce a cracking free-kick that forced a brilliant save from Frank Woodcock.

But Derwent's third came soon after, Gwinnett making a lovely turn

in the box before shrugging off the Goodricke defence and giving himself room to bury his strike into the net.

Derwent's domination continued with a visionary run from Massashi Nozaki, who crossed the ball into Garness but his shot was just shy of the post. Derwent went into half-time 3-0 up but the second half failed to produce the thrills of the first half. Jack Fisher made a good attempt on goal with a lofted

strike that went just over the bar.

Goodricke's best chance of the match came soon after, with Smalley taking a lethal free-kick that was whipped into the box. Weston leapt up to head it goalwards but his effort was inches shy.

A moment of hilarity ensued when an ecstatic Karbani thought Goodricke had scored and he cheered wildly from his goal before realising that Weston's attempt had missed. Matthew Elvin tried his luck to give Derwent a fourth but his free-kick sailed high over the bar. Woodcock produced another very good save to deny Goodricke who were growing in confidence as the match went on.

Karbani went on to pull off an incredible save, he came out to Alex Nock in an attempt to block his shot but somehow managed to scramble back to make a fantastic diving save to prevent Joe Eyles from scoring.

The game trickled out to a 3-0 victory for Derwent, and Goodricke captain Weston said after the game, "I thought we played really well, in the first couple of minutes we made a couple of really silly mistakes. But then we got ourselves back together, and after that I thought we were well in the game. We had a few good chances, everyone knows we've had a bit of a rough time, we haven't scored in two college cups. But we're getting better with every game and I think the goal is coming. We were without seven players today, so we did well."

Derwent's Gwinnett spoke afterwards saying, "It was a game of two halves, but we're over the moon and we're happy to come away with the three points."

Derwent:	Goodricke:
Woodcock, High-land, Eyles, Schoenmaker, Fisher, Elvin, Gwinnett, Sheahan, Nozaki, Garness, Moro. Sub: Nock.	Karbani, Bourlet, Hancock, Cotttingham, Smalley, Fuller, Enzo, Weston, Campbell, Bradshaw, Ashraf.
<b>Derwent MOTM:</b> Joe Eyles	
<b>Goodricke MOTM:</b> Zain Karbani	

# Wentworth brush aside Alcuin in six goal rout

## Wentworth 1sts 6 Alcuin 3rds 0

**Aaron Stennett**  
DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR

WENTWORTH FIRSTS brushed aside a plucky Alcuin thirds side, in a display which saw them slam home six goals in the second half in a sunny fixture on the JLD.

Wentworth, who could well have scored more had it not been for some backs-to-the-wall defending from Alcuin, now hope to kick on in a campaign which has seen them struggling in fourth place in their group.

The match began with Wentworth settling into possession immediately, pressing high up the pitch.

Whilst Alcuin struggled to clear

their lines, Wentworth initially failed to put in the crucial final ball needed to pull ahead.

Winger Dan Bawdon started particularly brightly, causing trouble for the Alcuin defence on the left hand side of the pitch.

Bawdon's low cross found its way to captain Dom Green, who could not get his shot away before a block came in.

Alcuin were barely hanging on, with corner after corner being awarded to the postgrads. Greg Harrison came closest at this point, with an audacious volley being dragged wide.

As the second half of the match began, an air of inevitability began to grow, as Wentworth piled the pressure onto the beleaguered Alcuin defense.

After a tidy save from a Greg

Thurloway, Taube, Carney, Pickar Quintana, Bentham (Nixon), Shine, Chambers, Page, Davey, Pearce. **Alcuin MOTM:** Dylan Chambers **Wentworth MOTM:** Tim Martin

way, the busiest player on the pitch, Wentworth finally got their goal.

As the ball broke loose for Tim Martin, he curled the ball past the goalkeeper and high into the net, to give the postgrads the lead.

After this point, the floodgates opened up, as Alcuin began to push further up the pitch as they attempted to chase the game, creating space at the back.

Martin got his and Wentworth's second, after a scramble from a cor-

ner. Target man Green was next in on the act, with a tidy finish after a Harrison cross.

In the midst of all this Wentworth destruction, James Pearce had a rare Alcuin chance, being released down the right wing, but dragging his shot wide of the far post.

The goal of the game promptly followed. Defender Ben Keane sliced the ball forward from the back and Green, with his back to goal, turned and volleyed the ball from thirty yards. The ball rocketed past keeper Thurloway, crushing all of the resistance left in Alcuin.

The sixth and final goal came from Green again, whose shot was brilliantly saved by Thurloway. The rebound unfortunately fell straight to Vasileios Kourvelos, who had the simple task of tapping in.

Wentworth ended the match

as comfortable 6-0 winners for the second game in succession after beating Goodricke on Friday.

Alcuin's Jacob Burge was quick to point out Alcuin were "missing players, and our regular captain" for the match. Burge was confident Alcuin could "come back and win the Plate" later in the term.

Wentworth skipper Dom Greene was satisfied with his side's display. "We really emphasized playing out from the back," he commented.

"Credit to the Alcuin defense and goalkeeper, they were fantastic. In the end our fitness really showed in the second half."

Alcuin thirds are now a distant fifth in Group B. But Wentworth firsts are now fourth and are five points clear of Alcuin.

As a result, Wentworth will at least qualify for the Plate.

# Sport

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AGATHA TORRANCE



AGATHA TORRANCE

## Boxing

We talk to the Boxing Club about their upcoming exhibition night

>> Page 24



## College Sport

Match reports on Sunday's hockey and Monday's football clashes on the JLD

>> Pages 25-27



# James hit four past Vanbrugh to maintain winning streak

**James 1sts 4**  
**Vanbrugh 2nds 0**

**Dan Holland**  
DEPUTY EDITOR

JAMES FIRSTS secured top spot in Group B and progression to the College Cup quarter finals with a 4-0 win over Vanbrugh seconds yesterday.

Goals from Tom Clarke, Andrew Jopson and a James Davies double saw James continue their fine form in the group stage, though they were frustrated for large periods of the match and had to wait until the last ten minutes to secure the points.

After a quiet opening, James took the lead ten minutes into the game as Davies pounced on a loose

ball and ran through on goal. Vanbrugh keeper Tom Williams kept his shot out but Clarke was on hand to knock in the rebound for his 12th goal of the competition.

Having been in such scintillating attacking form in the past few weeks, James would have been expected to go on and win convincingly. But Vanbrugh were holding firm, providing James with their toughest test so far.

The seconds team had some good possession inside the James half but were never able to seriously trouble Luke Bradley's goal - a speculative long range volley from Jack Coy that sailed wide of the post was the closest they came to an equaliser before the break.

James returned for the second half with far more attacking intent about them. Clarke looped a volley

onto the roof of the net before seeing an ambitious chip held by Williams.

The Vanbrugh keeper was keeping his side in the game at this point, coming up with yet more saves to deny Davies and substitute Jopson from point-blank range.

*Inside >> Page 24*

**Jules Delay on why the Sun debate should have been about Hillsborough**

Clarke should have added his second goal; after Spurling's shot was tipped away, Davies squared it for Clarke, who sliced his effort over with the goal gaping.

Williams was producing a heroic performance between the

sticks, as Davies and Clarke tested him once again. But with Vanbrugh struggling to make an impression going forward, James' second goal was only a matter of time.

It arrived as the Vanbrugh defence failed to cut out a pass down the right, allowing Jopson to fire beyond the keeper and into the corner.

And, with the final whistle approaching, the floodgates finally opened. Clarke, whose game had so far been marked by an insistence on shooting at almost every opportunity, sent in a delightful cross from the left for Davies to head in unmarked at the back post.

Davies grabbed his second just after, Matt Bainbridge floating in a ball to the back post which Davies had time to control and smash into the top corner.

Adam Lewis still had time to fi-

nally test Luke Bradley at the other end, but James did run out comfortable winners as expected despite facing their toughest test yet.

Their captain Spurling told *Nouse* afterwards, "That's the first game when we've really been closed down in the middle of the park. We had to show a bit of grit, which was pleasing, and to get a clean sheet and a 4-0 win is really promising."

His Vanbrugh counterpart Dan Shepherd was satisfied with his side's display, saying, "For the first 45-50 minutes we were brilliant at closing them down. But we had to change our system chasing the game, and we've been beaten by a couple of mistakes and a couple of quality goals." Vanbrugh will still be favourites to claim second place, though, with Derwent second playing James next week.

**28.05.13**

*Nouse* is printed by Mortons of Horncastle Ltd, Media Centre, Morton Way, Horncastle, Lincs, LN96JR, UK  
For back copies, contact the JB Morrell Library, University of York, Heslington, York, YO10 5DD.

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