



“The C word’s twice as shocking,
but not half as flexible.”

Why you should take one look at life and just say... Fuck It >> M10-11



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NOUSE



Spring Term Week Six
Tuesday 12 February 2013
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University Welfare “run off their feet”

Laura Hughes
EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY of York Open Door Welfare service has come under criticism from the Student Union for failing to accommodate the number of students seeking support.

Bob Hughes, YUSU Welfare Officer told *Nouse*, “The student population at York has grown dramatically over the past few years, but without, in my mind, the equivalent growth in support services.”

Steve Page, Director of Student Support Services told *Nouse*, “We have very recently moved £2,000 into the Open Door budget to buy in some additional practitioner time for the remainder of this term.”

The University stated, “Investment in Student Support Services by the University has more than kept up with increased student numbers over the past decade. In 2003, there were roughly 7,500 students at the University and 14 staff working in Student Support Services.”

The University offers its Open Door Counselling Service alongside YUSU’s Advice and Support Centre, based in the Student Centre in James College, and the student-run information service Nightline.

Students have raised concerns over the time taken to receive an appointment with the Open Door Team.

One second year Politics student revealed, “I said I had been having stress related chest pains, they gave me an appointment two weeks away, two website addresses and didn’t ask if I would be OK until then. So it is a flawed system from the offset.”

In Autumn 2012, the Student Support Services monitored the

appointment system. This measured the minimum waiting times and first available appointments. It concluded, “At this stage it looks like a five working days (or better) target for 90% of the year should be realistic, if challenging.”

In 2013, there are 15,000 students and 35 staff in Student Support Services, so as student numbers have increased by 100 per cent, staff in Student Support Services has increased by 150 per cent.

Total numbers of students seen by the Open Door Team in 2011/12 was 1631, an increase of 25 per cent on the previous year.

In January, *Nouse* reported that the number of students reporting mental health issues to the University had doubled in the past five years.

In its annual report, Student Support Services cited, “challenges that have a direct impact on our work, examples of which include: The NHS mental health provision in the York area has been under increased pressure, with significant reductions in provision.”

As one consequence, it had, “been harder for students to access secondary support services, which may in part explain increasing numbers of students seeking support from the Open Door Team.”

Kallum Taylor, YUSU President told *Nouse*, “Our crisis management services are run off their feet. A genuine and large scale improvement to current provision here is needed.

“Letting student numbers rise and not having support services move with that is too risky a game.”

Tony Ward, Alcuin Provost stated, “In parallel with this

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growth there is also an increase in the incidence of more serious welfare issues, mainly those relating to mental health. This seems a result of increased pressure generally but also in improvements in diagnostics. All of these combined are certainly putting our systems under more pressure."

“Our crisis management services are run off their feet”

YUSU President
Kallum Taylor

"That said, the Open Door Team has grown in size to deal with their increased case load and the activity in certain Colleges has risen."

The University revealed the peak demand for services such as the Open Door Team is typically weeks 5-7 in the second term of each academic year.

In the summer of 2011, the Open Door Team was short-listed for the Times Higher Educa-

tion Outstanding Student Support Award, and later in the year, the Open Door Team was awarded a Vice Chancellor's Gold Award for promoting inclusivity.

Hughes commented, "Although they do an incredibly valuable job very well in most cases, it does mean that there are periods in the year when they are stretched, such as towards the mid-to-late part of the term, and that they generally suffer from not being able to do as much proactive work as they would like."

YUSU Welfare and the Student Support Services are planning on reviewing this in the next few months.

Jane Clarbour, Goodricke Provost told *Nouse*, "I have noticed an increasing number of students coming into contact with college welfare teams for support, which to me seems a greater number than might be expected even taking the recent expansion of the colleges into consideration."

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

"One of the most useful aspects

was the supplementary information and programmes of support that were suggested to me, which can be done in your own time and at your own pace."

One second year English Student, spoke critically of her experience of two of the counsellors at the Open Door team, "One seemed entirely uninterested in what I told her, condescended to me constantly, and rapidly moved me on to someone new when I made it clear that I had problems beyond slight academic anxiety."

A few weeks after leaving the service, the student was diagnosed with a major depressive disorder.

The University responded, "We do not comment on individual cases. All its counsellors are educated to graduate or post graduate level in counselling, and all have experience of working in higher education."

"There have been three complaints during the five years the service has been in existence."

One student stated, "I didn't know who to complain to and wasn't in the right place psychologically to deal with the stress of making an official complaint."

The University Health Centre is not part of the Student Support Services. One second year English Lit-

erature student told *Nouse*, "I went in to get the morning after pill at the Health Centre and they asked me if I had an appointment, to which I obviously replied no. Hence 'emergency contraception'."

"The member of staff behind the desk then said that I'd have to wait two weeks for an appointment if I wanted to get it there."

“I'm concerned to hear these complaints and will be working with Student Support to chase these up”

YUSU Welfare Officer
Bob Hughes

Hughes commented, "I'm concerned to hear some of these complaints, and I will be working with Student Support to chase these up."

One PhD student talked of her positive experience with the Open door service, "The open door team for me have been pro-active in ensuring that I have the appropriate support from my GP and have always been there should I find myself needing an extra helping hand."

Playwright returns to York for masterclass

Nick Payne, one of the UK's leading young playwrights, will return next week to conduct a masterclass at the University of York where he was a student just seven years ago. Payne was awarded the 2009 George Devine Award, the Harold Pinter Playwright's Award, and the 2012 Evening Standard Award for Constellations Nick Payne's masterclass takes place in the University's Department of Theatre, Film and Television on Heslington East on 13 February at 5.30pm.

Lakeside Way Re-Opens after flood

A temporary bus route was put in place last week to by-pass a damaged section of Lakeside Way between Hes East and main campus. The section of road had been prone to flooding which had caused extensive damage to the brick. In the mean time, buses were required to carefully move over a temporary road over what can be described as a bog, causing the road to sink. A bus was trapped last week in the mud, but the road re-opened that afternoon.

Delayed buses cause complaints

Dean Hickey, Goodricke Chair, has sent a letter to Fiona Macey, the University's Transport Plan Co-Ordinator, over student complaints that buses were becoming delayed. One first year student noted he had waited 50 minutes for a bus on a Monday afternoon and a Goodricke survey has suggested busses are irregularly on time. However, Macey has apologised on the company's behalf and promised to meet with Goodricke College students in the near future to discuss any issues. The buses have been running on time in the last few days.

Reporting by Harry Gallivan

Applications to York increase by 8.5%

Harry Gallivan
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

APPLICATIONS TO the University are up by 8.5 per cent for home students and 5 per cent for overseas students.

These figures have emerged despite the trebling of tuition fees by the coalition Government last year.

This is significantly better than the national average, as recently reported by UCAS. Over all there was a 3.5 per cent rise in applications for higher education boosted by a recovery in overseas students.

The figures are also a vast improvement from last year, where *Nouse* reported a 1.6 per cent fall in overall applicants for 2012 entry when compared with the previous year.

"Whilst these figures definitely offer scope for optimism, it is early days for the HE funding reforms, and we shouldn't sit too comfortably yet.

Nationally, the overall increase in marketing spend for Universities has gone up by 23% and this will no doubt have had an effect.

Over the next few years though, it will take more than smart PR to get the best students here, and to keep them here through offering a Student

Experience to rival our competitors and stand out from the crowd. It will take smart investment, further removal of hidden costs and a real effort to differentiate the £9k experience from that of the £3k. Value for money is the one."

It was speculated that the Gov-

ernment's decision to treble tuition fees to £9000 back in 2010 would hold many students back from applying to higher education.

The policy was met with huge opposition from student and public bodies across the country, particularly the NUS who deemed the measure wholly unacceptable, as many would not be able to afford the rise for education that is argued as a fundamental right.

However, these figures suggest that students are continuing to make tough choices over their future education and seeking to request tuition fee loans until they can afford to pay back the fees.

The Russell Group, a contingent of Britain's leading Universities, also welcomed the national figures stating: "This is the third

highest number of applications of all time and there are still many more students applying for university than there are places available."

York, Durham, Exeter, and Queen Mary, University of London, joined the Russell Group last year.

Liam Burns, NUS President, warned that we must not let claims that application rates vindicate fees policy go unchallenged;

"I grow increasingly frustrated as sector representatives devote ever-more resources to making the best out of what is being done to the sector, and to "marketing."

"Our statistics suggests that applicants are keen to ensure they choose a quality experience and confirms that our extensive programme of outreach to prospective students is effective."

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'Poor' Health Centre waiting times

Anwen Baker
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

RESULTS OF the University Health Centre survey have revealed an increase in students dissatisfaction with waiting times.

61 per cent of respondents rated the waiting time for appointments as poor or very poor, a significant increase from 46 per cent in 2010. Even for urgent appointments, 63 per cent of patients stated that they were unable to see someone on the same day.

One patient commented "Having to wait up to 2 weeks to see a doctor is not acceptable when the ailment is now, not next week."

The survey, conducted by YUSU, was intended to measure improvements in the University Health Centre. The last survey was published in 2010.

Booking appointments was also an issue, with 35 per cent of patients who had tried to book an appointment by phone stating that they were disappointed with the service, an increase from 20.1 per cent in the 2010 survey.

Shorter waiting times, more provision for emergency appointments and more appointment times available over the weekend were suggested by respondents.

Overall 75.9 per cent of pa-



PETER IVESON

Despite improvements, the health centre scored poorly in a survey

tients surveyed were satisfied with their experience of Dr Price and Partners, whilst 24.1 per cent of respondents rated their experience as poor or very poor, a decrease from 30.5 per cent in 2010.

Almost 26 per cent of patients felt that their concerns were not taken seriously and 24 per cent felt that the medical practitioner did not fully understand the concerns being raised.

This represents a marked de-

“ Having to wait 2 weeks to see a doctor is not acceptable ”

Health Centre patient

crease from 2010, where 42.2 per cent did not feel that their concerns were taken seriously and 38.7 per cent did not feel understood.

The survey was completed by 347 people, 282 of whom were users of the service. Respondents were 22.7 per cent male, 76.6 per cent female and 0.7 per cent who preferred not to say.

37 per cent of the respondents identified as having a disability or a long term illness. Of these 57 per cent were satisfied with the service they had received, whilst 27 per cent were not, stating that the doctors had been dismissive of certain problems and unwilling to prescribe necessary medication.

The Health Centre's sexual health services, and the information available about these services, also came up as an issue for some patients.

Only 17 per cent of respondents were aware of the service, 46 per cent had heard about it but were not sure when to go, 37 per cent had never heard of it. 28 respondents had actually used the service.

Of these, 50 per cent stated that the services were satisfactory whilst 40 per cent rated them dissatisfactory.

Concerns were raised over the experiences of LGBT students.

One patient commented, "The sexual health provision for gay men was completely inadequate and the nurse was poorly equipped and poorly informed."

New 'LIPS' Society

Josh Allen
NEWS REPORTER

FOLLOWING THE successful launch on February 1 attended by over 50 people, newly formed organisation Ladies in Politics (LIPS) has spoken to *Nouse* about their plans for the future.

Describing themselves as "a group of like minded self-identifying women free from specific political affiliation striving to improve female participation in politics both on campus and after graduation".

The group intend in future to organise public speaking workshops aimed at women, and aim to invite women who have been heavily involved in public life to give talks and campaign to reduce the barriers to women running for election to JCRC, YUSU and GSA positions.

And more generally the barriers to 'attending events, public debates and other political forums.'

LIPS main priority for the coming term is to secure society ratification.

They hope to have completed the preliminary work for this by Easter and if possible to have submitted an application.

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Rag Parade raises £2188

Laura Hughes
EDITOR

RAG RAISED a total of £2188 on Saturday's Parade. James College raised the most money with £488.09.

Derwent came a close second, with £420.69. Langwith, Halifax, Alcuin, Wentworth, Goodricke and Vanbrugh followed.

James College also picked up the prize for best fancy dress. The theme was 'farmyard' and followed by a celebratory barn dance later in the evening.

YUSU RAG Officer, Becky Mursell told *Nouse*, "With the sun shining - we couldn't have asked for a better day!"

"We had a great turn out and it was the best feeling to see RAG take over York by storm and watch people's reactions as went by.

"A special mention needs to go to Samba band who brilliantly led the parade, Glee Singers and Brass Band for providing some wonderful music as well as some impressive juggling from juggle soc.

A huge thanks went to everybody who helped behind the scenes, and in particular to Dan Ashcroft, "who has been an absolute legend in leading and organising the week."



AGATHA TORRANCE

News

Students shun approved housing list

**Amy Blumsom
Fiona Parker**

A YUSU survey has revealed that half of York students used the University's approved housing list when searching for off-campus accommodation while 13.2 per cent had not heard of the list at all.

The 'Rate Your Property 2012' survey was completed by 446 off campus students last term, as part of a joint community strategy with York St. John Student Union.

Whilst some students praised the university's Codes of Best Practice list as useful, a number of issues were raised.

Many felt that the list, which is usually released around week 4 of second term, came out too late. Students also voiced their frustration that the list was not updated regularly enough. Others complained that despite using the list, they had ended up in poor quality accommodation with bad landlords.

An independent survey run by *Nouse* into student housing also highlighted many criticisms with the university's list.

A third year told of how they had signed up with a private landlord who was on the University's approved list, only for his name to be removed after they had signed their tenancy agreement. When disputes over rent arose, the University refused assistance to the students.

The student told *Nouse*, "To put it bluntly, we were abandoned by a University scheme that is supposed to protect students."

Another student criticised the late release of the approved housing list, "When we went to visit Sinclair, they told us we were unlikely to get

“To put it bluntly we were abandoned by a university scheme that is supposed to protect students.”

Third-year student

the house we liked because we had not been signed up to their website for very long. Given that the University told us not to do anything with regard to houses until after Christmas, this seemed contradictory and unfair."

Bob Hughes, YUSU Welfare Officer told *Nouse*, "These survey results finally give us confirmation of some of the issues we anecdotally knew to be the case, and help us map out and back up a lot of our campaigning activity on housing.

"We will be presenting these findings to the Council, landlords and many other groups to try and improve the quality of

lords, with 60 per cent rating their landlord as being good or excellent.

Private landlords were rated significantly higher than any letting agencies, with 71.3 per cent of respondents rating their landlord as good or excellent.

Of the three most popular letting agents, IG properties received 52.9 per cent of positive ratings, Adam Bennett received 58.5 per cent positive ratings and Sinclair was rated positively by 58.8 per cent of their customers.

we had already sorted and then charged us an administration fee."

Another student told *Nouse*, "Adam Bennett are cowboys... Despite paying the full £50 agency fee (which seemed to be simply for printing off the contract), the agency refused to help when we had problems with the house because they claimed the property was 'tenant found.'"

"We had extensive mould damage throughout the property which damaged our things, and when one dehumidifier was finally sourced, in-

students told of their experiences with "rude and intimidating" landlords.

“These survey results finally give us confirmation of some issues we anecdotally knew to be the case”

Bob Hughes, YUSU Welfare Officer

One respondent told of how their landlord "turned up out of the blue to attach a door handle (the absence of it was a health and safety breach), when I said I required 24 hours' notice he told me he is 'sick of my attitude', despite never meeting me in person before and that he 'will find another tenant who is happy with the house' and said that, 'he suggests I leave now as I don't want you here.'"

Letting agency, IG property, was also criticised by tenants, with one third year student tenant saying: "IG have done very little well."

The tenant went on to list their grievances, describing how the, "house was dirty when we moved in. Heating broke 6 times in a year with long delays in repair work every time. Nothing gets fixed within the month of being reported. Lawn was not mowed for the entire summer."

According to the she landlord then "threatened to take [the student's] bond because of noise complaints from neighbours."

Not all landlords were criticised though, with one student praising their "excellent landlord who responds to any problems or

“Adam Bennett are cowboys... the agency refuse to help when we had problems with the house”

Third-year student

queries promptly. Very friendly and is on good terms with all of my-housemates."

The issue of student safety was also highlighted by the survey. Positively, 90.5 per cent of students who responded to the survey said that they felt somewhat or very safe.

It was revealed that the areas where students felt most unsafe were Heslington, Heworth, Hull Road and Fishergate.

Worryingly, only 30.5 per cent of students stated that they have insurance, with a further 30 per cent unaware of whether they had any insurance at all.

10 per cent of respondents to the survey also mentioned that they did not know their housemates prior to moving in with them.

Students from outside the EU and postgraduates were significantly less likely to know their housemates before living together, compared to other students surveyed.



GRAPHICS BY BRANDON SEAGER



accommodation in York, particularly given the worrying trend of accommodation prices rising so rapidly."

Overall, the feedback on off-campus accommodation was positive, with 70 per cent of students rating their accommodation as good or excellent.

However, a number of students voiced their frustration at poor quality housing and inefficient landlords. 20 per cent of respondents rated the efficiency of their landlord as poor or terrible, whilst a further 15 per cent rated their landlord as poor or terrible.

One student revealed that their "landlord has not done the repair of a leak in our roof after almost six weeks; we are now considering taking legal actions".

Another respondent complained that, "The cleanliness of the property was awful and the amount of rubbish in the house meant we had to spend a whole day cleaning the filth and taking rubbish to a waste disposal."

But, majority of students had a good relationship with their land-

IN *Nouse's* survey into student housing, a number of students raised issues with these landlords.

One third year student told of how their "experience with Adam Bennett was terrible. They were very incompetent and quite rude (kept us waiting for half an hour while so the staff could chat), lost documents, emailed about things

stead of leaving it inside or contacting housemates; he left it outside in the garden in the snow.

"When we were trying to get our deposits returned (which we eventually did), the landlord tried to claim we hadn't paid a quarter's rent."

According to the 'Rate Your Property 2012' survey, a number of

University on track to miss carbon targets

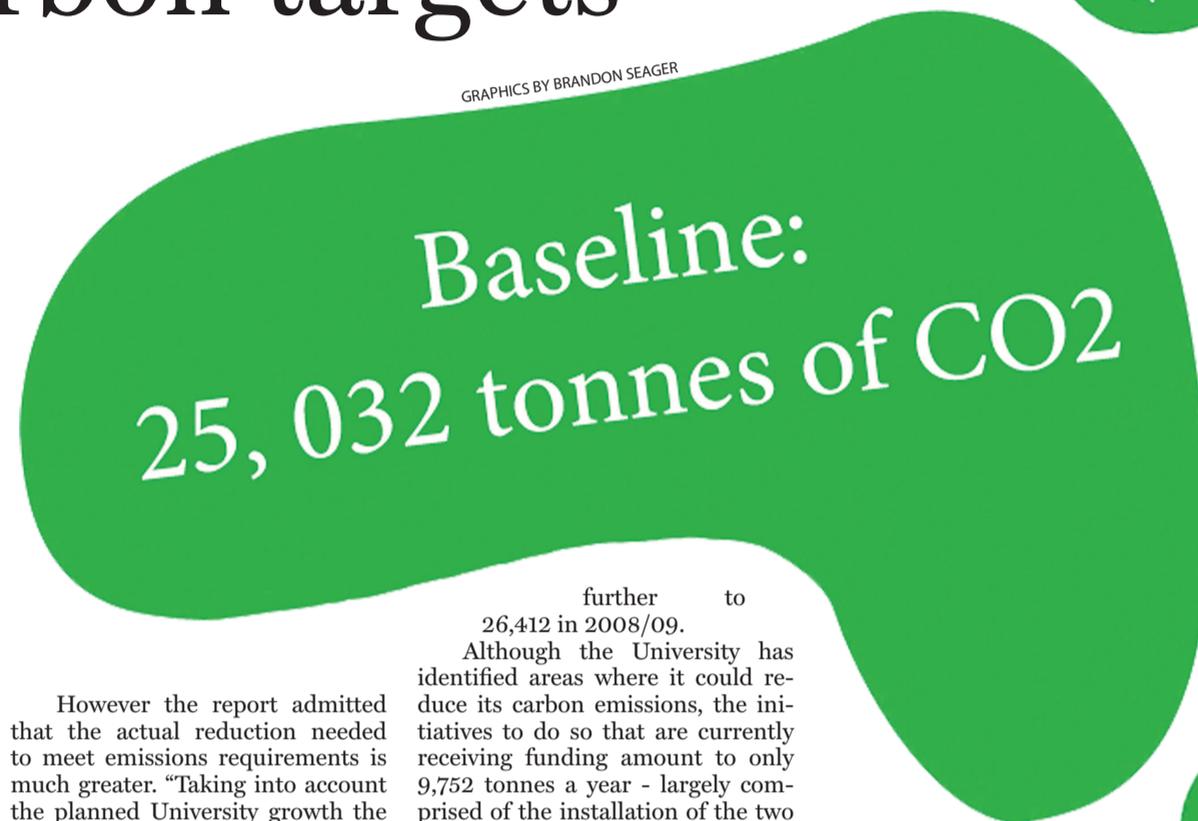
Neil Johnston
NEWS EDITOR

RECENT FIGURES obtained by *Nouse* have revealed the University is set to miss its long term carbon emissions target.

The University is making very little progress in meeting its target to achieve a reduction of 62 per cent, which was recently outlined in its Sustainability Report for 2012. It has since admitted this to be a "challenging target".

Although last year the University's emissions were 779 tonnes lower than forecast, the University has flat lined since 2007. It now has just seven years to achieve this 62 per cent reduction.

According to the report, "The University's target is to achieve a reduction of 48% in annual carbon emissions by 2020 against a 2005 baseline, in line with Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) requirements."



However the report admitted that the actual reduction needed to meet emissions requirements is much greater. "Taking into account the planned University growth the actual reduction to be achieved is 62% or 20,994 tonnes of CO2 per annum."

According to the HEFCE website: "There are currently no financial penalties planned for institutions who do not meet their 2020 target."

"Our approach under the Capital Investment Framework 2 is to consider carbon reductions made and processes for managing emissions. We expect to adopt a similar approach in the future, rather than just looking at whether targets have been achieved."

However, it goes on to say that: "Requirements under any future Capital Investment Framework are expected to be more demanding... Institutions should also bear in mind that carbon targets and progress against them need to be reported publicly."

If York were to continue to miss targets there is the possibility the University would face penalties.

Currently, the University is struggling to meet this requirement, having increased rather than decreased its emissions over the last five years. In 2007/2008 25,721 tonnes of CO2 were emitted. This increased

further to 26,412 in 2008/09.

Although the University has identified areas where it could reduce its carbon emissions, the initiatives to do so that are currently receiving funding amount to only 9,752 tonnes a year - largely comprised of the installation of the two combined heat and power plants and the biomass boiler.

Despite identifying solutions that could save 18,947 tonnes of carbon every year, the University has failed to provide funding for these so far. These initiatives could be key to offsetting the increase in emissions as a result of the University's expansion.

Carbon emissions were reduced by 24 per cent per head and 12 per cent per square metre in 2005/06. However, the University has managed to withhold its overall emissions total, by refusing to give data on the impact of college nine on

“The fact that the University has identified areas where it could reduce carbon emissions but hasn't allocated funding to it yet speaks volumes about what they view as essential spending.”

3rd year student

emissions.

The records office maintains this secrecy on the grounds that the Heslington East accommodation is jointly owned in a venture with Evans Property Group, as previously reported in a *Nouse* investigation.

The report said, "The targets we have to achieve by 2020 are based on absolute emissions - in other words they take no account of the University's expansion."

Further University records obtained by *Nouse* show the share of electricity use for residential buildings has reduced from 36 per cent to 33 per cent but has increased from 64 per cent to 67 per cent for non-residential, indicating that it is not just the expansion and increase in

students that is making it difficult for the University to meet its target.

There is also evidence that specific departments are responsible for a greater proportion of the high energy use. For example, Biology Laboratories Blocks A-G & J-M used more than 11,100,000kWh for the year up to July 2012.

The cost of energy itself is also an increasing concern, having risen from £3,384,196 in 2007-08 to £5,073,744 in 2011-12.

Energy hikes by the University's suppliers such as Scottish Power and Southern Energy mean the cost could rise again.

However, a small reduction of 0.04 per cent is predicted this year. Defending the University's position, a spokesperson said, "The University's Carbon Management Plan specifies targets for carbon reduction to be achieved by 2020. Our updated plan indicates that carbon emissions for 2011/12 were lower than the forecast - 26,207 tonnes compared with a prediction of 26,986."

"The updated plan also forecasts a substantial reduction in emissions from 2012/13

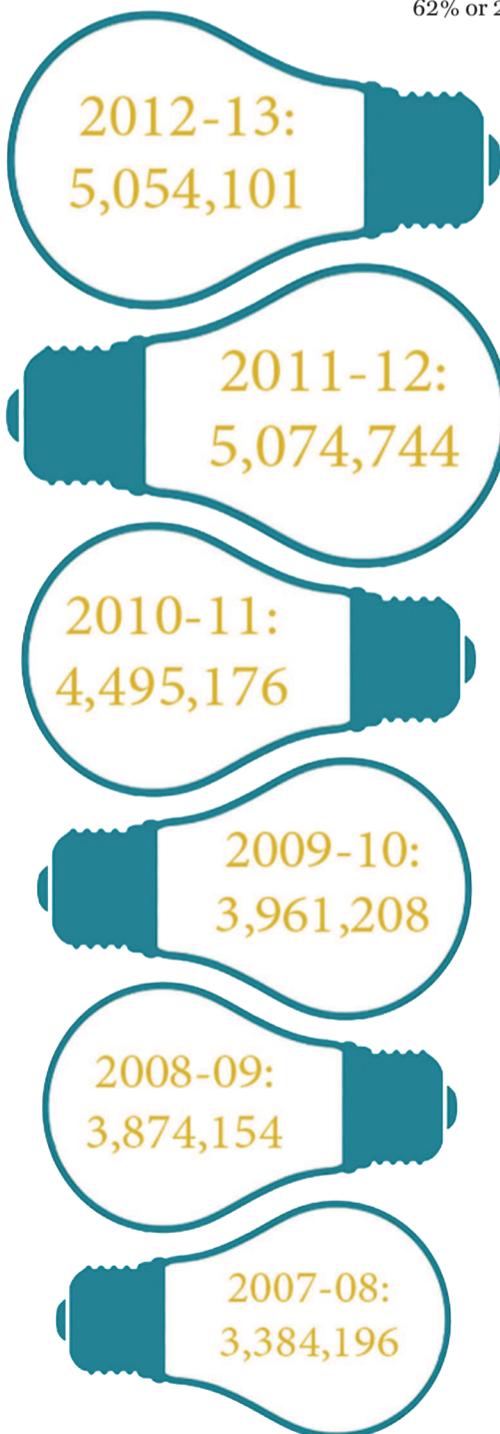
due to the installation of a biomass boiler and two combined heat and power plants (CHPs) last year. The introduction of the CHP capability is why we are expecting electricity costs to drop significantly: the CHPs will allow us to generate electricity ourselves more efficiently with a consequent reduction in the amount of electricity we import."

These savings are expected to be offset by rising costs and emissions from the opening of college nine.

However, this will not be included in the University's overall bill, again hidden on the grounds that college nine is owned by a University subsidiary company.

The spokesperson added, "Students and staff are already making an important contribution towards reducing carbon emissions through the Student Switch Off Programme and the Green Impact Programme but we can all do more. The University welcomes constructive suggestions to help us achieve our goals in this area."

Isobel Edwards, YUSU Environment and Ethics Officer, commented, "In recent talks we had with the university asking them to consider different carbon-reducing strategies they insisted that they were doing enough already, hopefully this will lead to some effective new policies being put into place."



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Women's Committee posters defaced

• The posters were made in response to YUSU's Zero Tolerance sexual harassment campaign

Anwen Baker
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

POSTERS PUT up around the University by the Women's Committee as part of the Zero Tolerance campaign have been defaced.

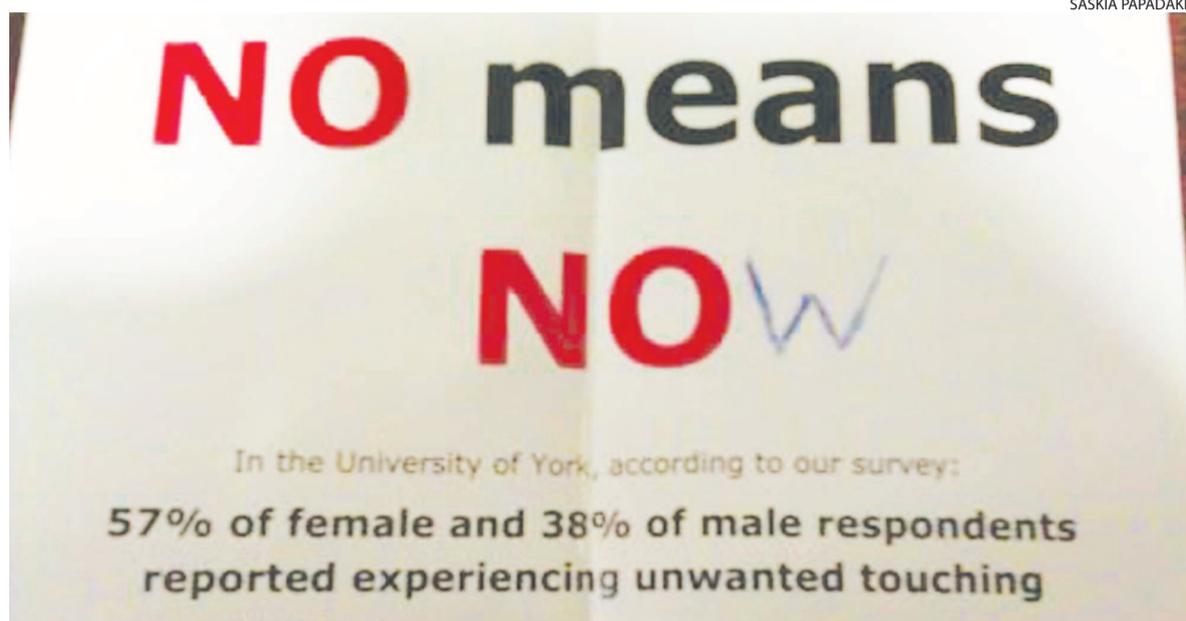
One poster placed in the men's toilets in D Bar which originally read "No means No" was changed to read "No means Now".

Another poster which had been put up in the walkway in Derwent K Block was changed from "A Dress is not a Yes" to "A Dress Is a Yes".

The posters were run in conjunction with YUSU's Zero Tolerance campaign against sexual harassment. The posters were put up in campus bars by the Women's Committee on January 29th. Several were found defaced only a few hours later.

Millie Perkins and Josie Field, Womens Officers said, "really this just highlights the problem we are trying to address with our campaign, the results of the zero tolerance survey were worrying at best and I would encourage everyone to have a read of them - sexual harassment isn't something that happens to other people in a far away land, it happens here in York and sadly has probably been experienced by someone you know."

"Vandalising posters can seem a laugh at the time but the underlying message it sends out from our student body is quite disturbing."



SASKIA PAPADAKIS

A defaced Women's Committee poster was found in one of the men's toilets in Derwent College

Bob Hughes, Welfare Officer, echoed their views, stating: "I think it's frankly disgusting that the posters have been defaced in this way - the whole message of these posters is to get people thinking about consent, harassment and how they treat other people, and even if meant as a joke, the message this action sends to everyone else is one of normalising issues of harassment and making people feel unsafe in and around campus."

"This shows us that there is still a lot of work to be done, and so the

Zero Tolerance campaign will seek to look at what other materials and events can get this message across to students, and try to engage as many people as possible in understanding the issues and how they affect people."

This comes after the recent results of the Zero Tolerance survey carried out by YUSU Welfare and the Women's Committee, showed that 72 per cent of York students surveyed had experienced sexual harassment whilst at University.

The survey showed that female

students were far more likely to be the victims of sexual harassment, with around 75 per cent of female respondents reporting experiencing sexual harassment compared to 65 respondents of male respondents. 80 per cent of the offenders were male, with 15 per cent female and 5 per cent unknown.

Rosie McCluskey and Ed Moore, Derwent Welfare Vice Chairs, commented: "I think the fact that it was in our loos does not necessarily mean that it was anybody in Derwent who did it. This

is a public bar. A lot of people who aren't in Derwent do come here and if it was a member of Derwent, I don't think it reflects any college attitudes at all.

"Maybe one or two individuals. Obviously we are taking it very seriously and we don't approve but

“the underlying message it sends out from our student body is quite disturbing”

Womens Officers
Millie Perkins and Josie Field

I don't think it reflects anything on the college as a whole."

"We are going to work closely with Women's Committee in the near future and we are looking to do a push on the Zero Tolerance campaign, not because we feel that this is a problem within Derwent, but because it is a good campaign that people should know about."

Rob Aitken, Derwent Provost, also weighed in on the issue, telling Nouse: "I regard the defacing of posters as a serious issue. Although a few individuals might think it as just a joke, defacing posters in this way is has the potential to intimidate."

"If I discover who is responsible for this vandalism they will be subject to disciplinary action."

Petition for refugees to pay home fees

Jocelyn Murdoch
NEWS REPORTER

THE STUDENT Action for Refugees (STAR) society have launched a petition campaigning for refugees and asylum seekers studying in the UK to pay the same fees as home students.

Up until February 2011, asylum seekers were charged home student fees, but after amendments to policy, they are now forced to pay international student fees, which range from £8,500 to £29,000 a year.

On top of this, asylum seekers also no longer have access to student loans. STAR argues this restricts their access to higher education as they are unlikely to be in possession of such a large amount of money.

Sophie Mak-Schram, the co-chair of STAR-York, said 'our aim is to change York's fees charged to asylum seekers, and we're working with YUSU to garner student support to use to back up our argument for this when we meet people in po-

sitions to amend university policy.'

The group believes the cost of providing asylum seekers with fees that match those of home students would be economically viable for the university as the cost 'would be marginal in relation to the number that apply.'

Another cornerstone of the campaign is that refugees, like other vulnerable people, have additional needs and should therefore be given the opportunity to receive necessary support like bursaries.

The YUSU society is part of the national STAR network and charity, 'working to improve the lives of refugees in the UK.' The Equal Access campaign is run in partnership with the National Union of Students (NUS).

York is one of a number of universities across the country currently fighting to open up colleges and universities to refugees.

If the petition is successful in getting student support, we may see York join the ranks of the universities, such as Manchester and Leeds, that have already adopted the scheme.



1600 exams past 8pm

Josh Boswell
DEPUTY EDITOR

IN THE past academic year, almost 7000 exams ran up to or after 8pm, with more than 1600 exams running past 8pm.

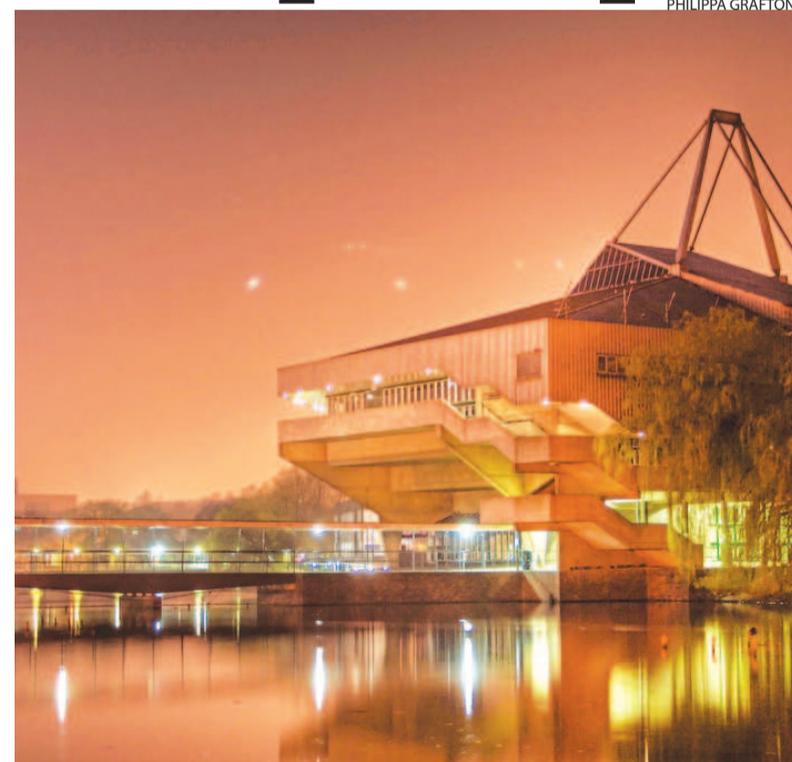
Figures obtained by Nouse show that 30 per cent of all exams ran after 5pm, and 13 per cent ran up to or past 8pm.

In the academic year 2010/11, there were no exams that ran after 5pm in the autumn or spring. Last year's autumn term likewise had no late exams, but in the spring term, 55 per cent of exams took place after 5pm.

Graeme Osborn, the YUSU Academic Officer said, "The University needs to take all possible reasonable steps to ensure that exams don't run past the end of the teaching day. I recognise that this isn't possible in all cases and believe that it is important that students are treated as fairly as possible, with no group having exceptionally high numbers of late exams."

Some argue the recent plans to reduce York's term structure to two semesters may help to alleviate this problem, with longer exam periods in each term spreading them over a wider period.

The University has reduced the overall number of exams running past 8pm from 4.7 per cent to 0.88



PHILIPPA GRAFTON

More than 2500 exams were running up to 8pm last summer

per cent this past year.

However, 8367 exams ran past 5pm last summer, with more than 2500 running up to 8pm.

The records show that in the 2011 summer term, 1656 exams ran beyond 8pm, and 2922 ran up to 8pm.

Summer exams running later than 8pm were drastically reduced to 88 this past year, but it remains that both 30 per cent of all exams that term and for the whole year ran past 5pm.

The University is yet to release this year's Summer exam timetable.

News

YUSU President proposes a fourth loan for medics

Alex Osborne
NEWS REPORTER

KALLUM TAYLOR, YUSU President, is to propose a motion to the NUS Conference in April with the aim of improving and increasing the availability of funding including maintenance loans for Medical, Midwifery and Nursing students.

One suggestion includes the spreading of current loan payments to make a fourth maintenance loan for medical students over the summer, to help cover the additional costs a medical degree incurs.

“Just because the course commitments are different, doesn't mean that we shouldn't fight their corner

YUSU President
Kallum Taylor

Taylor commented on the decision: "Much more needs to be done for those students whose academic and course-work placements run right through the summer holiday period.



The proposal would affect those at the Hull York Medical School

"Such commitments and the very long hours, make it incredibly difficult for those students to find a job to earn money during the holidays in order to afford the living, travel and hidden course costs they have to pay."

"YUSU is working alongside student reps for the relevant courses, other student unions and NUS reps to ensure that any proposals made are 'bold and achievable' and would be of genuine benefit to students on these demanding courses."

Taylor added that this was

an important step in YUSU's aim to increase the union's inclusivity, saying "Just because their course commitments are different, and the funding comes from the NHS, doesn't mean that we shouldn't fight their corner."

"We are looking to pick up some more local, campus based issues for those students, like improving transport to and from placements, finding them a decent place to relax outside of study hours, and having a YUSU presence around their 'part' of campus."

Society ratification process overhauled

Harry Gallivan
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

YUSU HAVE agreed to change how societies are approved at the application stage after the recent Palestinian Solidarity Society debacle.

From now on, there will be a 'clearly defined body' to assess any society applications that are made, as well as a separate appeals body independent of the original panel.

This will now allow both the original and appeals panels to work under strict guidelines without influence from each other.

Josiah Mortimer, Press Officer for the Palestinian Solidarity Society, had previously told *Nouse* that the system was, "deeply flawed," with the "appeals committee composed of exactly the same individuals as the original Societies Committee."

The newly created society was recently ratified following a petition with over 100 signatures after an appeal against their initial rejection by YUSU also failed.

The Palestinian Solidarity Society had previously criticised YUSU's handling of the matter as being "deeply flawed".

This has led the society to work closely with Chris West, YUSU's Activities Officer, in a recent meeting to 'make sure

guidelines are transparent, robust and consistently applied as well as differentiating the composition of hearing and appeal panels'.

From now on, both the hearing and appeals panel will work independently of a 'checklist of key attributes' needed to form a society, which will be made available to all applicants when they collect the application form.

West told *Nouse* that, "we feel that this ensures a clear and transparent process, and minimises any subjectivity over the society criteria."

YUSU also noted to *Nouse* that these decisions have been based around the Palestinian Solidarity Soc's feedback as well as others who have got in contact with them.

Mortimer told *Nouse*; "We are delighted that YUSU have listened to our concerns and are moving forward with reforming a very flawed and opaque appeals procedure.

"It took a lot of campaigning by the Palestinian Solidarity Society for this change to go ahead, after being rejected twice on unclear grounds.

"It is crucial that the procedure is corrected and made more transparent and we will continue to work with YUSU to ensure the changes made are far-reaching and fair."



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'Poor' Health Centre waiting times

Anwen Baker
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

RESULTS OF the University Health Centre survey have revealed an increase in students dissatisfaction with waiting times.

61 per cent of respondents rated the waiting time for appointments as poor or very poor, a significant increase from 46 per cent in 2010. Even for urgent appointments, 63 per cent of patients stated that they were unable to see someone on the same day.

One patient commented "Having to wait up to 2 weeks to see a doctor is not acceptable when the ailment is now, not next week."

The survey, conducted by YUSU, was intended to measure improvements in the University Health Centre. The last survey was published in 2010.

Booking appointments was also an issue, with 35 per cent of patients who had tried to book an appointment by phone stating that they were disappointed with the service, an increase from 20.1 per cent in the 2010 survey.

Shorter waiting times, more provision for emergency appointments and more appointment times available over the weekend were suggested by respondents.

Overall 75.9 per cent of pa-



PETER IVESON

Despite improvements, the health centre scored poorly in a survey

tients surveyed were satisfied with their experience of Dr Price and Partners, whilst 24.1 per cent of respondents rated their experience as poor or very poor, a decrease from 30.5 per cent in 2010.

Almost 26 per cent of patients felt that their concerns were not taken seriously and 24 per cent felt that the medical practitioner did not fully understand the concerns being raised.

This represents a marked de-

“ Having to wait 2 weeks to see a doctor is not acceptable ”

Health Centre patient

crease from 2010, where 42.2 per cent did not feel that their concerns were taken seriously and 38.7 per cent did not feel understood.

The survey was completed by 347 people, 282 of whom were users of the service. Respondents were 22.7 per cent male, 76.6 per cent female and 0.7 per cent who preferred not to say.

37 per cent of the respondents identified as having a disability or a long term illness. Of these 57 per cent were satisfied with the service they had received, whilst 27 per cent were not, stating that the doctors had been dismissive of certain problems and unwilling to prescribe necessary medication.

The Health Centre's sexual health services, and the information available about these services, also came up as an issue for some patients.

Only 17 per cent of respondents were aware of the service, 46 per cent had heard about it but were not sure when to go, 37 per cent had never heard of it. 28 respondents had actually used the service.

Of these, 50 per cent stated that the services were satisfactory whilst 40 per cent rated them dissatisfactory.

Concerns were raised over the experiences of LGBT students.

One patient commented, "The sexual health provision for gay men was completely inadequate and the nurse was poorly equipped and poorly informed."

New 'LIPS' Society

Josh Allen
NEWS REPORTER

FOLLOWING THE successful launch on February 1 attended by over 50 people, newly formed organisation Ladies in Politics (LIPS) has spoken to *Nouse* about their plans for the future.

Describing themselves as "a group of like minded self-identifying women free from specific political affiliation striving to improve female participation in politics both on campus and after graduation".

The group intend in future to organise public speaking workshops aimed at women, and aim to invite women who have been heavily involved in public life to give talks and campaign to reduce the barriers to women running for election to JCRC, YUSU and GSA positions.

And more generally the barriers to 'attending events, public debates and other political forums.'

LIPS main priority for the coming term is to secure society ratification.

They hope to have completed the preliminary work for this by Easter and if possible to have submitted an application.

COMMENT >> Page 16

Rag Parade raises £2188

Laura Hughes
EDITOR

RAG RAISED a total of £2188 on Saturday's Parade. James College raised the most money with £488.09.

Derwent came a close second, with £420.69. Langwith, Halifax, Alcuin, Wentworth, Goodricke and Vanbrugh followed.

James College also picked up the prize for best fancy dress. The theme was 'farmyard' and followed by a celebratory barn dance later in the evening.

YUSU RAG Officer, Becky Mursell told *Nouse*, "With the sun shining - we couldn't have asked for a better day!"

"We had a great turn out and it was the best feeling to see RAG take over York by storm and watch people's reactions as went by.

"A special mention needs to go to Samba band who brilliantly led the parade, Glee Singers and Brass Band for providing some wonderful music as well as some impressive juggling from juggle soc.

A huge thanks went to everybody who helped behind the scenes, and in particular to Dan Ashcroft, "who has been an absolute legend in leading and organising the week."



AGATHA TORRANCE

Rising Against Rape And Violence

A global rising: Lizzie Lynch and Sofia Geraghty examine V-Day's attempt to put an end to violence against women

The 14th of February: Valentine's Day. A day of celebration, yet whilst many women throughout the world will find themselves showered in gifts and affection, an equally large number will find themselves victims of violence. A staggering one billion women in the world today have been subject to rape or beatings, one third of all females. It is a fact so atrocious that this year V-day hopes to ignite one billion 'women and those who love them' to stand up and demand an end to this violence.

The campaign, 'One Billion Rising' invites individuals to 'rise up' against these damning figures by producing creative protests; be it a dance party, a theatrical event, a musical event or a march.

Students from the University have decided to get involved by staging their own 'V-day' event, which will be held on Thursday the 14th of February in V-bar.

The event will include a number of dance and drumming performances and creative opportunities for students to show their support for the campaign, as well as live streaming from Insomnia DJs throughout the afternoon.

It is being organized by students Rachel Statham and Philappa Parmar, along with WomCom and a small team of supporters. Rachel Statham stated that she was first drawn to the event because, "it's a celebration of women that focuses on joy and empowerment, which breaks away from the usual guilt-driven negative statistical spin surrounding issues such as rape and domestic violence. One billion people dancing translates across boundaries of language and culture, age and gender, and most importantly provides an overwhelmingly positive approach to tackling a personal and global issue."

There will also be a number of stalls with information on women's rights based groups on campus, and global issues concerning women in politics, the impact of domestic violence and up-coming conferences.

One Billion Rising is taking place on the 15th anniversary of V-Day, the charity, and is set to be the largest global campaign in the history of the charity. The charity was founded in 1998 by Eve Ensler, playwright and activist. Ensler, writer of the hugely successful and controversial *The Vagina Monologues*, decided to create the movement as a result of the feedback she got from her play whilst it was touring the U.S.. When women who were personally moved by watching the performance, spoke to Ensler about their



STEVE RHODES

own experiences of violence, she realised that the performances could be used as a way of provoking people to strike out against such

transformative power of the arts, the collective power of ordinary people to bring about social and cultural change and the faith that

"One billion people dancing translates across boundaries of language and culture."

abuse. Hence why, on the 14th of February 1998, Esher organised a benefit performance of *The Vagina Monologues* in New York City's Hammerstein Ballroom. The sellout performance, starring Glenn Close, Winona Ryder was a huge success and raised \$250,000 for local NYC anti-violence groups. Since then, V-day events have grown year on year and what started as one event in New York now boasts over 5,800 annually, throughout the world.

The charity is forged on the belief in the

women in their own communities know best how to address the inequalities of race, class and gender that act as barriers to their freedom.

Whilst recitals of *The Vagina Monologues* remain the most embraced creative vehicle in spreading the message, a number of innovative and creative events have been produced to further publicise the campaign.

This year, V-day has joined forces with Zumba Fitness to create a massive fitness dance party in the centre of Los Angeles. The event will be hosted by Gina

Grant, celebrity fitness instructor, and will include an appearance from actress Jane Fonda, who became a V-day board member after being affected by her mother's experience of sexual abuse.

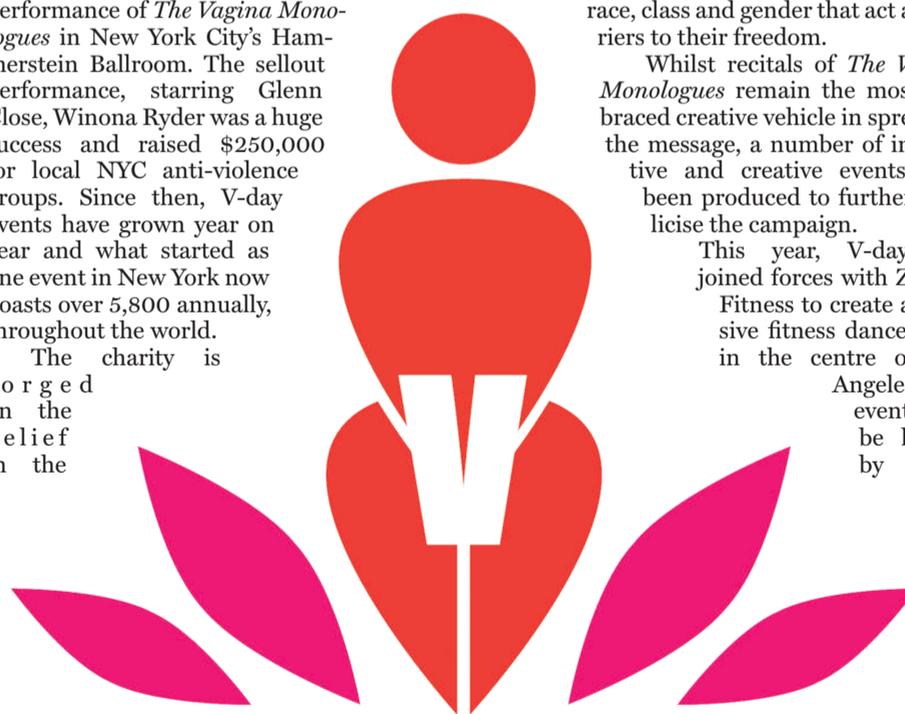
Closer to home, there are also extensive art events across London starting next week, including photography exhibitions, cinema screenings and dance workshops.

To date, V-day has raised over \$90 million. The money has supported campaigns across the globe, such as opening shelters for women in Egypt and Iraq; sponsoring annual workshops and national campaigns in Afghanistan and donated satellite-phones to Afghan women to keep lines of communication open and action plans moving forward.

Despite this success however, violence against woman remains a chronic problem globally, hence why V-day are using their 15th birthday to create a final stand, a "global outcry" to show that "We're not tolerating it any more".

Josie Field, YUSU Women's Officer, encouraged York students "to get involved and support all the fantastic stuff going on. It's also really important to remember the serious issues behind all the amazing events happening. One in three women on the planet being beaten or raped in her lifetime is an atrocity."

The event will be held in Vanbrugh Dining Hall on Thursday 14th February from 3pm.



ONE BILLION RISING
STRIKE | DANCE | RISE!

SocDrawer

The section by societies, for societies

With recent political news dominated by Europe, the prospect of a referendum and the incoming European Elections next year, one would be forgiven for thinking that British public opinion had shifted decisively to the Eurosceptic right. But could it not be that in fact, the media and political elites only represent a very narrow spectrum of political opinion? Indeed, following the betrayal of social democratic principles by the Liberal Democrat and Labour parties, no one in the mainstream represents any views to the left of centre. Not only on Europe but also welfare, Palestine immigration and much more, the so called 'centre-left' has given in to right wing elites in an empty quest for power and corporate approval. There is a need for a party that can represent the views and interests of ordinary people, not millionaire media owners or other corporate leaders, a gap that can be filled by the Green Party.

On campus, we have made huge gains in the last year, tripling membership and having a record attendance when Natalie Bennett, Green Party national leader visited the university last year. More recently, we helped the Palestinian Solidarity Society achieve ratification on campus. This has mirrored national party successes in getting our first seat in Parliament and placing third

in the London mayoral elections. By offering a radical yet evidence-based alternative to the main three parties that is based on unprecedented levels of grassroots participation, we've shown that it is possible to democratically challenge the rightist consensus. Now with UKIP and the Tory right claiming to monopolise public opinion on Europe, and Labour and the Lib Dems meekly giving in as usual, the mantle falls yet again to the Green Party to offer something different.

This is why the University of York Green Party is pleased to announce that Andrew Cooper, Kirklees Councillor and the leading Green MEP candidate for the Yorkshire and Humber region, will be visiting the University on Wednesday 27 February (Week 8, V123, 18:30). Andrew will outline the Green alternative to Euroscepticism; a reformist approach that seeks to deal with democratic and economic issues via reasoned negotiation rather than jingoistic reactions, and one that acknowledges the great achievements secured by the EU in workers rights and environmental protection. Our nation at the heart of a reforming Europe with the limitless potential to tackle the great threats faced by the world in the 21st Century. Only working within Europe can we stand a chance against climate change, energy crises, and economic



The Green Party society on campus made huge gains in membership, as much as tripling its numbers last year

inequalities.

More widely, this represents a chance to get involved with the Green Party as a growing force in British politics. Political apathy and disillusionment is at an all time high, not least amongst young people and students. But this is not a question of inevitable apathy, but one of a political class that has taken political debate away from the people, gutting parties of ideologies and principles, and limiting discussion to two or three meaningless differences. Climate change, verified by 97 per cent of peer-reviewed scientific literature, gets worse by

the year but is largely ignored. All parties agree on the need for cuts, whilst ignoring the vast damage caused by unacceptably wealthy corporations and rich individuals. The demonisation of the working class is similarly agreed by the false consensus, in spite of the fact that less than 1 per cent of benefit claims are fraudulent. Rail nationalisation, media reform and proportional representation - and countless other questions - are all kept off the agenda despite their undeniable empirical benefit to most ordinary people.

We can accept this affliction to our democracy. We can let our fu-

ture be decided for us by those at the top with the odd minor say in all too infrequent votes and elections. Or we can stand against this rising tide of profits being put before people and campaign for real, democratic change in favour of economic, social and environmental justice. The Green Party offers an opportunity to take up the mantle of such activism that has traditional been held by students and scholars, a cause that rallies against the dominance of the powers that be, and one that is now ours to effect and uphold.

Alfie Van den Bos

SocietyDiary

This term *DramaSoc* has seen a lot of new writing and a lot of success. *A Slap in the Face* started the term and it was said that "[Toby] King's writing displays true moments of brilliance; an instinct for comic nuance and artful wordplay". *DramaSoc* has seen some fantastic student written ODNs, the latest one, *The Diary of Thomas Pooler* raising a nice sum of money for Cancer Research too. And we have plenty of steam left with big and exciting shows such as *God of Carnage*, *The Vagina Monologues*, *GamePlan* and *The Threepenny Opera*, as well as our Inter University Student Drama Festival, in which York's entry will be *Dog Days*. Keep an eye out for the details which will shortly be released for *DramaSoc's Spring Fling* and make sure you get your tickets in advance to all of our shows as they go like hot cakes! Remember that our ODNs are free and fantastic, and you can buy tickets for the weekend shows at Vanbrugh Stalls, 12-2pm Wednesday-Friday every week, or online at www.yorkdramasoc.com where there is also more information on everything!

THE WORD fashion generates different responses. For some it represents the fad, others: skinny models on the catwalk. For me fashion is expression. Fashion is a tool that can help us express our emotions, thoughts, views. It is about defining yourself. Dressing well gives me confidence. **If I look good, I feel good.**

The way we dress and behave is a large part of the way people do perceive us. But we at the **Fashion Society** of University of York believe fashion is expressing what is on the inside, to the outer world. There is so much more to it than just designer labels and high prices. It is about the creativity behind the whole process. Studding, sewing. **Creating your own look.**

Looking good and dressing well is not about spending large amounts of money but about finding the right clothes, at the right prices. Often nothing can compare to a vintage dress, bought from a thrift store, or that dress that you either beaded or altered to give it a unique look. We at Fashion Society believe that if a small thing like a cute dress or a new pair of heels can give you the confidence to take on the world, then why not?

OddSoc: Fashion

What'sOn

THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES

Drama Barn 22/2/13
19.30 £5 23/2/13
24/2/13

www.yorkdramasoc.com

Islam in Britain and the Muslim civil rights crisis

FREE LECTURE

Mohammed Ansar

18.15 P/L/001 12/2/13

moansar.wix.com/profile

Education Sector Workshops

13/2/13 20.00

CA/102

FREE

Go behind the scenes of the Education Sector with educational workshops

LANGWITH FRAT PARTY

Best of American Anthems
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14/2/13 20.30 £4.50

Glasshouse

ISA BEVERAGE FESTIVAL

20/2/13 19.30 £9

Roger Kirk Centre

Alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks

ISA VALENTINES DAY

WITH CHOCOLATE FONDUE AND LIVE JAZZ

Roger Kirk Centre

14/2/13 20.30

£4.50 (£3.50 Vanbrugh Stalls)

Yorkshire and the English Civil Wars

Gillian Waters

FREE Public History Lecture

6/3/13 18.30

ATB/057

EMOTIONAL (SELF-)REGULATION

Dr Dorothea Debus

Philosophical perspectives on the emotions

18.30 14/2/13

Bowland Auditorium

FREE MEDICAL SOCIETY LECTURE

25/2/13 20.00

Improbable lives: A one-eyed soldier, a Dervish, and other converts in Early Modern Rome

Dr Peter Mazur

UDUK BIG DARTS WEEKENDER

University Darts Singles Championships

Courtyard and D/L/028

11.00 23/2/13 £8.50

Comment



comment@nouse.co.uk
www.nouse.co.uk/comment

Isobel
Edwards



Carbon reduction must be prioritised

Structural changes within the University are needed in order to meet such ambitious carbon reduction targets

It's no secret that the University has had some bad press about their environmental performance lately, what with the low placing in the 'Green League' earlier this year and the predictions of not making its long term carbon emissions target.

When it comes to funding for reducing carbon emissions, it takes a certain kind of institution to prioritise this, and it's not a top priority for the University of York. If we want to see changes in how the funding is allocated, we need to make some noise about it. There's no point in complaining to one another, letting YUSU and senior management members know is the first place to start with putting on the pressure. The fact that the University has identified areas where it could reduce carbon emissions but hasn't allocated funding to it yet speaks volumes about what they view as essential spending.

Although behavioural campaigns like the Student Switch Off and making sure departments get involved in the Green Impact programme are good incentives for student and staff change, structural changes to the university will need to be made if the ambitious carbon reduction targets are to be met. Yes, there would be costs to this but the fine for not meeting their carbon reduction target is going to be the alternative.

For instance, when we tried to approach the university about switching to an electricity company such as Ecotricity or Good Energy

to provide the campus with 100 per cent renewably-sourced electricity at a price 'matched to the top five energy companies in the UK', we didn't get a positive response. It was a combination of not being quite sure whether it's possible to do or that to find out for definite would be a lot of work and therefore not in anyone's interest. It's not an easy task to achieve a reduction like 62 per cent by 2020. It is going to need hard work.

I'm sure the University know what they could do to reduce their impact, but if they genuinely are

'open for suggestions from students' then there's a few off the top of my head: regulating the erratic heating, having timed showers in halls, harnessing the immense potential of the wind power that blows across Heslington East, and replacing air travel with conference calls where possible. Other institutions have done these things before and we're capable of it too.

I realise that the University is expanding, and that does make it hard to control carbon reductions. But I felt a bit of hope when I read about Edinburgh University

in *the Guardian*. "Its first carbon-reduction strategies were published in 1990 and since then have made deep cuts in its energy use, reducing its CO2 emissions by 31 per cent... while the University was in effect tripling in size."

York may be a small university, but it can make these reductions if it is serious about it. It's not a case of it not being possible, it's a case of effective funding allocation, time and effort, and I'm hopeful that this is the year they step it up and lay the foundations in place for meeting their targets.



LIZZY ROBERTS

Gary
Holland

Deputy
Comment
Editor



The NUS and its inanimate leadership

The NUS needs to be more involved in student life if it is to be taken seriously

If an Inanimate Carbon Rod should win the NUS presidency, the leadership will be just as animate as it has been since Liam Burns got there.

Do you see what I did there? I made a joke about the current NUS President doing absoluteffly nothing to act in the interest of students, and made it topical with a reference to the only candidate that anybody cares about. You probably didn't find it funny - because it was a god-awful joke - but you probably agreed with its sentiment. Now why is that? Is it because you have a real interest in what the NUS does, and in doing so have reached an informed decision? I doubt it. I have met the five people who care about the NUS and they wouldn't be reading Nouse; it isn't left-wing enough for them, if you can believe that.

But here we are. Making jokes at the expense of the NUS. That's

how the campaign for Rod started off, after all, as a joke. The NUS are so awful, an inanimate carbon rod could probably win. The NUS are so full of empty promises, it might be better if an inanimate carbon rod did win. The NUS are so irrelevant to me, I'd rather have a Simpsons reference dealing with my future. Surprisingly and somewhat disappointingly, however, I'm yet to see a joke about how inanimate Liam Burns' own carbon rod is.

Now, as I say, the percentage of the people making these jokes who actually know enough about the NUS or its president to even know whether they're fair is pretty low. How much do you actually know about the NUS? ("Didn't they do that riot thing?" Doesn't count.) The only thing I could think of was that appalling list of chants that Vicki Baars sent out to student unions across the country.

So perhaps I should argue that we don't have the right to make these jokes. Perhaps I should argue that we're all jumping on the bandwagon because it's so much easier to be negative than suggest how things could be improved; that there are much better Simpsons references.

Almost all of those things are true. The people liking the Facebook page for Rod's campaign (myself included) are jumping on the bandwagon. We saw it, chuckled, and all of a sudden felt vehemently that this is a righteous cause. And it is much easier to lampoon the NUS than to suggest how they could improve.

But I cannot help but that feel that, actually, the very fact that we don't know enough about the NUS to make jokes about it is exactly what gives us the right to make jokes about it. The NUS don't do enough to make students care. They don't do enough to even let us know that

it exists. I don't believe for a minute that staging a protest and sending out a list of dodgy chants for said protest are the only two things that they've done in the past 12 months, but I'll be damned if I can think of anything else.

So why isn't the NUS getting us interested? Why aren't they letting us know what they're doing for us?

Those weren't rhetorical questions. I can't offer anything other than "because they're stupid" as an answer, and I don't think that would be in keeping with the hitherto sophisticated tone of this piece. All I can say is that they aren't going out of their way to interest us in what they do, or even just to let us know that they are, in fact, doing things.

Until they do, we're going to have no reason to believe that they're any more animate than Rod and I'm going to have no reason not to make awful jokes like that.

BRANDON SEAGER



Requiem for the failing social

Andrew Knowles



Spare a thought for failed socials, as you stroll across campus at night, passing groups of waterfowl, and ponder about all the events that might be happening right now. I'm not talking here about those nights filled with laughter, drink, and streams of new faces; I'm talking here about the scrawny little twin of those bar crawls: the crap social. We've all been on them, we've all made our excuses, and we've all left. But spare a thought for the organisers as they watch the door. Meek faces occasionally squint through the gap. But often, the hospitality flies over their heads as the awkwardness appears, and they flee into the night.

The life of a social secretary is tough one, especially those serving the subject they study. Like the peasant farmers waiting for the rains to nurture their crops, they sit in the campus bars, or a booked out room for hours on end. They sit patiently at the mercy of their members, and they await their fate. Sometimes their worst fears are realised and sometimes the rains just don't come. And then their hearts stoop low and lowly in the face of realisation: this social is going absolutely nowhere.

I have volunteered for this role. And the other night I organised what I think might just be the worst social ever. The rains most definitely never came. As I sat in a large pre-booked lecture hall, surrounded by a rather optimistic amount of food, and housemates who had predicted I'd need company, I realised the full scale of what I'd not managed to achieve. I was initially proud of the feat; an invite list stretching further than two hundred and only three people actually managed it, and didn't escape before we headed off to town in a lone taxi. Yes, just the one.

It is definitely a sobering feeling, a little how I imagine playing the main role in an episode of *The Inbetweeners*. As I nibbled on pretzels, while my housemate played 'ironic' songs on the speakers (*All My Friends* by LCD Soundsystem, *Too Many Men* by Boy Better Know) I had a thought of cautious optimism: this could only improve, right?

Unfortunately it didn't. Although I'm sure you'll be delighted to know that quite a few first years actually came to the social. The door of the lecture hall was frequented by curious eyes, but little by eager party-goers, and the few that did enter were merely wristband bandits.

So I organised what became a terrible social, so what? There are a lot more important issues in the world. This is true, and I hope you don't ponder over this article for longer than about 30 seconds after you've finished. But please take away this: next time you see a social advertised, at least make an effort to show your face, especially if the plans for your night in consisted of Facebook. Not only might there be excess free food, but you'll be able to feel like you're in your very own episode of an awkward sitcom.

Alex Slingsby

Comment Editor



Where is the welfare?

The University's welfare services need to keep up with the growing student population

Are you happy with the welfare services on campus? From Nightline to the University Health Centre, we seem to have it all. And this is true to an extent, but the University's welfare services haven't managed to meet student growth over the last few years.

The main issue appears to be that the growth in the number of students at the University just hasn't been met with a proportional growth in counsellors, medical staff, and building space. This year, some of the courses at University have more than doubled in size, and it's getting to the point where those in charge of welfare can't possibly keep pretending that these extra students never turned up during freshers' week. Because they did.

You only have to head over to

“Open Door isn't the only issue when it comes to welfare”

the Heslington East campus to see that the University has built even more accommodation, presumably for all of the extra students they have.

Even the libraries have been renovated to make more space for those who need it. So why hasn't the same idea been implemented into the University's welfare service, something that is considerably more important than a library or two?

Now, it seems to me that welfare services like Open Door are only useful for students on campus if they can keep up with the demands. Students who use it are of-

ten suffering from emotional or psychological problems, and shouldn't be left on the doorstep because the service cannot cope with a rise in cases. Around 1,600 students used the Open Door services last year – ten per cent of the University's student population. If the University won't expand for the benefit of ten per cent of its population, however silent they may be, then we have serious problems.

Fair enough, Open Door isn't the only issue when it comes to welfare; the University Health Centre can't keep up with student growth either, which would be fine in most cases. If you have an illness and make your way over to the Health Centre, and they're too busy to see you (as is often the case), then most would go back home and use the illness as a good excuse to catch up on TV and drink hot chocolate all day.

The Open Door service, however, is a different matter. The University needs to be there when the going gets tough, because matters like these are often time-dependent and place-dependent.

Last year, the service dealt with 25 per cent more cases than it had the year before. There is clearly a rise in the need for this service, and if the increase isn't met with proactivity, and sufficient staff with sufficient training, then Open Door becomes little more than irony.

The University won't provide additional funds for services which don't appear to be feeling the strain, but will instead focus on the more visible changes, which is probably why the library was renovated. The more serious issues bubbling under the service are often disregarded if

there isn't enough of a student voice to raise concerns, and due to the nature of the Open Door service, I doubt enough noise will have been raised on the matter.

The University must be willing to listen to the minority of its students, if they are requiring greater welfare services, a sufficient coping mechanism must be in place.

So where does this leave us, as said fast-growing student population? It leaves us with overstretched and under-staffed ser-

“The University Health Centre can't keep up with student growth either”

vices on campus, a place which is supposed to be our first port of call when times get hard. Indeed, there are plenty of alternative welfare services, from Nightline to the NHS in town. Students at York do have options, but the University shouldn't be able to dismiss these issues, in the hope that next year's student crowd won't need the Open Door service, and calm will be restored once again. That isn't going to happen. Needs are increasing almost as much as the population.

Students recognise the welfare services provided as something designed with students in mind, so the University has to step up to the mark, and stop closing its doors on the students who need them to remain open.

Follow the debate:
Comment online at
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Comment

Runner-up in Guardian Student Publication of the Year 2012

NOUSE



Est. 1964

Grant refugees home fees

Since 2011, the University has charged international fees for those seeking asylum. Moreover, these students no longer have access to student loans. Asylum seekers studying in the UK should pay the same fees as home students - or else we restrict their right to access higher education. If you are living on £36 a week you cannot be expected to pay £8,500 to £29,200 a year in university fees. Asylum seekers were once the heroes, the scientists and scholars who escaped repressive regimes. Sigmund Freud, Albert Einstein and Karl Marx were all refugees. It would be of monumental arrogance to allow ourselves to start thinking of refugee's fight for an education as a burden. It is criminal not to offer them the necessary support systems the University can offer. York needs to follow the lead of Manchester and Leeds, universities whose students have successfully pressured their authority into adopting this exigent scheme. Anyone who has fled their country of origin to avoid war, torture and persecution is not the same as an international student who has necessarily chosen to study in Britain. Students at York should be fighting for refugees' equal rights to the fees home students pay.

Getting welfare to work

Welfare should work, especially in a collegiate university campus. The fight for a fourth maintenance loan installment for nursing students is just one example of the need to start actively campaigning for better support services. University can be isolating, and balancing our studies can be stressful. University isn't the 'real world'. We are at a school with no rules and there isn't always direction. Life goes wrong and the University support system should be our safety net. Today students are slipping through it. We need counsellors in colleges and we need more staff taken on at this time of the year to cope with the demand. The current system does not suffice when a student with real mental health issue has to wait two weeks for an appointment. The University must have a contingent plan in place, to cope with the recent surge in demand, and work on strategies to help prevent students needing to seek support in the first instance. The University system cannot afford to fail students on such a crucial level of provision.

Environmental Economics

Nouse has revealed the University is set to miss its long term carbon emissions target, and is getting further and further from meeting its target to achieve a reduction of 62 per cent by 2020. It is not just students' perceptions but the University's perceptions that are important in our understanding of the need for environmental awareness. The University needs to be much more open with regards to its achievements, and its failure, in hitting this "challenging target." Why not involve students in its ambitions? Students have a responsibility too when it comes to energy saving and green living. The 'Student Switch Off Programme' and the 'Green Impact Programme' need to be followed up with a persistent change in behaviour. YUSU and the University must work to obliterate student apathy, not justify it by clouding the issue, denying students access to information. Student Switch Off is reaching 130,000 students at 54 universities across the UK. The burden falls on both the University and students to embrace an environmentally friendly mentality. Being environmentally friendly is good economics - few students would be opposed to 'saving the planet' if it meant reducing the size of their bills. So why not incentivise your students to do so? That way, everybody wins.

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Let's head back to the Heslington West gym

Ellie Rice



Believe it or not, one of my main reasons for applying to the University, was the promise of amazing gym facilities arriving in the very near future.

But so far, they've been a major disappointment. The problems lie in the fact that the gym on Hes East was never designed with students in mind. It has been built to make money, meaning that it needed to appeal to the larger, local population of York. To fulfill such a purpose, the ridiculous inflexible membership system exists.

Why am I paying for a swimming pool I'll never use? Why can I not pay to participate in classes on a one off basis?

Considering the original gym on Hes West is charging less than half the membership fees for the facilities I wanted, you might question why I use Hes East? Simply because the Hes West gym was never well-advertised. Too keen to promote their new venture, the University

failed to give their students all the information they needed in order to make a fair and balanced judgment.

Not only is the pricing system not suited to the students, but the gym's location limits its accessibility, especially before the bus routes were (sort of) finalised this term.

Seemingly miles from even the Hes East campus, the location is close to inaccessible, unless you have a car. And let's be honest - most of us don't. We are instead limited to the buses, a bike, or - god forbid - our own two feet.

Granted that cycling isn't the end of the world, transporting yourself to and from the gym takes time that we don't necessarily have to waste.

Balancing academic commitments, social lives, perhaps a job, sports, societies, and the gym leaves us with very little time for trekking out to the sticks. These transport issues limit the frequency of trips to the gym for some, and so we are not

getting our money's worth from the already inflexible membership.

The classes provided are not totally student friendly either; who on earth is going to beginners spinning at 7:15am on a Monday? Revs is calling my name, my friends.

There is also a dire lack of classes at the weekend, the time when we have the most time to spare. Both these problems need to be dealt with, especially the weekend classes. Even if the University wants to focus on the locals, surely they want to use the gym at the weekends more too?

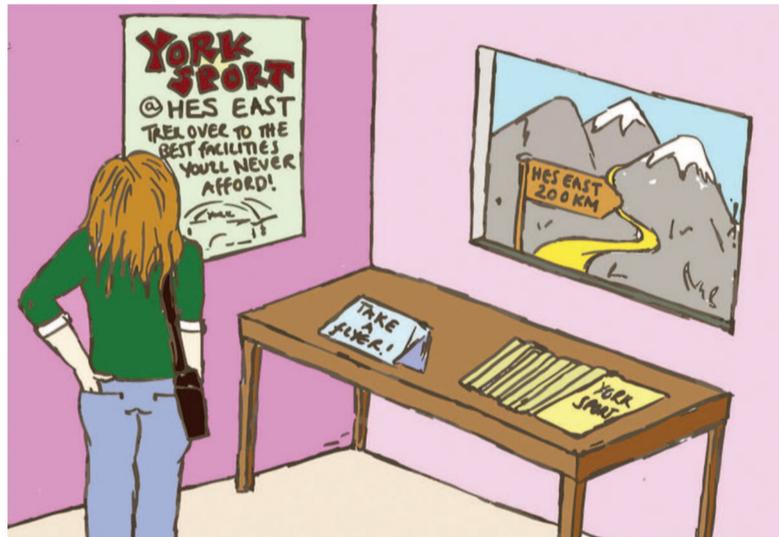
And finally, as a member of a sports club who were promised certain facilities which never materialised, I am probably more disappointed than most. We were also not made aware of potential ways in which we could use the spaces and equipment that are available until we directly asked.

In direct contrast to our situation, other clubs were provided with additional space due to their status as a BUCS sport and their success there.

We too are a winning team, but not being a BUCS sport stops us being a priority for York Sport. Overall, the overpriced under-development does not provide for those who should be at the centre of its market. We are University of York students and this is, in part, a University of York facility.

These issues should be addressed, and I hope that eventually the problems will be ironed out. But (I'll be heading back to Hes West next year for definite.)

They say you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone, and not signing up to the no frills gym has definitely made me more grateful for the simple things in life.



KATE MITCHELL

Homing in on tuition fees

Kate Mitchell



As my flatmates and I sat around aimlessly lamenting the grossly unfair fees we are paying just to be here, it struck me that we were infinitely luckier than an entire group of youth in Britain simply by the fact that at the end of the day, whatever strain it may be exerting, we can all afford it.

The Student Action for Refugees (STAR) Society's petition for the University of York to charge asylum seekers home fees and the right to additional support is rightfully drawing attention to the extremely unfair restrictions placed upon asylum seekers wishing to pursue Higher Education in Britain. Despite many growing up in Britain, they are forced to pay international fees which range from around £11,650 per year to a staggering £29,000 per year. Asylum seekers are also unable to receive any form of bursary or student loan, and they aren't even allowed to earn a wage.

The likelihood of any of them having a spare £35,000 or so lying around is low. For someone fleeing

across the world to escape persecution, the likelihood is even lower, and the £5 per week they are given for living costs (roughly half of the sum given to unemployed British citizens, incidentally) isn't going to help.

It is clear that the option of pursuing higher education in Britain is practically nonexistent for asylum seekers. Before May 2011, however, asylum seekers were charged home fees. This is not an outdated law ready to be reformed, but a complete step backwards in my opinion.

Preventing people with genuine ambitions from finding themselves a secure footing on a career ladder is forcing them towards the stereotype of resource-spongers that desperately needs to be overridden. The number of asylum seekers applying to study at the University of York will be low. The necessity of obtaining further Discretionary Leave to remain in the country after leaving full time education is having an effect on the numbers who would be able to apply.

There would be no significant economic blow felt by the University if these few students were charged home fees. I fail to see any fault in a gesture that would have great positive impact on a few without any significant negative impact on the majority.

If words are not enough, practical examples can be seen through universities such as Royal Holloway, Leeds and Manchester, which already offer tuition fee concessions for asylum seekers similar to that before the law change in 2011.

However whilst the step these few universities have taken is significant, there are over 300 higher education institutions in the UK, and if the large majority are refusing to take the morally right stance by choice, greater persuasion needs to be used.

It would be very easy to argue that those who aren't UK citizens are simply not our responsibility and so we don't need to help them. But this is the wrong view to take. The right to education is universal.



Chloe Hayes

Do something with your opinions

I'll be the first to admit that I've moaned about problems I have found with the University, and what I would change if I had the power to do anything about it.

Whether its accommodation, welfare, or social activities, everyone has perspectives on university life here at York. I sat back today after about a thirty minute rant, and I wondered why I don't act on my comments, both good and bad.

Unfortunately there are many students out there just like me who leave their opinions with their friends and don't use their voice when it really matters. Part of the reason is that the protocol concerning when and where to go with your issues isn't explicitly stressed. This lack of awareness, amongst other things, has contributed to the problem we now face: less than 20 people turn up to your average YUSU assembly.

To put this into context, out of the potential 15,000 students attending the University, less than 30 actually make an effort to attend any one Union assembly on a regular basis. This is a worrying statistic. I doubt, however, that the turnout would be much higher even if advertisement for these events was more carefully decided upon. Some people will rest on their own severe lack of motivation to go to an assembly and demand change.

However the effort required to get in touch with any of the YUSU members, especially due to Kallum Taylor's vigorous Facebook campaigning, is minimal. We've all been guilty of having a moan, and then proceeding to do absolutely nothing

about it; however there must be some people out there who do want vent their frustrations, and are still choosing not to attend these events created to give those students a voice.

“there are many students out there just like me who leave their opinions with their friends”

It seems that the problem may be rooted in students' doubt over YUSU's power. Publicity surrounding who the real leaders of YUSU are has been full-on since the start of the year. I've seen their offices, get their weekly email and have been bombarded with their many jazzy advertisements.

But what I have heard little about is what they actually have done to address problems that people have. It's not that I think they don't do anything, I just don't know what they've done in the way of improving student experience.

Of the four assemblies (Academic, Community, Liberation and Welfare and Student Development) it is always the same attendees: other YUSUcrats, student journalists, and society leaders with specific needs.

This definitely doesn't represent your average student, and what their main issues may be. On the YUSU website, assemblies are described as “opportunities to bring together a range of ordinary students as well as elected officers”.

Unfortunately this sort of communication between YUSU and their students isn't working as desired. The days of mass debates and riveting assemblies may be over, but YUSU does seem to be starting to find other more modern ways of getting an array of students opinions.

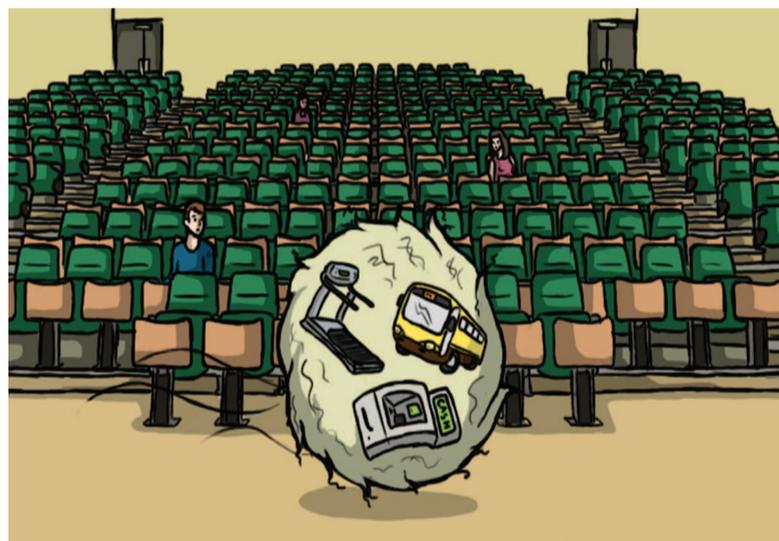
Recently a real life Facebook 'wall' was erected in the library's student buzz area, discussing what the students like and would improve about the library. This is exactly the kind of innovative idea we need, getting people's opinions across with anonymity and relative ease.

Displaying both aspects stu-

dents enjoy about the library and areas of constructive criticism, the board is a success in taking people's opinions to places they will be valued and built upon.

It's dynamic ideas like this that will help YUSU become a more easily accessible body, and hopefully convince students to air their concerns in a more productive manner.

However, more needs to be done to further develop the communication between the students and YUSU. Whether this is scrapping student assemblies all together and putting more effort into successful ideas such as the Facebook wall, or some piecemeal solution, the point still stands that nothing is going to change for students who, like me, are busy ranting in their kitchens, until we are willing to put a little time and effort into expressing our opinions.



BRANDON SEAGER

Sexual harassment needs be cleared up



Daniel Hill

If you've spent time on campus this term, you'll have noticed the results of a sexual harassment survey conducted by YUSU as part of the National Union of Students' Women's Campaign displayed on posters. They found that 75 per cent of female and 65 per cent of male respondents have experienced some form of sexual harassment. Pretty serious deal, right?

The campaign isn't without its strengths. It's thought-provoking, but undermined by a rather poor definition. The study did not use the legal definition of sexual harassment, which means that many of the reported forms of such activity would probably be dismissed by the courts. These posters should have acknowledged this definition. Wolf whistling, for example, formed part of the definition used for the study, and I envisage that most people reading this will have done just that, without a second thought.

There's also the low response rate of the survey that calls into question the legitimacy of the findings. Incidentally, such suggestive language may well meet the criteria for sexual harassment, and given the 15,000-strong student population at the University of York, 200 respondents just isn't enough. I imagine the 'ordinary student' the NUS apparatus is always banging on about would define sexual harassment in a very different way.

But none of this is to belittle sexual harassment. Part of the problem with regards to the legal definition of sexual harassment (which itself is perhaps out of kilter with ordinary folk) is a cultural one borne out of a lack of education on the topic. More physical forms of sexual harassment often occur because people are unaware of what limits ought to be applied to their actions. Verbal ones even more so. But even then, it's a contentious issue. Sexual harassment is often context based: is someone guilty of sexual harassment should they attempt to kiss their partner? I can't imagine many agreeing with this.

I would also question whether those responsible for the graffiti would actually commit sexual harassment in the wrong situation. How can acts like these be stomped out if some students are actively seeking to normalise it? Part of the problem is the perceived differences between men and women. Perhaps it is from these social constructs - the very ones feminists have been telling us about for years - that sexual harassment is fast becoming normalised. Men and women think it's okay, and pass it off as 'just part of a night out'.

Until these problems are ironed out, we can't hope to see the end of harassment. Whatever the solution, we need more than a short survey and a few easily defaced posters. If you're well versed in leading a cultural revolution, you may want to consider putting yourself forward for YUSU elections, as you're just what we need.



Molly Bell

Save me, I'm a medic!

It is easy to forget that as a medical student, I will be graduating in five years with debts exceeding £60,000. Although it is not a huge worry for me as a fresher, I know many who are already struggling to keep finances under control. It has recently been suggested that medical students should be entitled to a fourth maintenance loan, to help fund summer placements.

And I agree, an additional loan would be very useful.

On average, my week consists of 20 hours of contact time, the majority of which are compulsory. This doesn't include the 15 hours of self-study that the University recommends. The intensity of the course means that very few medics have dared to seek part time work. 9-5 days and busy weekends make having a job without negatively affecting your education almost impossible. Additionally, every year students get less time away from studies, leaving only a small period for summer and holiday jobs.

As a result, most medical students are relying much more heavily on other sources of funding. On loans, family, and most commonly

their overdraft. Limited income can result in financial pressure, often prompting worry. Keeping up with studies and preparing for the exam period is already found stressful by most, and I feel that an increased maintenance loan would help to ease pressure during these difficult times.

The Hull-York Medical School (HYMS) student body is made up of college leavers (medicine being their first degree) and graduates. It is unfortunate that these post-grads are entitled only to maintenance loans from student finance companies. They do not qualify for grants or help with tuition fees. Similarly, as well as paying increased fees, students from outside the EU must be entirely self-funded. This could adversely affect these students in particular. Surely this counts as unfair. At the very least these students would benefit from a little extra funding.

On top of this, medical students are required to spend money on equipment that other students are not. Before arriving at university, HYMS insisted that every student was to purchase their own stetho-

scope and set of scrubs, costing in total around £70. Other additional fees of the medical school include membership to the British Medical Association and the cost of learning resources not available from the university. In addition, along with most of the students on my course, I have purchased 3 or 4 books, each costing around £60 in order to avoid disappointment in the library and to allow page annotations during revision.

“I can see extra funding only improving the quality of time for students at university”

Another fairly noticeable cost of being a medical student, particularly at HYMS, is the cost of travel. My third year will be concentrated on patient contact and full exposure

to clinical medicine. Every student will eventually complete a placement in each of the five areas within the HYMS region, allowing an experience of a wide range of disease and illness in a diverse social setting.

Despite being one of the best years of study, I have been told that travel costs are very rarely reimbursed by the University, making the cost of petrol and train tickets an extra drain on the already dwindling student bank account.

Despite medical students being financially supported by both the NHS and their place of study, an additional maintenance loan would not go unwelcomed.

I can see extra funding only improving the quality of time for students at university. However my previous points would be rendered inadequate if this additional maintenance loan was not made available to all medics, and depended on previous education, parental income and nationality. I look forward to seeing what happens in the future, and hope upcoming medical students will gain from the proposal.

Comment

Lizzy
Roberts

LIPS: the society giving women a voice

LIPS, a new society aimed at politically minded women, targets the lack of female participation on campus

The Ladies in Politics Society (LIPS) was launched recently, aimed at encouraging women across campus to get involved in student and national politics. Opening speeches from its founders informed members that the society would hold workshops on public speaking, play host to prominent female guest speakers, and help to increase awareness of women's issues around campus.

“Helping more women engage in politics can only be a good thing”

Madeline Spink, co-founder of LIPS, said of the event, “It’s really important that women have the confidence and motivation to take part in political arenas which are often very male dominated. Hopefully, LIPS can encourage more women to get involved in societies, YUSU, and political life after university.”

The launch event was held in the Student Centre and attended by Kallum Taylor, YUSU President, Bob Hughes, Welfare Officer, and representatives from various political societies.

LIPS got me thinking about how important it is to have a society that encourages self-identifying

women to take more of a stand in student and national politics, and that it’s about time that confidence workshops were on a political agenda. As a fairly politically minded person myself, I felt obliged to attend a meeting that not only gave me lip-shaped sweets but also the knowledge that I wasn’t the only woman to have ever thought I sometimes wasn’t being taken entirely seriously because, well, I’m a woman.

It’s easy to assume that anyone who’s interested in politics can get involved; we live in a free society after all. And they can. The problem starts once you realise, as a young woman, that you have opinions but they’re not taken as seriously as someone of the opposite sex. Perhaps it’s because we still don’t have an equal gender ratio within government (or in YUSU for that matter), perhaps it’s because our society is still inherently quite sexist; either way women seem to get a raw deal of it when it comes to being taken just as seriously as men in politics.

Alex Osborne, co-founder of LIPS, stated that the student body consists of around 8,900 women (which is 56 per cent), but shockingly only an estimated 20 per cent regularly attend Politics societies and that in recent years, there have been more joke candidates for YUSU President than there have been female ones. At first I doubted that the statistics could be so stag-

geringly low. Isn’t university supposed to be that time when you get overly-keen on just about any issue because there’s a society offering biscuits?

According to LIPS, the reason that women across campus appear to be so apathetic isn’t because they necessarily are, just that they don’t feel they have the confidence – or tolerance from others – to speak up and attend events. It seems to make a lot of sense when you consider the fact that the majority of political societies are heavily male dominated. I have to admit however that feeling intimidated in serious discussions

“it’s about time that confidence workshops were on the political agenda again”

isn’t always down to the fact that I’m a girl, half the time it’s because I have no idea what I’m really talking about (anyone with Monday morning seminars would surely agree with me here, regardless of gender). But the situation is different when you know you’re not being taken seriously in a situation, political or

not, just because of your gender and it could just be one of the most degrading feelings you can imagine.

Young women shouldn’t be made to feel alienated from societies, nobody should, they have a voice and it’s only fair that it’s heard as loudly as the rest of the group. It’s easy to see how it could sound a little far-fetched to say that girls feel intimidated every time they want to say something serious or political, but Osborne listed examples of women feeling that their gender put them at a disadvantage in certain societies, and this is simply not acceptable. Sometimes we underestimate how important it is to help people speak out confidently, and seeing as we have these issues across campus. A focus upon young women through LIPS is a great way to do this.

It’s fundamentally important for women to feel they are able to be involved in politics at any level and by providing workshops on public speaking and advice on how to deal with intimidating circumstances, LIPS has promised something that schools and government should be actively encouraging. Helping more women engage in politics can only be a good thing, sending a clear message to say that they should be taken more seriously in their opinions at debates, in university societies and in political participation at large.

Topical Tweets
from the TwittersphereRosalind
HayesThe ratification rules
needed a change

Following the recent debacle of the Palestinian Solidarity Campaign, traversing YUSU’s convoluted ratification and appeals process, the means of christening new societies has been overhauled by Chris West, Student Activities Officer. Finally introducing a list of criteria for burgeoning groups, and founding a new independent appeals body, gives students a more transparent view of YUSU’s selection system. More importantly it is a means of getting a good hand in the game of student politics. It’s gratifying to see that the student voice will be heard here; not quite a reprieve for lack of consultation by Kallum Taylor, YUSU President, on proposed boundary changes. But maybe it’s little things that matter more to the campus microcosm.

While the ‘checklist of key attributes’ is still a little hazy, it marks a distinct improvement on the previous system. Being given a clear breakdown of what is required to pass through the hallowed arch of ratification into the realms of Union endorsement and dollar may sound prescriptive, but view it through an alternative lens and it’s easy to play. These conditions are a veiled advantage – boundaries to maneuver within or even manipulate. I’d like to see people taking advantage

of this as a concrete precedent for the weird and wonderful to attain SocStatus, prominence or, at the least, recognition on campus. Societies have the ability to enrich, more so as they drift further left of field. Enough of the mundanity and more of the MedSoc.

West has also achieved further democratisation of the process by launching a separate appeals body

“we can expect a more diverse and exciting collection of societies”

which is independent of the initial application board. The previous appeals procedure operated with the same members on all bodies – hardly a system that screams democracy. Since the changes have been introduced, four new societies have been welcomed by the Union after having already appealed, revealing the inadequacy of the prior system. That this blatant subjectivity should have been institutionalised for so long is stunning considering that YUSU claims to be “run for, and by, the 15,000 students” at York. Here at least the clarifications should

improve the student/YUSU relationship. Expecting anything less than transparency from our Union would be ridiculous. Hopefully we can expect a more diverse and exciting collection of societies to attain a place within the University network, as this reform begins to ring the changes.

On a related note, the assertion that the Palestinian Solidarity Society was denied because it lacked “potential to develop its members,” is hilarious considering the smooth ride FetSoc had in ratification last year.

Recent reform shows an intention to undermine the institution-based control of endorsement for student-run activities. YUSU is a democratic body and should represent all its students. And we on campus need to utilise this – the changes may seem inconsequential but maybe that is due to our lack of engagement with student politics.

West’s changes in the wake of harsh criticism demonstrates their will to listen and act. The new ratification system opens the door to a diversified range of interests to realise their potential YUSU-worthy status. What is important is that we reap this transparency to shape the requirements to our own means, not the say of the University.

@yusuprez
Kallum Taylor,
YUSU President

8 Feb

@YUSU_RAG PARADE today @yorkunisu! I hope the @CityofYork is ready! Old McDonald had a farm... @yorkpress #Ee #Aye #Ee #Aye

7 Feb

@DavidAllenGreen

David Allen Green,
Newstatesmen legal correspondent

Someone on Facebook has just pointed out absurdity of a church founded by Henry VIII complaining of redefinition of marriage #EqualMarriage

@iansteadman
Ian Steadman
Writer at Wired.co.uk

5 Feb

Cannot think of any logical reason why students shouldn’t vote for an inanimate carbon rod for NUS president.

10 Feb

@YorkSportPres
Charlotte Winter
York Sport President

Congratulations to @U_Y_F_C for a fantastic win over Leicester tonight! #YorkIsBlackAndGold #top40

MUSE.

12.02.2013

And then they came for me

Marc Schatzberger escaped the clutches of the Nazis, thanks to a daring rescue mission. We hear his story.



Fashion.

The fashion team take you on a whirlwind tour of beauty trends on the catwalk and in the shops.

Music.

We talk to Bastille frontman, Dan Smith, about his rapid rise to fame.

Arts.

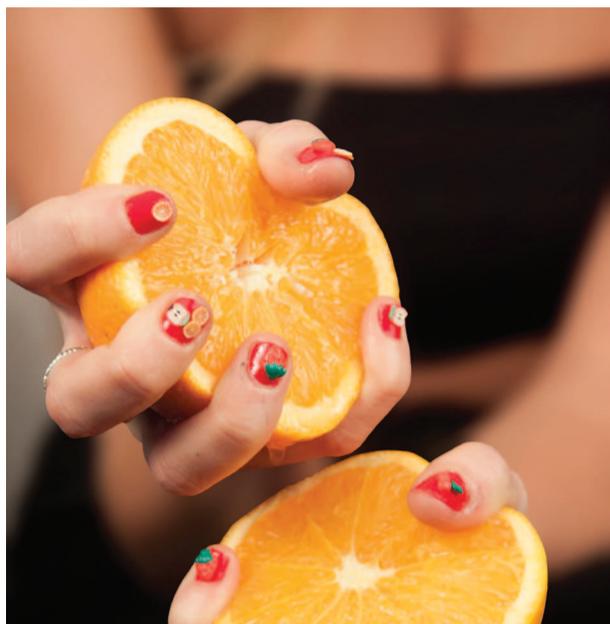
What does Hedonism look like to you? Gení Carreras on *Philographics*.

Film.

We talk to the directors of the Monty Python studied *A Liar's Autobiography*.

M14

So much more than man's best friend? We talk to the UK's first pet registrar.



M12. The Muse Shoot takes beauty to the max. Grab a slice of the fun with *The Sweetest Thing*.



M14. The UK's only **dog registrar** tells us the truth about puppy love, and who's spending £20,000 on their pet's big day...



M20. The owner of **Xing**, The Shambles own health food store, talks wraps, baps and fruity smoothies.

Arts.

M4. A picture tells a thousand words. We hear from **Genís Carreras** about his collection of '-ism' posters.

M6. Artistic practicality. We look into the 1920s **Brahaus movement**.

Fashion.

M8. This week's all about beauty. We talk to make-up model **Emi Dixon**, and find out what's on trend in catwalk beauty.

Music.

M16. Radio 1 favourite **Bastille** explains his route to fame... via a recording studio in a broom cupboard.

M17. The latest addition to York's night-life, **Vanderground** is in the spotlight.

Film.

M18. James Tyas looks at '**Something a little bit different**'. Hold onto your hat; the Python's are back.

Food & Drink.

M21. **The Naked Baker** celebrates Valentine cuisine with a recipe for heart-shaped Linzer biscuits.

M21. Helena Parker tells you the ingredients that will boost the old libido.

Image Credits.

Cover: Boutmuet
M3: Courtesy of Camilla Long
Cartoons (M2 & M24) : Brandon Seager

Muzzy's Musings...

The JB
Morals

A silver orchard of apple-macs sat on laps,
The habitat of avid chats for gossip girls who perch in circles
To whisper the graphic acts of one friends
Post-Willow 'massive lapse' in a flat in Halifax.

The section of key texts steadily collects its fines
Will lend for a second, and leave you in debt for life.
The mouth of 'intelligent return' stays open extra wide
Feeding on battered books, shoved upon its black tongue.
Spitting out receipts that no one reads or keeps.

Clotted with debates of STOPPED and SPOTTED
One says its not a joke, the other jotted notes of besotted blokes
Who through cyberspace could hide their face
And write their poetically finest phrase like..
"Oi your well fit"

A place where seats are lost,
If you rest on your laurels
And anything goes
For as everything shows,
There's no such thing as JB Morales.



Camilla Long.

Sunday Times Columnist.

I loved interviewing Imelda Marcos, as well as the great glittering He-Moob himself - Simon Cowell. I met Imelda in Manila. She had an enormous pink diamond stuck to the front of her dress and spoke for 5.5 hours (about 3% made sense). She insisted she had given up shoes and only had a few traditional Filipino pairs, but when I asked to go to the loo I "got lost" in the back of her apartment and found a rack the size of a small HGV groaning with Manolos and Jimmys. When I went back the next day, she wept.

If I wasn't a journalist I'd be a psychotherapist. I'm so nosy!

Feminism? Vive la Revolution!

This year, I resolved to be fashionable, or at least wear clothes that don't make me look like Liz Hurley's depressed Peruvian cleaner, but when I spoke to an editor he said that the latest thing was "Kate Moss redux" with a "Big Bird meets Olive Oyl vibe" on the foot. When I asked him to clarify, he whispered, "basically, bollocks". So I've been working "bollocks" for most of January and I can tell you it's going just fine.

Mary Beard is a victim of horrible misogyny - what I want to know is why people feel they can attack her like that. If we understand that, we might be able to tackle the problem in general.

I am strongly pro-boob. I don't believe in telling any woman to shut up or cover up, and this includes the women in The Sun. If people think the paper's coverage is



one-note, then campaign for better coverage of women in general. No one would tell women to stop wearing bikinis or going to the beach because the Mail is constantly cooing over their impressive

"I am strongly pro-boob"

curves, so don't tell women who earn their living out of their boobs to go home and get another job. The more we demonise women's bodies the less we celebrate womanhood.

I have just finished watch-

ing all 13 episodes of House of Cards. It's fantastic. Kevin Spacey must have the most menacing man-tan in all of political drama. Robin Wright is the ultimate political wife - gorgeous and scheming.

My ultimate guests for dinner would include Nero, although I think he'd be a bit like David Brent. Same goes for Oliver Cromwell. The problem is that most great historical figures - Elizabeth I, Karl Lagerfeld - would be terrible at smalltalk, so perhaps I'll just say Homer, because I'd quite like to know who he was, and Jimmy Savile, because there are a few questions outstanding.

Interview by Tom Witherow

The Lonely Smoker

Rose Troup Buchanan

The problem with Valentine's Day isn't the fact that it is a horrible corporate invention, designed to make anyone who's alone drink themselves into the alley next to Willow, and anyone who is in a relationship to suddenly develop a strong empathy for the actions of Sid Vicious. No, the most horrible aspect of Valentine's Day is that you cannot escape it.

In two days time it will be the big event. Personally, I feel as if I am battening down the hatches in preparation for a zombie apocalypse; there's a lot of red splashed about, people are/will be moaning and groaning, and a few corporations have stepped in and made a killing.

Ironically, I should love Valentine's Day. It is one of the few occasions of the year when my particularly sarcastic, embittered, and general malcontent with the world is not only accepted, but fanatically embraced by every lonely single person within a five mile radius. As my friends unload their collective love-life regrets (bearing in mind none of us have yet entered our mid-twenties), and wail in stereotyped sonar about the misfortunes of our existence, I get to roll out Malboros like a Catholic priest dispensing absolutions after the weekend.

Valentine's Day, or VD as I feel it should be known, both for its practicalities and the knowledge that come February 15th the local sexual health clinic will suddenly have a much broader clientele thanks to Willow and one pound shots, is Catholic in its concept. Whichever camp you're in, whatever place you're at, VD is a sure-fire way to ensure you feel guilty about something.

It's a minefield. Normal people, who have formerly harboured standard and acceptable expectations of the opposite sex, suddenly start planning dates in a manner tactically akin to Hitler's meanderings around Russia, and with equally unfortunate consequences. Girls, having previously been perfectly content with a couple of drinks, morph into sulking harpies whose shrill protestations of "I don't want anything special" would be labelled poor acting on *Made in Chelsea*.

Smoking outside Willow the other night - always a great place for pondering life's more profound questions - I considered the macabre mating rituals which were presently taking place above the glorified tackiness of La Senza. We are not a generation who should do Valentines.

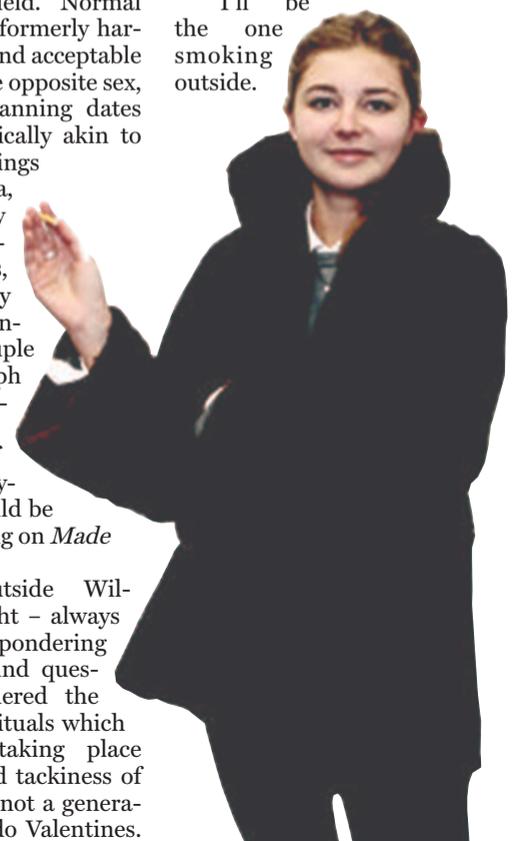
We have liberated ourselves from the conventions and traditions of our parents, and with that emancipation we've elected to get drunk, behave crudely, and throw up over someone's shoulder after getting with them.

The collected horror stories of my friends' dating history are testament to our disqualification from VD. My favourite was the tale of a friend who after being taken for a civilised cup of tea (earl grey) was then invited along to river to a spot where dogging was going on. After that, as she said, it all got a bit "weird." Or another who was taken Salsa dancing, in a barn, in the depths of Devon for Valentines. Also a bit weird.

As my relationship history resembles nothing so much as a collection of empty cigarette packets and a penchant for reduced price whisky, my experience on the whole 'dating' front is limited. The real problem with VD is then perhaps less what you are required to do, and more that it requires you to think. For me this means that the week of February 14th is usually inordinately more expensive than any other period of the year. Being the dispenser of comfort and addictive tar to my friends can have its occasional draw-backs, chiefly expense.

However, if all this talk of smoking and drinking and thinking about VD is making you miserable, I have a solution. In a truly spectacular choice of date (who says academics don't know how to have fun?) the philosophy department is kindly putting on a lecture called: "Emotional (self-)regulation" on February 14th. (The Bowland auditorium 6.30 p.m.)

I'll be the one smoking outside.



ARTS.

Visual Philosophy

Graphic designer
Genís Carreras
talks to Dominic
Falcão about trans-
lating '-isms' into
evocative pictures

Genís Carreras is a graphic designer in his early twenties and author of the "philographics" series, a project which attempts to capture abstract philosophical ideas in colour and shape. Some of his other work is stunning. Having seen this breadth and ambition, I wanted to get an idea of what direction he was heading in.

Currently, his work on 'philographics' involves designing new theories, testing prototypes and getting in touch with publishers. I can imagine the end result: a fantastic, colourful book capturing the essence of philosophy in geometric shapes. "So far I've designed 48 theories and I have between 30 and 40 more on the way. The idea is to cover all the 'isms' and turn the book into a useful (and beautiful) visual dictionary of philosophy." This is certainly one way to shed light on this dry and abstract subject.

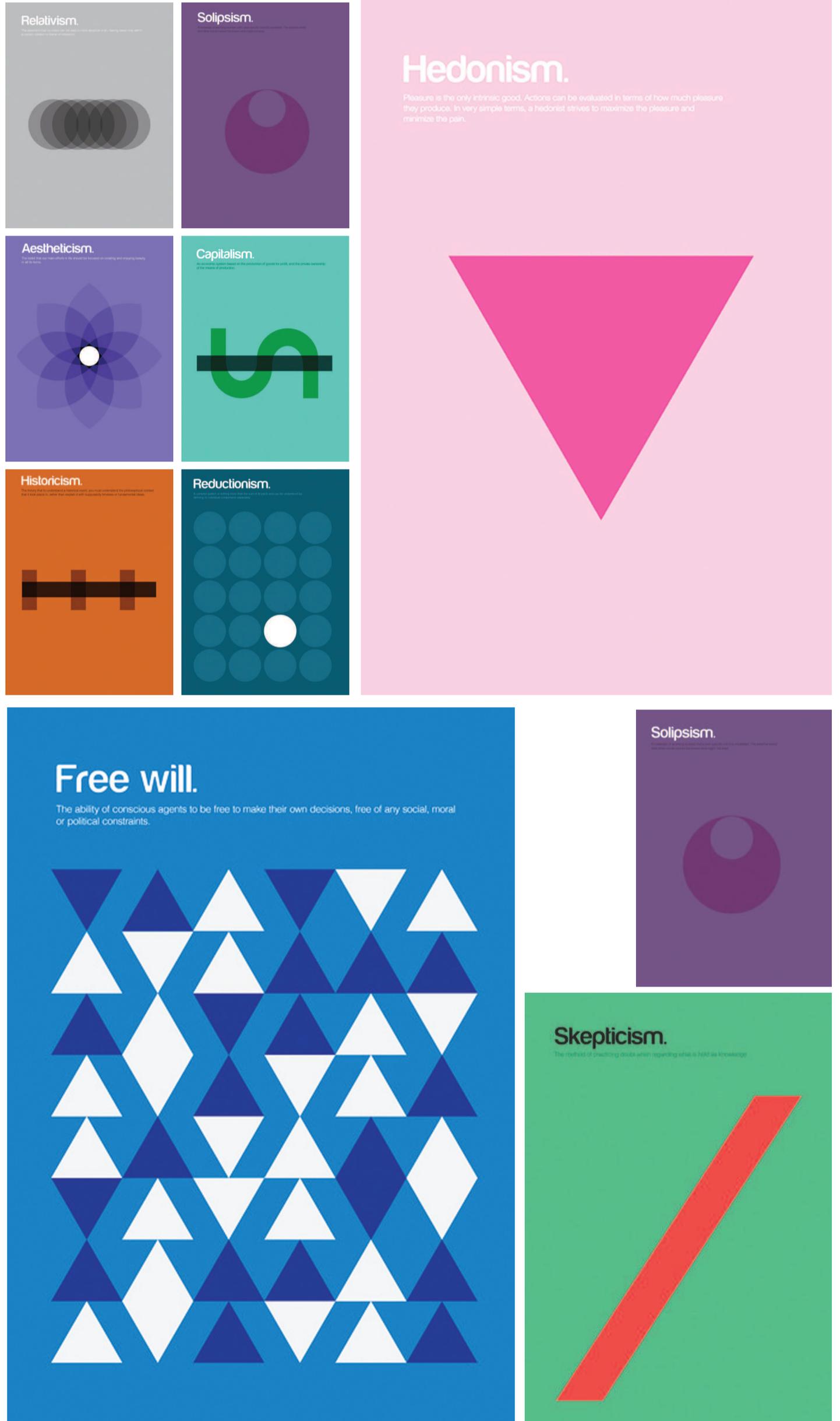
One thing that surprised me when I first came across Genís is how shapes (particularly, Utilitarianism, Dogma, Realism, Empiricism, and Idealism) with no obvious connection with their subject matter were somehow made to connect with ideas that are so complex to express in words, and yet so simple when put into images.

Genís explains, "to create the visuals I used different techniques depending on the theory: some of them can be explained with a visual metaphor, like the domino effect in Determinism, but most of them need to be explained in a more abstract level, like Empiricism and its reference to the senses and perception. With colour, like music, you can communicate a lot of information and it can be understood instantly and instinctively."

But that fluid explanation surely glosses over a rocky transition from words to image? "The hardest ones are those I haven't made yet and now I'm starting to face. Some theories, like Post-constructivism or Functionalism, are very dense and harder to boil down. I might leave them out of the book if I'm not happy enough with the outcome." Yes, I can imagine why Functionalism might pose a problem, but even as I think about it I have some intuitions as to what direction his formulation might take.

I am no art critic, nor philosopher, and part of my fascination comes from the fact I've never really come across a project like this, and struggle to pin down a genre. Genís explains: "I'm very influenced by the Swiss graphic designers from the 60s, the layouts of Josef-Müller Brockmann and the use of colour by Max Bill. I also admire the work of contemporary designers like Noma Bar and Olly Moss."

Digging a little, I find in Brockman the sim-



plicity, the geometric shapes, the bright colours of Genís. In Max Bill (with a name like an expensive night out...) I find pure abstraction. But no time for an art history lesson – it's time to dig into the contentious issue.

I initially found it implausible that someone who cites Nietzsche as inspiration and also comments on the importance of subjectivity and interpretation for consumers of the Philographics project could also aspire to capture some core of meaning in his work that would connect with similar patterns in the intuitions and thought processes of onlookers.

Was there a conflict between finding solace in Nietzsche and the advocacy of a crystalline distillation of philosophical thought? "I think there are universal ideas no matter our culture or education, but there's not a universal way to communicate them."

Maybe using simple shapes and colours can be a way to overcome some of these barriers."

Ah. He is adding to pluralism of delivery techniques, and Nietzsche in turn contributes to the pluralism of philosophical ideas.

But how does Genís deal with controversy when it arises? In a previous interview, he noted that "some people associate the pink triangle of Hedonism with an homosexual icon while others see a part of the female body". This has sparked minor criticism from feminists, who argue that it implies female sexuality is somehow implicated in the idea

of hedonism, and from the LGBTQ community who resent the possible implications of the connection. Whilst insisting on freedom of interpretation is of course his prerogative, I asked him to elaborate on his inspiration for this particular symbol; "All I can say is that I like having a sense of humour in what I do, and this poster is one example of it. I see this design as a very contained representation of physical pleasure and not as an attack on anyone."

design speak, to get jobs without a portfolio. Genís's designs stand at odds with this trend and are maybe even threatened by it, his designs possibly made vulnerable by being penetrating and thoughtful.

I leave the observation open and am rewarded by a feisty reply: "I think it's a normal thing that responds to a specific demand and we shouldn't be worried about it. At the end of the day, businesses pay exactly for what they get, an amateur design that makes them look like amateur businesses."

So what does the future hold for the graphics industry? "I can see minimalism and simplicity getting more and more popular in branding and digital. In a fast-changing world with too much information and messages, I think it's a good way to be efficient, transparent and honest, while standing out from the rest."

I finish the interview by turning to introspection, and with a guilty surge realise we have spoken very little about the man himself. I manage only to tease these final retiring observations "Hm... in ten years time I see myself going back to Catalonia, having my own small studio in Barcelona and probably with kids!" He chuckles. A future as simple as the work he's producing. **M**

Prints can be bought at <http://society6.com/gen6/prints>, and the whole collection can be founds at : www.Geniscarreras.com.

"With colour, like music, you can communicate a lot of information, and it can be understood instantly and instinctively"

Of course, this is only my vision and everyone has their own. But I'm sorry if anyone feels offended, because my intention was the opposite." We find a defense of light-heartedness, you can tell that Genís is really the gently sensitive type, though I'm not won over by it.

There's also been noise from graphic designers at the rise of low-cost, "skin deep" crowd-sourcing graphic design sites like 99designs, which provide only a very short brief to give new designers a chance let their

In Defence of Twilight, sort of

Poppy Bullard

I don't like vampires.
I don't like werewolves.

In fact, it's probably safe to say that on the list of people who are least likely to enjoy reading the *Twilight* series, I would be beaten only by the deceased. They aren't romantic; they are archaic, provincial, Romanian bollocks.

My total aversion to all things Kristen Stewart was, however, somewhat tested after the cinematic release of *Breaking Dawn*. Cringing to the attention-fueled griping of a girl that the *Guardian* ranked #4 in 'Most Pathetic Female Film Characters of All Time', I overheard an earth-shattering whisper: "well, you see the books are really very interesting because the author is actually a Mormon". This suggested that, in spite of my unbridled loathing, a book about vampires might have some sort of literary significance. How disappointing.

Having chewed, swallowed, digested and painfully excreted my pride, I decided that *Twilight* would be worth a read, if only for culturally enlightening purposes. I gingerly opened the first page, expecting to have to painstakingly sift through hundreds of pages of text to find the subtlest of allusions to Mormonism. Fortunately for me, subtlety is not one of Meyer's strongest attributes and the preface is a direct quote from Genesis:

"But of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." (2:17)

Brilliant – If all the references to Mormonism are this explicit I shall have absolutely no problem ascertaining the reasons why Bella is such a drippy waste of femininity. And I don't. From the first chapter onward, it becomes clear that Mormonism is not necessarily the driving force within the novel, but behind the novel.

Bella spends at least 98% of the first few chapters trying exceptionally hard to have no friends and remain enigmatically miserable, but this isn't because she an aspiring Lord Byron, it is just a manifestation of the preface: a self-afflicted purgatory that conforms to all of Meyer's Mormon ideals.

No, Bella shall not be tempted by any fruits from the tree of knowledge – especially those reputed rotten fruits of friendship, laughter, or happiness, because Bella herself isn't a Mormon, but her actions are, however, governed by its idealised lifestyle.

Mormonism is also the reason *Twilight* is not called 50 Shades of Vampire. When Edward's desire to touch each other becomes unbearable, the overwhelming sexual tension is handily dispersed into a far less exciting bodily necessity: hunger. Edward likes to be near Bella because she smells delicious, and when lurking in shadows and being pasty gets a little bit tiring, he would quite like to eat her, not that it's, y'know, personal or anything.

So whilst we all sit at home wistfully hoping that one of them would just man-up and take their trousers off, we should channel our frustration away from Edward and towards Meyer who is only attempting to create a novel that conforms to her cultural beliefs.

So don't blame Bella. As much as she's a complete disgrace to the female sex, has the decision-making capacity of Winnie-the-Pooh and the personality of a damp tea-towel, she's only fulfilling the authorial Mormon obligations of Meyer. It isn't her fault, she is just a puppet.

Get Your Fix

Othello by Verdi

Leeds Grand Theatre

Shakespeare's tragedy in opera

Now - 16th February, £15



Fifty Shades of Browne by Piers Browne

Grays Court, York

Renowned artist exhibits a myriad of landscapes

Now - 31st March, Free



Thomas Cox



God of Carnage by Yasmin Reza

Drama Barn

Comedic student play on campus

Week 6, Friday-Sunday, £3.50



The Great Gatsby by James Capper

Leeds Grand Theatre

The Great, Huge, Wonderful Gatsby pirouettes in ballet

2nd - 9th March, £8

“A new guild of craftsmen, without the snobbery”

Franziska Hintze

Sometimes, as much as it may surprise, art doesn't have solely deal with the high and mighty functions of the 'soul', or attempt to explore notions of 'immediate experiencing' or 'historical dimension'. It is often forgotten that art can also have a much more functional side. A movement from the 1920s exemplifies this perfectly, subordinating design to functionality. The holistic approach of the Bauhaus Movement was to reintegrate art as functional design in all aspects of life.

Why this is an artistic approach in itself

will become clear, if we look at the compelling story of struggle that this movement underwent. Walter Gropius founded the Bauhaus School in the German town of Weimar in 1919. His concept was twofold. On the one hand he wanted to develop a fruitful system of education that formed versatile artists proficient in photography, painting, architecture and design. On the other, he aimed at a vague utopia: Reshaping human consciousness through art.

This intention seems to match that of the expressionists. However, one can perceive the emotional overkill stemming from expressionism, since Gropius was looking for a rational, not an ecstatic solution. He pursued the



goal that every object of daily life should display harmony between function and design and made his students consider cutlery, furniture and architecture under new angles. Even already renowned artists like Klee and Kandinsky joined the school and began to consider the social connotation of art.

Thanks to his "science" of design, Gropius blazed the trail for his successor, the new director of the Bauhaus that had in the meantime moved to Dessau. H.Mayer focused on design of furniture for industrial mass production.

Thanks to earnings from sales of innovative designs developed by students and professors, the school became self-sufficient for the first time and students began to sell their concepts: M.Breuer invented the Bauhaus style chair, the "Wassily Chair", that soon went into production. The second and last move of the school to Berlin under the 3rd director and well known architect Mies van der Rohe was accompanied by a shift to architecture and we can still contemplate the functional, clear features of the Weissenhof settlement in Stuttgart whose construction was lead-managed by Rohe.

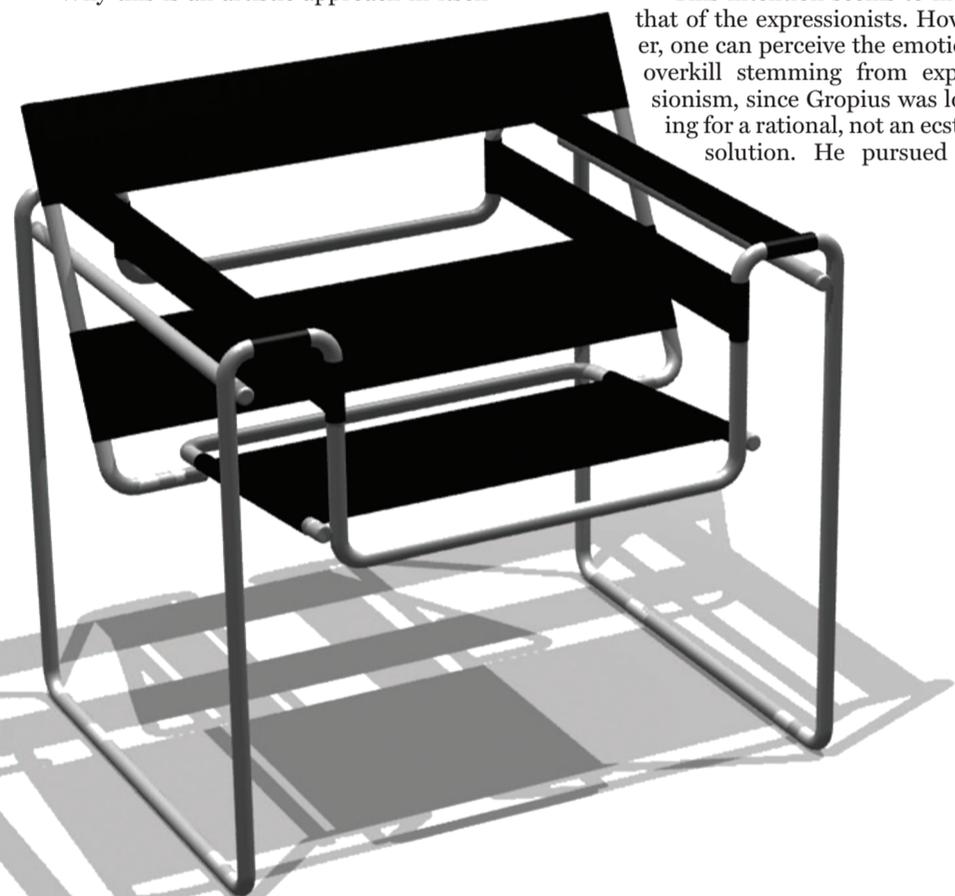
The movement was shaped by quarrels among the art directors within the school, and by political opposition from the right. The cosmopolitan language of the clear geometric forms became its downfall. The movement had always been struggling with allegations of being left-wing and once Hitler had come to power, he considered the movement "degenerate" and "un-German". The Bauhaus was closed in 1933 and most of the artists moved to the United States where they could thrive.

Once Hitler had come to power, he considered the movement "degenerate" and "un-German"

Considering all the opposition the Bauhaus encountered, it is remarkable that our notion of "modernity" is inevitably connected to the clear, rational forms in concrete and steel. The look

of our cities and interior is unthinkable without the Bauhaus.

Mixing mass production with expressionist concepts is a bold project and most tensions within the school are due to this acrobatic pretension. In my eyes the Bauhaus reconceptualised art in two ways: firstly it raised functionality to a genuine purpose of art and secondly its way of struggle and eventual worldwide success is a piece of art itself. The next time you sit in a Wassily Chair, you will remember...



Students and the Arts: Central Hall Music Society

I arrived to meet Alex Wilson and Nick Armfield, committee members and codirectors of this year's musical, behind a queue of razzmatazz-lovers acquiring tickets for West Side Story. They both appear surprisingly chipper given that the interview confirmation arrived in my inbox at 4.30 am, after an "all-night tech run".

Central Hall Musical Society operates almost antithetically to other performance societies, such as DramaSoc. Where DramaSoc may have a play weekly during term, CHMS focuses its energy into one annual opus. But they don't rest on their laurels. "We want to make this the destination musical society" Nick tells me. At the moment their membership mostly exists from within the talent pool of performers, but they are looking to expand, and broaden their public appearance. "One of our biggest things this year is to move it away from being a society based around one thing a year, which is definitely what we are the moment". Yet in attempting to become more inclusive, there is always a fine line to be trodden between quantity and quality. "Certainly whilst we want everyone to audition, there is a very high level of production, which is what we're there to do. But we do want everyone to be involved in the society; just because you don't necessarily sing as well as the next person doesn't mean you can't help in some way".

It seems as though CHMS are committed to maintaining



a high standard of performance, whilst encouraging those who may not necessarily want to perform to become involved. "We want to create a program of events open to all people, which will mean that anyone, not just people who want to watch musicals, can be involved... The show's going on at the moment so you can talk to any one of us and there's also a committee

meeting every Wednesday. So you can get involved in the annual musical, but also get involved in the elections" urges Nick.

It is quite clear that all of this is purely administrative – the vision of the society is far from the imminent realisation of the pair's theatrical vision. It is not until I enquire about their personal relationship to CHMS that their eyes light up, and it becomes clear why the weeks of arduous work are worthwhile. "I think the best thing will be opening night, with an audience, to see something you've worked on for a year – we've worked a whole year on this show – it's huge", Alex glances at Nick, who quickly agrees. "I think that the best thing is having a cast of 35, an orchestra of 20, and a production team of 15. So many people, and yet every single one does their job to the highest level possible. They all care, which is what I like. It's not just us coming up with an idea and trying to make them do it, people are invested in this show. The way that everyone puts themselves at the front of the line going "yeah, I'm going to do this. I'm going to do this to the best of my ability", more than likely at the expense of their course. It's the way that everyone takes it on and says "I'm going to give this 100%", which I just love."

Musicals often have the tendency to perpetrate themselves as frivolous and insubstantial, but behind the entertainment value there is hard work, and lots of it.

Interview by Poppy |

Portrait of an Author: Vladimir Nabokov

60 years on from the shocking 'Lolita', Nabokov's radical experiment continues to intrigue and repulse.

Anwen Baker



Vladimir Nabokov was a prolific author in his time, writing novels such as *Pale Fire* and *Bend Sinister*, but his most famous and most controversial is, undeniably, *Lolita*. It is not only Nabokov's most notorious and enduring work, it is one of the best-selling novels of the 20th century and an icon of popular culture.

Humbert Humbert, the protagonist and narrator of *Lolita*, finds himself drawn to pre-pubescent girls, "nymphets" as he calls them. He becomes infatuated with the 12-year-old Dolores Haze, his landlady's daughter, and constructs an elaborate plan to seduce her. With the death of Lolita's mother, they set out on a journey across the U.S, embarking upon a destructive relationship.

Lolita has incited controversy since its publication in 1955 and continues to do so even now. Only last week, the Nabokov Museum - now a museum dedicated to his life and works - in St Petersburg, Nabokov's childhood home, was broken into and vandalised. A window was smashed and the word 'paedophile' was spray painted on the walls. Last October, a one man stage show based on *Lolita*, scheduled to premiere in St Petersburg, was cancelled when the theatre director began to receive threatening notes. The production eventually went ahead in December, but the organiser of the show was beaten by three unidentified attackers.

These are just the latest in a long series of attacks against this iconic work and the man who created it. Upon its publication, *Lolita* was banned in many countries including France, Belgium and Argentina. John Gordon, editor of the *Sunday Ex-*

press, called it "sheer unrestrained pornography".

Why has *Lolita* endured and why does it continue to incite such consternation? The subject matter is undeniably controversial; particularly now, at a time when society is more preoccupied than ever with child abuse and more aware than ever of its consequences. But to state that *Lolita* is simply about paedophilia is too simplistic. It is the story of an obsessive love and its tragic consequences, the destruction of a young girl's childhood.

It is due to Nabokov's diabolical wit and, as he himself described it, his "love affair with the English language" that *Lolita* manages to be more than its simply disturbing narrative.

Thanks to Nabokov's superb style, Humbert, a character who should be hateful, is complex and almost pitiful. He is at once grotesque, funny and utterly tragic. We learn that he does feel some remorse; at one point he hears children playing outside and recoils at the idea that he has robbed *Lolita* of her childhood.

Lolita is not a moral tale, as Nabokov himself pointed out many times. He makes no attempt to force the reader to empathise or identify with any of the characters, feeling instead that the structure and language of a novel were far more important. It's thanks to this, and to Nabokov's seductive prose, that more than 60 years later, *Lolita* remains as dark, as sharp, and as disturbingly beautiful as ever.

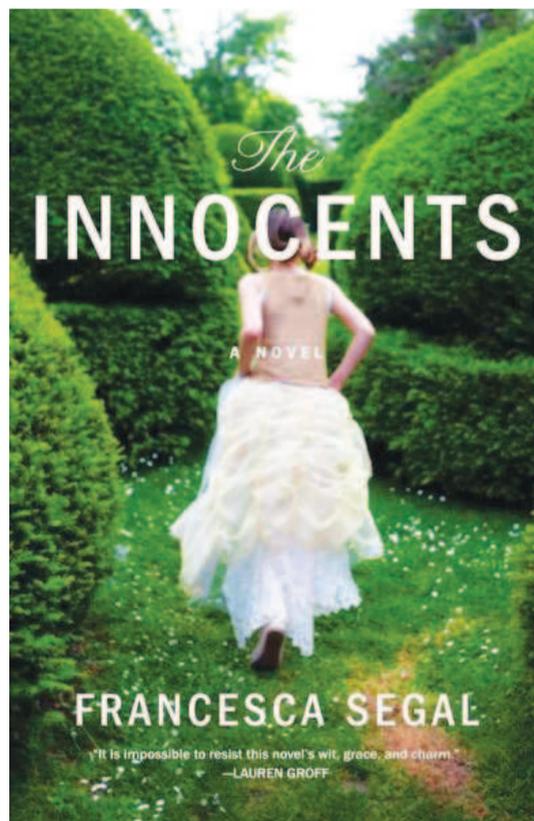
Review: The Innocents

Author: Francesca Segal
Review: Laura Simpson

Winner of the Costa First Novel Award 2012 and runner up for the Costa Book of the Year 2013, *The Innocents* is a clever take on Edith Wharton's successful tale, *The Age of Innocence*. Francesca Segal's debut adapts Wharton's account of the 1870s scandal within the New York elites, into a modern-day London setting.

Segal draws subtle parallels between the tight knit upper-class society of nineteenth century New York and the present day insular London Jewish community. Criticised by some for being an average regurgitation of a classic, for a first book, Segal far surpasses this assessment. This intriguing insight into the Jewish life of London is an ironic twist on Wharton's classic, transforming what has been viewed by some as an anti-Semitic novel into a distinctly Jewish novel. Her tender rendition of characters creates real, likeable figures and integrates historical context throughout, for instance a Holocaust victim features as a central character. Her attempt to include references to the current economic recession, although somewhat half hearted, also sets this novel apart from its source of inspiration.

This novel is delicately written, an honest depiction of loyalty and temptation, proving an easy read for all. It leaves the reader pondering over the significance of individual choice and decision. Yet, this book fails to hold true substance and direction. The rich detail Segal provides, gives the reader an illuminative insight into Jewish culture and everyday life but beyond this, the novel is lacking. Segal's gradual build up of suspense fails to reach a climax in the book's final stages, and fails to make the leap



from a good novel to an excellent one. Overall, as a first novel, its beautifully descriptive style and successful attempt to recreate a classic explains why *The Innocents* was awarded the 2012 Costa First Novel Award, but in regards to this year's Book of the Year Award, it is evident why this novel failed to win.

Review: Pulphead

Author: John Jeremiah Sullivan
Review: Alex Bryan



story that is identifiably his.

His flexibility also shows his apparent journalistic flair. Other than being mistaken for a paedophile on a Christian teen forum, Sullivan has an uncanny ability to get people to trust him and confide in him. Nowhere is this more evident than in *The Last Wailer*, in which Sullivan not only meets the notoriously guarded Bunny Wailer (of The Wailers), but ends up smoking marijuana and eating guinea pig in his back garden while Wailer treats him to an A capella performance of 'Let Him Go'.

Insofar as there can be a common thread in a selection of essays, Sullivan's love of the American South is a constant presence through *Pulphead*. This is manifested mainly in stories about his own life, one of which, about Sullivan's time living with nonagenarian southern writer Andrew Lytle, particularly shows the deep reverence in which Sullivan holds the culture of his native land. One can almost feel the deep frustration Sullivan has with the popular image of the South as the land of guns, Nascar and the clinically obese. He is certainly successful in presenting both mainstream (Axl Rose) and obscure (Mississippian cave-dwelling death cults) examples of how the South is not only heterogeneous but also culturally fertile.

The essays are long enough to tell a story, but not so long that they drag. Theoretically, the diversity and length of the essays means that if you don't like an essay you can skip it and start the next one instead. But Sullivan's writing is so compelling that even if you didn't know or care about the stars of former American reality TV show *Real World*, his humour and his ability to create an interesting narrative will keep you reading.

Pulphead has a strong claim to be the most entertaining volume of pop culture essays to be compiled in recent years. Outrageously well written, hilarious, and easy to read, it will open the eyes of any reader to the reality of American life.

In truth though, the real show on display here is Sullivan; a true master of modern essay-writing.

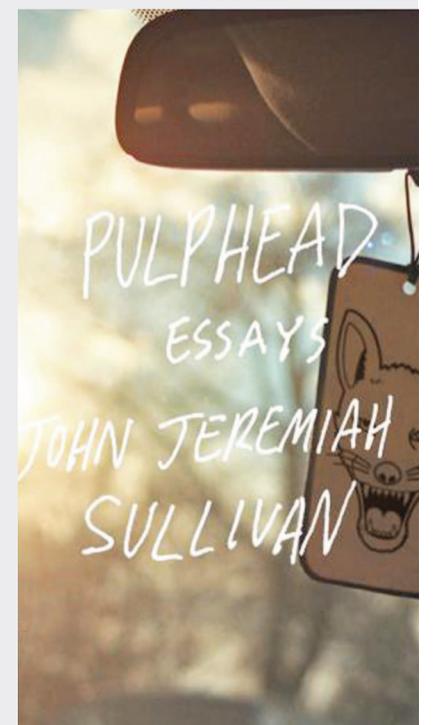
In November, whilst lazily browsing the internet in the perpetual Sunday that follows an essay deadline, I came across a tweet with a link to an article written by John Jeremiah Sullivan. Having seen another tweet (I didn't do much work last term) from Laurie Penny a few weeks previously strongly recommending Sullivan's *Pulphead*, I decided to read the article and see what all the fuss was about.

The 25 minutes or so I spent reading that article - though down to sheer length it should be referred to as an essay - shook me. Not only because of the terrifying subject matter, which Sullivan uncovers and reveals with consummate skill. Nor because of Sullivan's wit or the unexpected twist at the end. Mainly, I was shaken because I had just read another one which had surpassed and revolutionised my expectations firstly for magazine articles, then for extended essays, and finally, for writing as an art in itself.

I bought *Pulphead* the next day.

My initial fear that the other essays in the collection wouldn't live up to the standard set by *Violence of the Lambs* was quickly swept aside. One only needs to read the first paragraph of the first essay - *Upon this Rock* - to realise this is an unusually gifted writer writing an unusual book (though that realisation should probably occur when noticing the police mugshot of a young, skinny Axl Rose inexplicably placed opposite the title page). It is unlikely that there are any other books which encompass the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the life of the deranged polymath Rafinesque, Disneyworld, collectors of early American blues records and the possibility of an impending animal uprising in one volume.

And yet Sullivan manages to find a novel perspective on all of these widely diverse topics. This shows firstly his ability to write in his own voice. Throughout *Pulphead*, which spans 15 long essays, Sullivan's distinctive narration never wavers, and indeed after a few essays the reader feels as though they are getting an insight into Sullivan as much as the subject matter. He writes as the blues guitarists of his native south once played, his technical proficiency freeing him to tell us a



A Hair Raising Tale

India Block interviews high fashion hair model **Emi Dixon** about crazy colour jobs and being a super-stylist's muse.

India Block: How did you get into hair modelling?

Emi Dixon: They basically scout you in the same way that they scout fashion models. They hang out outside places like the Oxford Circus Topshop, looking for people with quite radical hair - people who look like they'd be open to experimentation. Since I've started modelling I've had more people approach me asking me to cut my hair because I obviously look open to it.

IB: What qualities does a good hair model need?

ED: Short hair is better because it grows out faster and it's better for dyeing. You have to be very chilled; we get given seriously high fashion haircuts. They're only really particular about you having a long neck. I'm lucky because I've got quite a long one, plus my hair is really short so that helps. They tell you not to be concerned about how you look - all the focus is on the hair.

IB: Do you have any choice about what gets done to your hair?

ED: You do get asked about your preferences, but they definitely don't think about the fact you have to walk around with it after! That's definitely one of the worse parts of the job; you get a cool haircut and the photos turn out amazingly...then you have to walk out and go to work with a blue afro!

IB: So, what is the best part of the job?

ED: It definitely has its perks - I don't just get free haircuts, I get paid for it. It doesn't feel like work. You just get to sit there for hours whilst someone plays with your hair. The catering is always amazing too. It's like being pampered for a whole day. They paint your nails and bring you food. It's much better than being a clothes model; it's much more personal. You're not just a clothes rail - your hair is attached to your head so if they want to keep cutting your hair they have to be nice to you!

IB: Is it often the same person who cuts your hair, then?

ED: One of the creative directors of Vidal Sassoon, Silvia, contacted me and asked me to be her Muse. She's one of the most creative people I've ever met. She can make my hair go from totally floppy to an afro in under an hour. Now she calls me up whenever she needs me. If I let someone else cut my hair she gets upset.

IB: What sort of jobs do you get booked for?

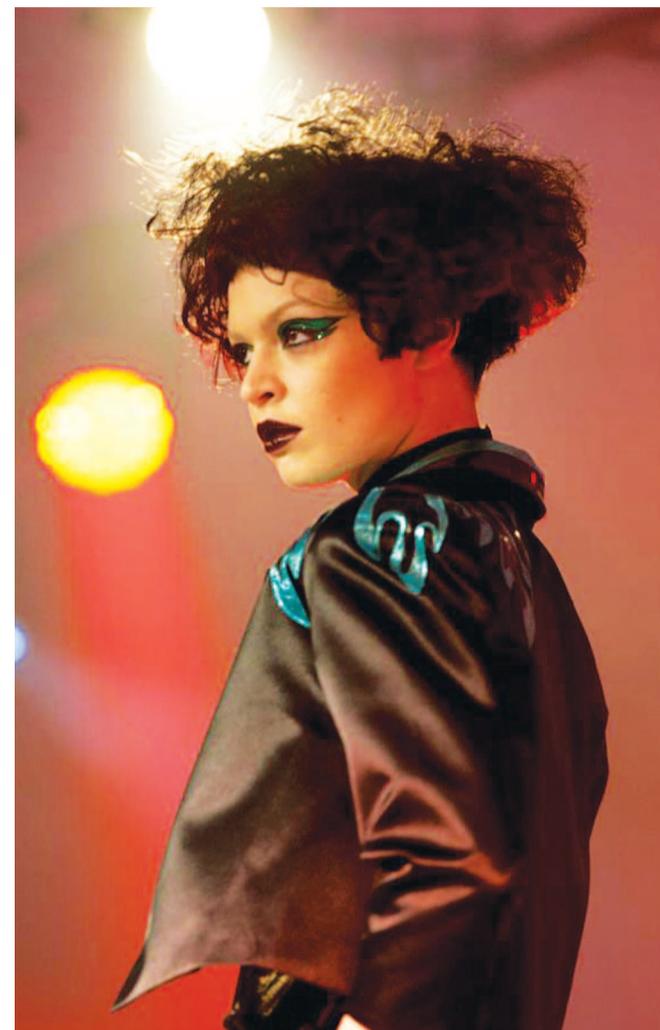
ED: It works like high fashion, but the collections involve hair instead of clothes. We do live shows six months before each season, as well as photo shoots for the website. Sometimes we have to do presentations - the only way to describe it is as a dance routine really. The models that get booked for that are quite different, they're being booked for their bodies so they're more serious than the ones booked for the photo shoots.

IB: What are the people who are styling your hair like?

ED: They are obsessed with hair! It takes about 20 years to get as good as the people who cut my hair, so they have to love it. They aren't normal hairdressers - they have much more free range than anyone working in a conventional salon. It's incredibly technical; they measure your head and skull so they can work out what styles you would suit.

IB: Is it just one person at a time working on your hair?

ED: Not necessarily. The dye-



ing team is completely separate. A colourist would never cut hair. They bring out separate collections of colours. But often they will work together as a duo. I was booked for an event called Salon Live where all the hair industry companies do presentations. I was a model for a colourist that time so my hair was cut the day before and then all the focus was on the colour. I had a tri-colour job that took ages but it looked amazing.

IB: So what is your favourite type of hair modelling work?

The shoots are much more fun. We have fashion designers and makeup artists who come in to collaborate. It's very intensely organised. The hair team confer with them, but it's all based on the hair collection. You get to wear really exciting designer clothes and get your makeup done properly. They do your eyebrows too - no waxing them though, they love to draw them on, the bigger the better. One girl I was with at the last shoot got given pink eyebrows to match her hair. I hope she doesn't have a job interview or anything like that soon!

IB: Finally, have you been given any really out-there cuts or colours?

ED: Two seasons ago it was on trend to have orange hair, that wasn't good! The last three seasons I got a lot of 'puffball' styles. This season it's all very avant-garde, very dark and asymmetrical, which I like a lot more. There's a lot of focus on the crown - I currently have a purple square dyed into mine, which I really quite like.



What's in Your Makeup Bag?

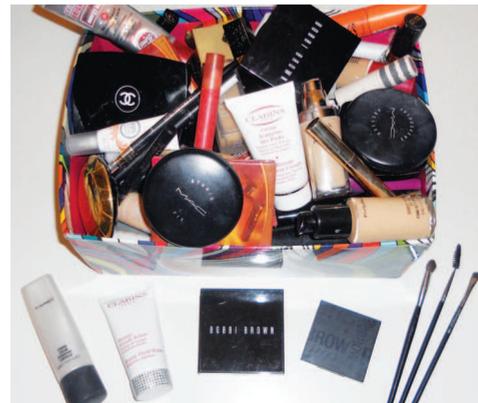
Rachel Thompson - Fashion Writer

My makeup bag consists mainly of Benefit, Rimmel London and Maybelline products. I'm not really one for loads of foundation and blusher, in truth I hardly wear it in the day, but the Benefit 'pore-fessional' is a brilliant cover up/brightener that makes me look alive but not coloured in. I tend to 'work the eyes' - I use brow brushes, eye liquid liners and a number of mascaras; Bad gal has to be the most effective and my favourite. I have recently have fallen in love with the Topshop crayons, they are so easy to use and come in a range of colours; dramatic without the effort.



Francesca Butcher - Deputy Fashion Editor

I adore Clarins' timeless Beauty Flash Balm. It smells and feels great and makes you look radiant. It doesn't cover pores, but it provides a smooth base and allows your foundation to glide on. Benefit's Brow Zings is just perfect, it has brilliant tweezers, shaping wax, powder to set and brushes all in an adorable compact - for me it's a must. I love to 'glow': this doesn't mean pink disco-esque glitter but something more like Bobby Brown's Shimmer Brick. It comes in a range of shades, from pink hues to warm browns, and provides a subtle yet flattering colour and shimmer.



Get the Look...Catwalk Beauty



CARA DELEVINGNE
CHANEL



JOURDAN DUNN - ISSA

When the latest collections hit the catwalk, all eyes are usually fixated on the clothes themselves, not the models' makeup. But if your budget can't stretch to ready-to-wear, taking beauty inspiration from the runway is one of the best ways to name-check your favourite label without breaking the bank. You don't need to be a makeup artist or have a vast stash of designer makeup products; these Spring/Summer '13 beauty looks from the catwalk are all easily recreated with a few choice High Street makeup products.



17 EYESHADOW. £3.99

SMASHBOX EYELINER. £16

Cara Delevingne's look for the Chanel's show is a great example of a makeup combo that can be touched up for a quick fix for a day-to-night routine. To recreate the look, sweep the eyelids with 17's 'Wild Metallic' Cream Eyeshadow (£3.99), adding another layer for a more dramatic look. For creating an easy smudgy flick, Rimmel's 'Scandal Eyes' waterproof kohl eyeliner pencil (£3.99) is fool proof. Cara's strong brows really complement the look, so to keep yours fixed

in place all day invest in the beauty blogger's favourite: a clear brow gel for MAC (£28).

To reference Jourdan Dunn's pretty, sixties-inspired look for Issa, you'll need to perfect your liquid eyeliner technique. Even a complete beginner can master the tricky double flick with Smashbox's 'Limitless' Waterproof Liquid Eyeliner Pen (£16); literally a felt tip for your face, and so easy to use. For a pretty peachy pout with staying power, try and get your hands on Rimmel's latest smash hit, the 'Apocalips Lip' Lacquer in 'Luna' (£5.99).

For a more dramatic take for dressing-up, reference Tian Yi's showstopper eyes at the Dior show. For a base colour with a super-vibrant pigment that will stay fixed all night, use Maybelline's 'Colour Tattoo 24Hr' gel-cream eyeshadow in 'Turquoise Forever' (£4). The diamanté embellishments can be found in any decent craft shop; to attach them without harming the delicate skin around your eyes, use a good false eyelash glue. If you want to add the lashes as well for an even bigger impact, Eylure's 'Naturalites' (£5.35) will give your peepers added drama without looking too outlandishly fake. -India



TIAN YI
DIOR



MAYBELLINE GEL-CREAM EYESHADOW. £4

Lick Your Lips

The darkness of winter lips is coming to an end and lipsticks are taking inspiration from candied fruits, from the like of YSL to High Street brands - the colours all round are fresh and sweet. These sugar-sweet lip colours are somewhere between glosses and balms, providing layers of colour with added shine.

DIOR SERUM DE ROUGE. £25

Dior 'Serum de Rouge' in 'Petal' embodies the glossy trend. It's as girlish and flirty as lipsticks come, and is an absolute necessity for spring. Don't think of it as a beauty product, think of it as a way to accessorise your LBD. You're basically buying a new jacket, so it's positively inexpensive.



BOBBI BROWN LIPSTICK. £18

Shying somewhat away from the glossy berry inspired colours is Bobbi Brown's new range of lipstick shades. These creamy, semi matte lipsticks give lips instant polish with a rich, full coverage. The Hollywood red is candy bright, but without the sickly sweet look. With 30 shades to choose from, your new spring lipstick awaits.



TOPSHOP LIPSTICK. £9

Tangerine is this spring's freshest shade. Topshop's 'Enchanted' lipstick collection has a multiple of shades, but for extra pop this spring choose charmed for the value price of £9. Guilt-free on-trend summer lips for a complete steal.

- Rachel Thompson



Fashion Wins All Round

Francesca Butcher
DEPUTY FASHION EDITOR

The past few weeks have been full of fashion wins of all kinds, from Vogue's Fashion Fund to Naomi Campbell's *Telegraph* court case. Last November, *the Daily Telegraph* published an article with the headline 'Elephant polo at Campbell's party criticised'. The newspaper reported that the supermodel was organising an elephant polo tournament for her partner Vladislav Doronin's 50th birthday party, in Jodhpur. The article flooded the internet and prompted strong criticism from animal rights groups, with protests gathered outside the party venue. She even upset the Indian government; apparently they wrote to Campbell's representatives to express their concern for Miss Campbell's party plans. However, this London lady is known for being no shrinking violet and so she took on the paper in a lengthy legal battle. Campbell claimed that the article was false and affected her reputation. She came out on top and was rewarded 'substantial' libel damages and an apology. Campbell has now accepted the newspapers apology in a win for one of British and international fashion's most famous faces.

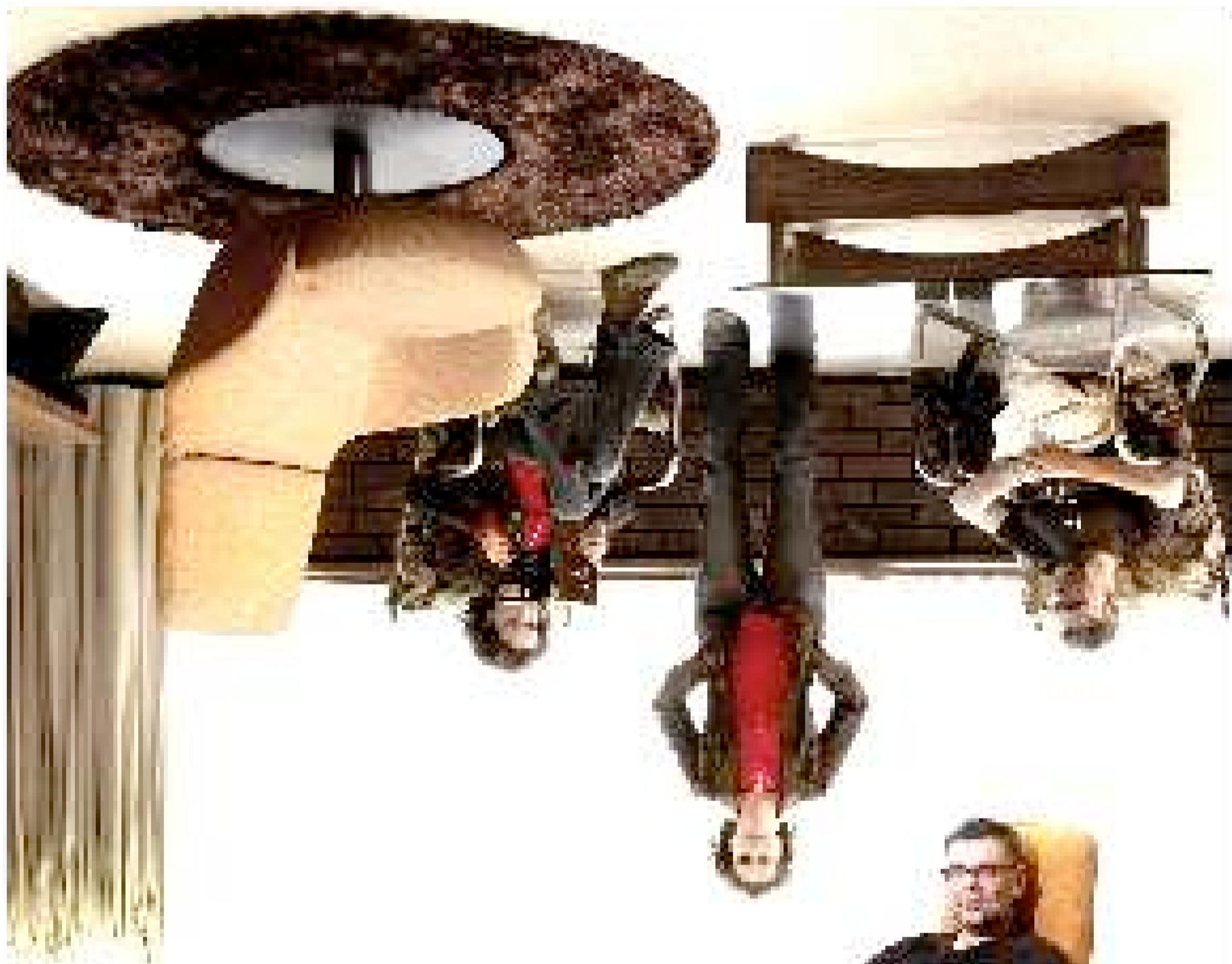
It's not only the elephants in India that can rest easy this month, as it's been confirmed that from 11 March cosmetics tested on animals can not be sold within the European Union. The ban will affect all toiletries; every-

thing from your Dior lipstick to your Tesco Value toothpaste. If any of the toiletries ingredients have been tested on animals they will not be being sold in the EU. The ban was proposed all the way back in 2009, so it has been a long time coming, but better late than never and a sure win for fluffy bunnies everywhere (and, more likely, rats and mice too).

Moving from legal cases to fashion awards, the winner of the H&M's 2013 Design Award was announced on 29 February as Minju Kim. The South Korean design student won over a prestigious judging panel that included Jonathan Saunders, and was victorious over seven other students from across Europe, including Maia Bergman from Central Saint Martins. Kim's delightfully creative collection won her €50,000 and the chance to sell pieces from her collection in selected H&M stores for autumn 2013.

Back in Britain, the British Fashion Council (BFC)/Vogue Designer Fashion Fund have announced their winner: the footwear master, Nicholas Kirkwood. It's British fashion's 'richest prize', started in 2008 by BFC chairman Harold Tillman and funded by some of Britain's most famous names; Burberry, Marks & Spencer, Paul Smith, Harrods and, of course, Vogue. Each year a judging panel made up of some of the finest in the business get together to choose a worthy winner of £200,000 and access to a selection of the most influential mentors in the world. The idea behind the fund is to discover Britain's most promising talent and take it from an established business based in Britain to global super-stardom. Nicholas Kirkwood was up against tough competition, fighting against a shortlist comprising of Mary Katrantzou and Peter Pilotto amongst others. Past winners include the print-loving, master of colour Jonathan Saunders and the phenomenal Mr Christopher Kane. Kirkwood can be proud to join a list of the best of British. Kirkwood said he was 'thrilled' and that the fund would enable him to 'develop his plans globally'. A wonderful win for fashion, and a huge congratulations to all the winners this past few weeks.





The F**k it Philosophy

John Parkin, author of the notorious "F**k it" books, talks to Laura Hughes about work, life, love, loss and saying "Fuck it" to all three.



Above: A class at the Masseria Hotel in Puglia, Italy, where 'Fuck it' breaks are held. Below: a seafront view of the town.



PHOTO CREDIT: WWW.THEFUCKITLIFE.COM

“The C word’s twice as shocking,
but not half as flexible.”



To ‘fuck it’ is to let go and give into the flow of life - to stop worrying and reject what is causing you pain. “The word ‘Fuck’ is truly beautiful because it is slang for having sex. ‘Fuck off’ is really ‘Go and have sex,’ which is not really an insult but a good suggestion. To say “fuck It” feels good. To follow your impulses, ignore what everyone is telling you and just go your own way.

John C. Parkin is the UK’s bestselling ‘wisdom’ teacher. His *F**k* books have an anarchist heart and are available in 22 languages across the globe. As well as running ‘F**k It Retreats’ with his wife Gaia from Italy, he wanders the world using his inspiring ‘F**k It’ words and his powerful ‘F**k It’ Music to help people let go.

John’s philosophy offers a spiritual means of finding peace, but without chanting, meditating, wearing sandals or eating pulses. In John’s novel, he equates saying ‘fuck it’ with a spiritual act. I wondered though why this was, as the phrase ‘to fuck someone over’ surely has negative connotations? “In eastern traditions, letting go, giving up on attachments and going with the flow are spiritual acts. Saying ‘fuck it’ does the

same thing. When we let go and relax, we fall back into a more meditative and ‘spiritual’ state. Other expressions using ‘fuck’ can have negative connotations, of course. Saying ‘fuck it’ has mainly positive connotations and effects for people.”

Why does fuck still have this power to shock and intimidate? “It’s astonishing that this very old word still has such power. It seems that overuse, even in the media, has not overruled its power to shock. Why? Well, there’s a particular harshness to the word itself: the sound created is harsh and aggressive in itself. And I suspect that we need certain words in our language to be able to use that we know will shock others if we use them, so we’re hanging onto this one for dear life. After all, there’s only really one other word to rival the f word, and that’s the c word, and though it’s twice as shocking, it’s not half as flexible.” The words ‘fuck it’ packs an impressive punch, and the phrase taps into the philosophy of pure anarchy.

Could it be argued that saying “fuck it”, is sometimes the easy way out of a situation? We can’t just fuck our degrees, decide not to pay the rent and ditch a hysterical friend? “I certainly hope that saying fuck it is (usually) an easy way out

of a difficult situation. That would be great. The question is whether the consequences of that choice create more difficulty or not. Saying “fuck it” is powerful, but it’s not consequence-free. If doing a degree is a living nightmare, and you’d much prefer to be out working, but the only reason you’re sticking it out is because your parents want you to, then it’s worth considering what to do. If paying the rent is dropping you further into debt, or forcing you to do a job you despise, then maybe it’s worth looking at other accommodation options. And if a hysterical friend is driving you hysterical, what can you do that will relieve you but not make the situation worse? The truth is, we always have a choice. If we know that, and we’re conscious (i.e. we look at the whole situation, including the consequences of what we do), then saying ‘fuck it’ can help us on our way, and make things easier (and there’s rarely harm in making things easier, for ourselves, or others).”

How did John get into this stream of thought and how has it changed his life? “I studied and practiced various systems of philosophical and spiritual discipline for years. 10 years ago, I realized that our profanity ‘fuck it’ is a beautiful shortcut for many of the techniques and ideas used in those disciplines. It’s changed my life in many ways: I let go more easily, I relax more quickly, I am generally more relaxed, I trust things will work out more, I have more courage and go for things more readily. I do follow my ‘flow’, slowing down when I feel like it, but also speeding up and really applying myself when I feel like it too. I’m happier, healthier, wealthier and hopefully wiser too!”

In John’s book, he explores the antagonistic concepts of fear and love. Concluding the opposite of love is not hate, but fear. “If you have a high libido you have an openness and lust for life. In fear we retreat and block ourselves off from certain experiences we think might cause us pain.” He spoke about the agony of young love (no, really). I humoured him and asked what words John would use as encouragement to a suffering student? “Our hearts mend. The world hasn’t ended yet, even though it sometimes feels it’s about to. Everyone looks back and aches to be young again, even if our hearts ached when we were young. Saying ‘fuck it’ is also about embracing life, AS IT IS, even when it feels painful. We embrace it, and one day it will be time to let go and move on.” Saying “fuck it” to pain is to say “fuck it” to fear.

John says it’s safe to feel pain, to play the game of affirmations and tell yourself, ‘I am safe no matter what I am feeling.’ The process of cracking fear has a real momentum; when you respond to pain you are only acting out a conditioned response. And all conditioned responses are reversible. When you encounter any pain, counter your immediate response by just saying “fuck it”. We spend so much of our lives wrapped up and held back by the fear of how others perceive us. If John could give a student a line of life advice what would it be? “Students, pensioners, mid-life-crisis-ridden men and women, and everyone else on this beautiful planet would all benefit from saying this, like a mantra: ‘Fuck it to what others think of me’. We must follow our hearts (with the help of our heads), and take the best of what others might say, but say ‘fuck it’ when it’s holding us back from our gilded paths through life.”

What was John’s attitude towards dieting and self-discipline, because it could be argued these are necessary for a ‘healthy’ lifestyle? “My attitude, as you’d expect, is to say ‘fuck it’ and do what you fancy. We all know the consequences of leading a terrible lifestyle over the long-term (and the short-term actually). We all know too what it takes to ‘force’ yourself to eat well and exercise at the gym. When you take away that sense of obligation from someone, and invite them to do what they fancy, then you get an unexpected response (over the long-term): people (including myself) often end up leading a healthier life than they were living when they felt obliged to do so.”

I wanted to know what advice John would offer to someone who hated their career, and is a student on the fringe of the real world. If we all said “fuck it” and did what we wanted, surely industries would collapse and the world would come to a standstill? “We should all try to do what we love in life. Otherwise what’s it all for? A graduate in our current society (current recession excepted) is in a privileged position: not just to step into the best career and attract the highest salary, but to spend their lives doing something (and usually many things) they love. Please, find ways to DO WHAT YOU LOVE. As for industries, and their possible collapse: 1. Who cares? (they don’t care for you), 2. There are many people who actually love their job in ‘industry’, in every area of industry, no matter how barmy that seems, 3. There are enough suckers out there who’ll waste the rest of their precious lives doing stuff they hate to let you off the hook, if you’re worried about that.”

John talks in his novel *F**k*, about the ability of the mind to elicit a spontaneous sense of freedom. Why would John encourage someone to come to one of his retreats? “Everyone that comes to one of our F**k It Retreats in Italy knows that it’s the right thing to do. They usually have very little choice in the matter: they just feel a pull, so they come. Then they leave more relaxed, having made lots of great new friends, and with a new sense of how to approach life, from the perspective of freedom, f**k it freedom.” **M**

THE SWEETEST THING

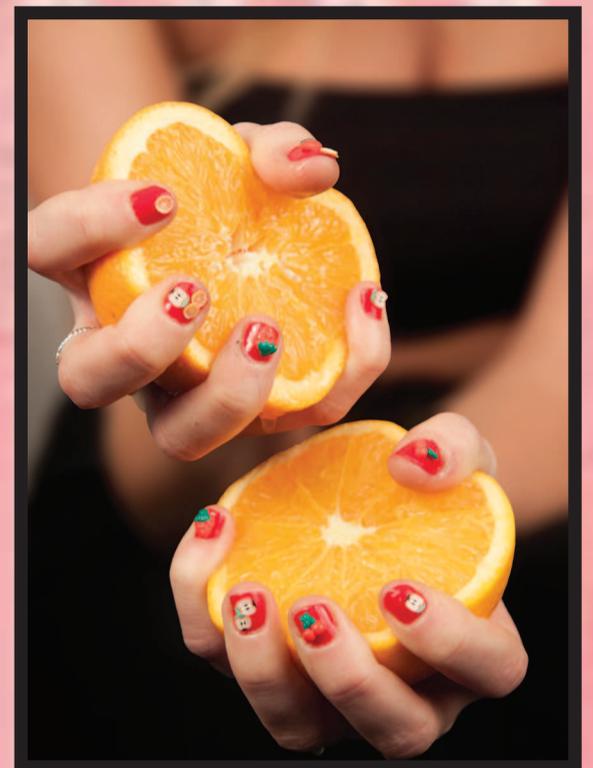


GEORGIA (LEFT) WEARS: NAILS - NAIL ROCK FROU FROU IN BEARS, £5.99. LIPS - ESTEE LAUDER PURE COLOR LONG LASTING CRYSTAL LIPSTICK IN CRYSTAL ORCHID SHIMMER. £19.50. EYES - BARRY M BLINK PRECISION EYE LINER, £4.59

How's the healthy eating resolution coming along? Blown to smithereines? Well, say hello to nails covered in candy, apple pies and Fondant-Fancy-coloured teddies, guaranteed to keep the most insatiable sweet tooth, temporarily, at bay.

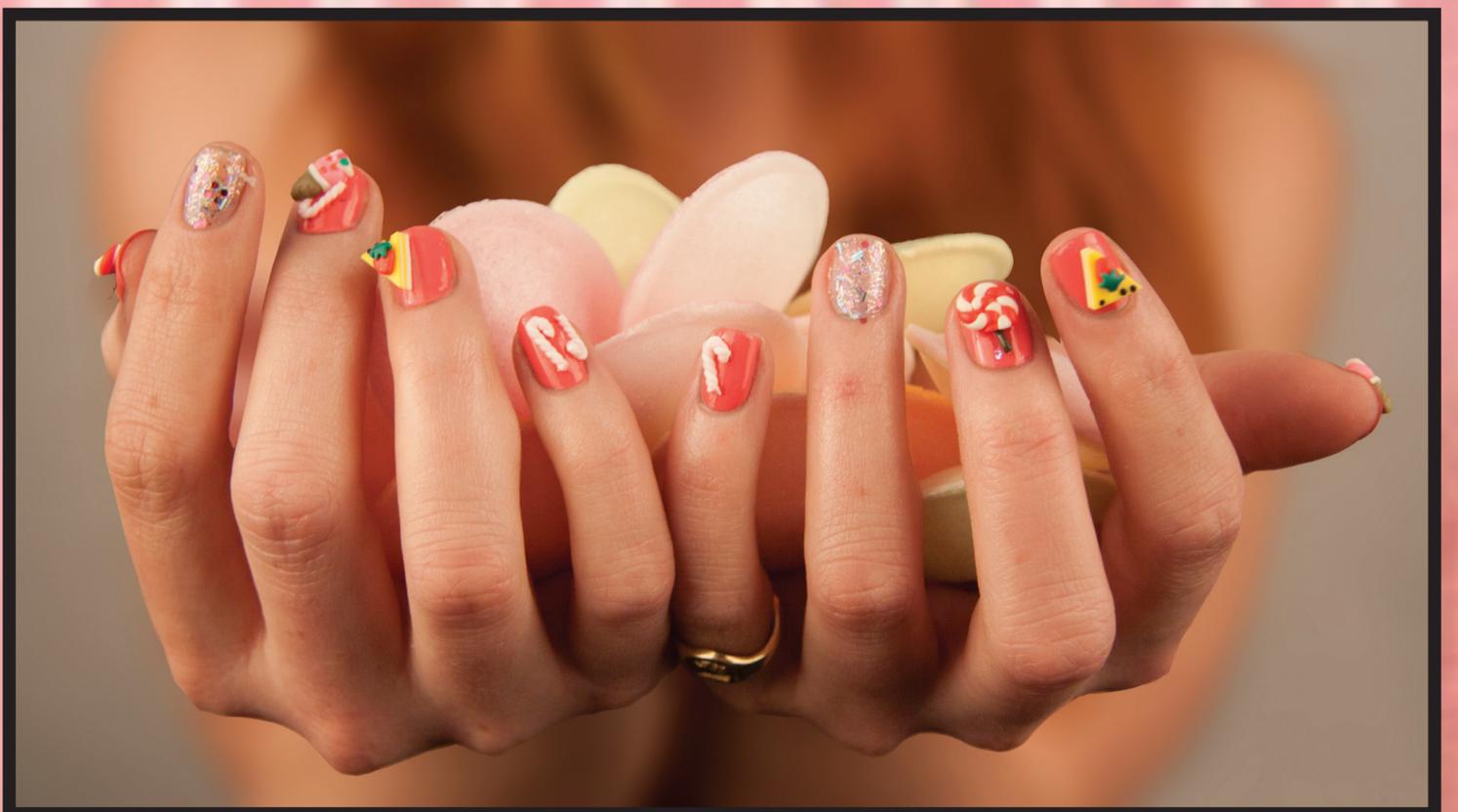
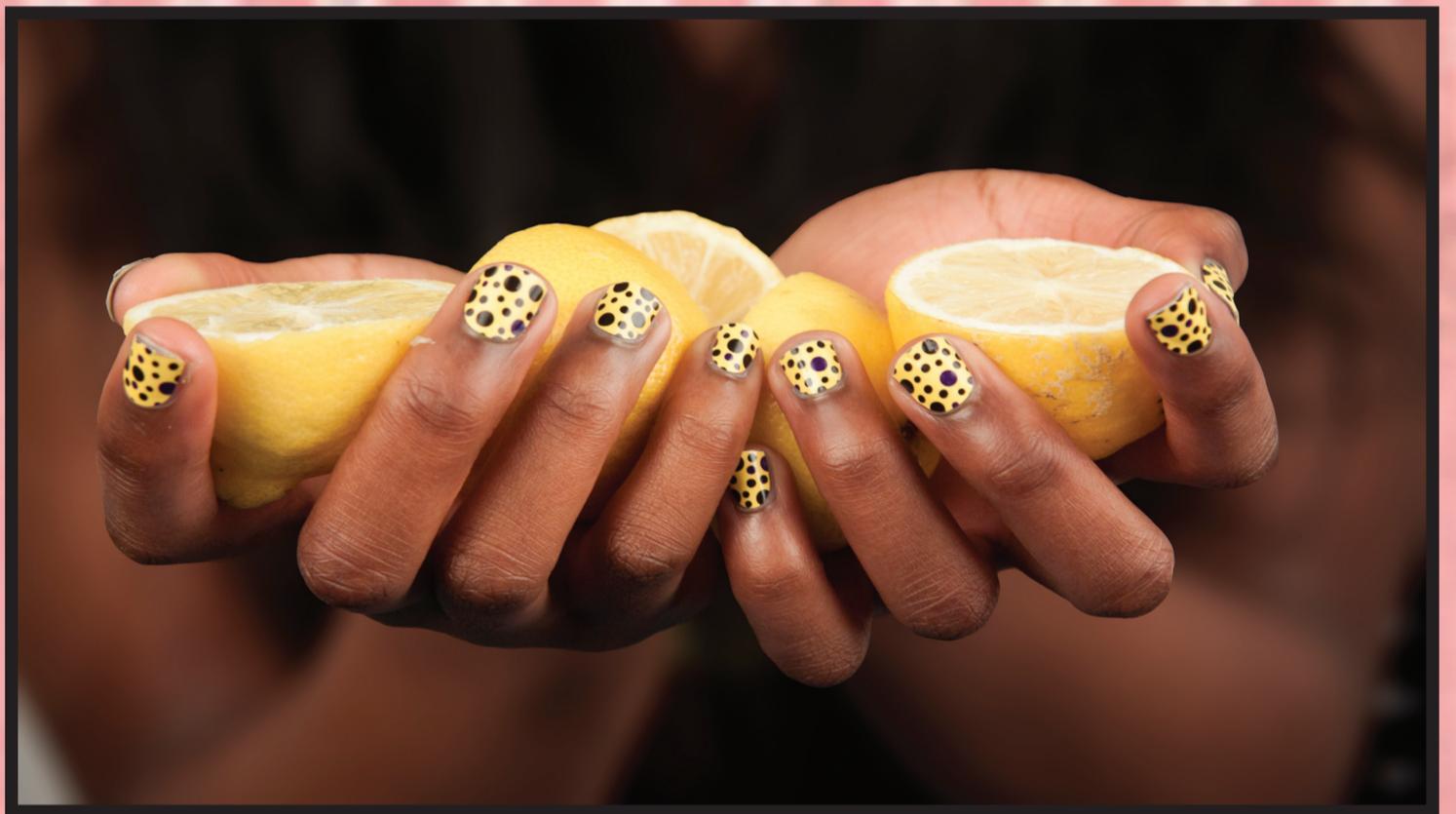
For the more virtuous amongst us, how about fruit salad? Well, the geniuses at Nail Rock have once again come up with the most ingenious nail art to satisfy all sugar cravings, in the form of these Frou Frou appliques.

Simply apply two coats of varnish and drop the appliques onto still-wet nails, for a set of nails that are too cute to comprehend!



LAURA (LEFT) WEARS: NAILS - NAIL ROCK FROU FROU IN FRUIT BURST, £5.99. LIPS - ESTEE LAUDER PURE COLOR SHEER MATTE LIPSTICK IN ROCK CANDY. £19.50. EYES - BARRY M BLINK PRECISION EYE LINER, £4.59. HATTIE WEARS NAIL ROCK FROU FROU IN THANKS GIVING.





BOTTOM: NAIL ROCK FROU FROU IN FRUIT BURST, £5.99
MIDDLE: NAIL ROCK SEEING SPOTS YELLOW, £6.65
CREATIVE DIRECTOR: MIRANDA LARBI
PHOTOGRAPHER: PETROC TAYLOR
MODELS: HATTIE MOIR, LAURA HIGHTON, GEORGIA
OCTAVIA, ABI BARBER

Every dog has its Day

The UK's only animal registrar, **Ann Clark** talks to Fiona Parker about blushing bunny brides, lesbian cats and the £20,000 doggie wedding.

February 14th has a tendency to split the nation into those with a significant other and those with a significant none. But for those of us who will not be booking a meal for two on that special day, there is always the possibility of celebrating the love of others, or even of another species...

We are a nation of animal lovers and Ann Clark is no exception: "I've always loved animals and I've always dressed animals – right from being a small girl. You know when you're a child and you have a dream, well mine was to have about twenty or thirty cats in the house."

Perhaps thankfully, the twenty or thirty cats have never quite appeared, but after her fiftieth birthday, Ann stumbled onto a scene which would force her to see love and life in a 25-year career in something completely different. "I was driving past this shop in Liverpool where there were all these white balloons, little strollers, little animal outfits, and there were two Chihuahuas who had just got married – they were having champagne and there was a pink limousine waiting outside. I thought, wow, that's a really, really good idea. So I drove back home and I said to my partner, "Right, you know, we've got our cattery, and we've built that, can you build me something to do with animal weddings?"

Ann Clark is one of a kind. Perhaps unsurprisingly she is currently the only animal registrar in Britain and runs Kitz-Katz, her business, from her home in Desborough, alongside her cattery. Ann has registered marriages for everything from two rabbits, whose marriage was attended by over 75 guests, to an affluent pair of Essex born-and-bred dogs. No expense spared, their owners splashed out over £20,000 on their 'special day'.

Within months of her sighting of the love-struck Liverpool couple, a pagoda had been erected in the Clarkes' garden in Desborough, and Anne, with personalised vows in hand and wearing her new dog collar – the vicar variety that is – was preparing for her first service. However, the relationship between Jack Russells Scooby and Scrappy soon displaced any second thoughts that the vicar might have been having. "They were absolutely, totally devoted to each other. When the bridegroom was being taken down the aisle, he was pulling on his owner's lead. His bride was down the bottom, behind a tree, and he wanted to get back to her, because when they go out for walks, they share the same lead. I don't think I've ever seen two animals as in love – they really were inseparable."

As Scooby and Scrappy began their new life together, word of the animal vicar began to spread and before long, Ann was pencilling in dozens of bookings. Every wedding is different and Ann works tirelessly to make each couple's day is personal and memorable. "We've got photographers, we've got a limousine company if they want it and we've got caterers. We have somebody who does bakes cakes which the dogs can eat, and then obviously we make cakes for the humans as well."

On occasions, Ann's efforts have led her to some near-misses. "There was one particular wedding when I was standing on the bridge and I had a secret tail on, so after I had said, "Please stand for your bride and groom", I said, "Woof!" and asked the canine guests to wag their tails. As I turned round to wag the tail I was wearing, I lost my footing and I only just managed to stop myself from falling into the pond."

The business became something more than a laughing matter when a certain Essex girl, and Diva Dogs boutique owner, Louise Harris, asked Ann to ensure that her dog's special day was as extravagant as the life she was accustomed to. £20,000 was spent on the wedding with Lola, Louise's Yorkshire terrier, wearing £1,000 of the total budget in the form of a diamond-encrusted bridal gown. A further £400 was required to cover the costs of the security team for the event. Ann





Above: The venue for Ann's weddings. Inset: Pampered pooches and regal rabbits, are they victims of their owners' eccentricities?

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF ANN CLARKE

could not believe the scale of the event. "I already knew that Louise was very flamboyant, she was very outgoing. As well as her Diva Dogs Boutique she does the collars for the dogs in TOWIE (*The Only Way is Essex*) and she does a lot of work on television."

"But I was gobsmacked with that wedding, it was absolutely unbelievable. She really pushed the boat out, they had a doggy crèche there, they had dancers, they had a chocolate fountain, they had everything." Sadly, the two newlyweds were fated to learn that having "everything" would not be enough to hold their marriage together. All involved were reminded of the importance of pre-nuptial agreements in such cases, when the dream wedding was followed by a far from amicable divorce. "Both parties of both dogs emailed me virtually at the same time and asked about the divorce proceedings. There were political problems between the owners."

Ann has had to learn the hard way that a dream wedding does not always precede a happy ending. The vow of "Till death do us part" has somewhat more resonance for newlyweds who can expect little more than a decade, if that, of married life. Among her bereaved, Ann can count a widowed cat and Lottie, a dog who now grieves for her lesbian lover, a terrier known as Madame La Nine. These two dogs were the only couple that Ann has brought together by means of a civil partnership ceremony.

As a result of her experience, Ann is beginning to learn which animals are easier to wed than others. "We had two cats get married. When you have your normal moggie, and they're okay in their own habitat, but you try and get them to sit still and do the wedding and you know, it doesn't work, they get quite stressed, so we had to perform the service fairly quickly."

For Ann, it is important to maintain a light-hearted tone throughout every service. "You can't take this too seriously, and I don't think anybody takes it too seriously. I've not got any kind of official licence and I won't have a cross up. I wear a vicar's collar, but I won't have anything else religious around. If somebody asked for a cross for their animal's wedding, I would say no."

Despite Ann's religious sensitivity, however, she has not escaped her critics. "I've received hate mail in the past. They've said all kinds of things. Apparently I'm sick, I need to get a life and that I've got to be crazy to do this. At the end of the day there are people who are going to think that. But from my point of view it's my business and I'm performing a service that somebody requires. Everybody's got a right to think whatever they want to think but at the end of the day, it's fun, I'm enjoying what I do and I'm not hurting anybody. I think if I was

"At the end of the day, it's not just humans who are in love, is it?"

marrying humans to animals then that would be a problem."

The motives for continuing to serve as an animal registrar, for Ann, are clear. "I am very privileged to see so many animals celebrate their love, because, at the end of the day, it's not just humans who are in love, is it? Turtle doves and swans, they mate for life, don't they?" Ann always does her best to ensure that the unique love shared between two rather inarticulate individuals is put into words on their big day. "I write personal vows for each couple and I base these on meetings with the animals which are organised before the ceremony."

Although the animals are the recipients of the majority of the attention at Ann's weddings, many of the bipedal guests enjoy the romantic summer afternoons as well. "I had one chap who said to me, at one of the weddings, he told me, 'I have never had a Sunday afternoon in years where I've smiled from beginning to end.' That was absolutely brilliant."

It is responses such as these which motivate Ann to look forward to the future of her business, and there is a lot to look forward to. "I really want to look into doing christenings and there are a number of individual weddings that I am also really excited about. There's even a possibility that we're going to have an Elvis-themed wedding."

It is the institution of marriage which Ann is so fascinated by. She believes that we are witnessing a period of time in which the religious foundations of marriage are being deconstructed, giving more couples freedom to claim it as their own. It is, in effect becoming malleable to suit the purposes of individual couples. "I think you should be able to marry whoever you want to marry. As long as it's legal, there shouldn't be a problem."

In 2011, the royal wedding attracted 24.5 million viewers on terrestrial television alone. The New York Times estimates that the true number of viewers must have come close to three billion. To conclude our interview, I asked Ann why she believes that we all love weddings so much.

"Well, we all like a good party! We all like a good cry and we all like to feel sentimental. If you've got a human, or an animal, in marriage – you want to show their love and share it with everybody. For lots of people, it renews their marriage, everybody's got a funny story about their wedding, and it just adds to that feel good factor. You feel good, you dress up, you feel happy, you feel happy whether you're going to the wedding of an animal or a human being. I guess we all like a bit of romance!"

Indeed one imagines that for Ann, "all" will include a wider range of 'lovers' than most of us ever thought, or probably ever will think, exist...M

Abbey Road, via a broom cupboard...

Bastille frontman Dan Smith talks with Francesca Donovan about their first 12-track, his love of David Lynch, and his fear of performing.



There's a preconceived persona "musos" like to attach to the frontmen of rock bands. We are almost innately programmed to conjure up images of Mick Jagger's coquettish confidence, Brandon Flowers' flamboyant style, Axl Rose's unadulterated arrogance. The romanticised idea that the confident guy with buckets of sex appeal struts around on stage, while the creative genius shies away from the limelight is more than just a notion – it is standard procedure.

Dan Smith, frontman and the brain behind Bastille – happily – breaks the mould. He makes no attempt to hide his unease when performing to the mass crowds Bastille persistently draw to their shows, saying that he's "not a particularly confident person... If you found getting up on stage in front of 1000 people normal, and you weren't freaked out by it, there's definitely something wrong with you".

But that's not to say he has a nervous disposition: playing music on stage comes easily to Dan – it is the intermission between songs when he is "expected to say something interesting, funny or worthwhile" when the pressure is really on. In the half hour that he animatedly chats for, though, I get the overwhelming impression that Dan is a modest, introspective character who doesn't take praise easily or nonchalantly. He is a self-confessed pessimist, inferring the weakness in the interview and proclaiming it in his lyrics: "How am I going to be an optimist about this?" Perhaps the flood of critical acclaim Dan's quartet has received is ghosted by recollections of "recording in a broom cupboard with a mate" – a far cry from The Beatles Room at Abbey Road Studios, where Bastille finished the production of *Bad Blood*, the new album, which will be released on the 4th of March; "from one extreme to the other" as Dan puts it. "When we started out we had to work very hard and I don't feel like anything's been handed to us on a plate" says Smith, upholding the fact that, despite the influx of indie bands into the popular music scene, it is not always plain sailing for those

trying to write, record, produce and play their music while holding down jobs, studying for degrees and resorting to "borrowing our friends' mums cars" to tour.

Against the odds, perhaps, Bastille were doubtless one of the huge successes of 2012. With support and backing from influential names at Radio 1 like Sara Cox and Nick Grimshaw, they have sold out three UK tours, played some of the biggest festivals worldwide, racked up over 6 million hits on YouTube and collected a dedicated fan base. (And when 'Flaws/Icarus' was included in the

pire Weekend rely heavily on the traditional guitar based indie paradigm, Bastille has developed a sound encompassing distortion, layered vocals, strings and complex beats to more than make up for the so-called loss, and in doing so has redefined the parameters of the genre. Dan's vocal has an interesting and distinguishable tone – extricating the band from the tidal wave of middle-of-the-road electro-pop sounds that are so commonly heard today and setting the bar high for lyrical talent to come.

Each of the twelve songs on *Bad Blood*

hour of musical entrapment. While writing, Dan "never set about to write personal songs, I kind of see most of them as stories or conversations." In doing so, he has constructed songs that are really about something, as opposed to the lyrical contemplations of abstract notions that are musically in vogue. Smith simply "wanted to gesture towards a mood or feeling" and is grateful that this approach leaves his work open to interpretation, upon which he mused "I guess that's the point, isn't it?" The flawless electronic melodies and heady mix of bass, drum and ethereal tones are musically playful – attracting an energetic crowd at live shows who "are generally fucking awesome and just wanna jump around and stuff".

A multi-faceted talent, Dan is also somewhat of a visual artist, the creative influence behind much of the video accompaniments released in conjunction with his songs. A keen David Lynch fan, he even dedicated one of the tracks, 'Laura Palmer', to the dead girl from cult 90s show, *Twin Peaks*. When asked about the importance of visuals in the music business he effusively replied that "nowadays, the opportunity presents itself to provide something visual alongside your music – why wouldn't you try and use that to create an engaging aesthetic that can add another enigmatic dimension to the songs?"

On the morning we spoke, Dan and his bandmates were just about to embark on their UK tour in support of *Two Door Cinema Club*, followed by a sixteen date headlining tour. Go and see them while the venues are intimate. You'd be a fool not to, as I suspect the next time Bastille get round to playing a live tour, they'll be appearing in front of the bright lights of the UK's biggest stages. **M**

"Our audiences are generally just fucking awesome and wanna jump around a lot..."

soundtrack of an episode of *Made in Chelsea*, Bastille knew they had well and truly made it...) Dan's excitement at this astronomic rise to prominence is palpable: "We are so lucky. It's so much fun!"

Bastille's success is justly based on the music the quartet, driven by Dan himself, have created. The band has effortlessly settled into a signature style of upbeat, anthemic melodies, exquisitely juxtaposed with lyrical sentiment. None of the four members are versed in guitar playing, a fact that is not at all to their disadvantage. Where other indie rock bands like Friendly Fires and Vam-

captures the spirit of youth culture. A sense of nostalgia in tracks like 'Weight of Living Part II' and 'These Streets' crescendos into the questioning chorus lines of 'Things We Lost in the Fire', 'Pompeii' and 'Oblivion': "Are you going to age with grace?"

These are songs that reflect the modern disillusion and anxieties held by a myriad of young people today, expressing fear of responsibility, growing up and, as in 'Get Home', getting yourself safely back to bed after a particularly heavy night; it's an honest album. An album that is mature for a young writer who seems to bear all in just under an

REVERB.

Frank Zappa

"Most rock journalism is people who can't write, interviewing people who can't talk, for people who can't read."

In The Spotlight: Vanderground

Rory Foster ventures down into Vanderground to sample some house on ice.

My main dislike of clubs stems from the nauseating volume of their music. Having been to a gig or two in my lifetime I'm used to dealing with large quantities of sound being hurled in my direction, however the problem I have with a club is that I occasionally want to talk to whoever I'm with without freezing outside with the smokers. Perhaps I should shift the blame to my snobby distaste for the music played, or my entire body being somewhat unbalanced by the average price for a pint, but I'm sure there must be quite a few places around where I can refrain from resorting to sign language during the night yet have a little jig about every now and again.

Vanderground is one night that appears tailored to put my concerns at rest. Fusing the popularity of the new "Pork sound" with a slightly less sweaty and intense atmosphere that it sometimes accompanies, it's not quite a club night, nor is it a gentle drink with some tunes. Treading the line between the two, Vanderground offers those who have fallen down the EDM rabbit hole a night off from dealing with the morning after whilst providing that shot of decent music that gets them through the week 'till the next big night.

Run by third-year students Tor Richards and Roseanna Brear, their mission was "to do something a little bit different...to approach a House night from a slightly different angle". Picking up on the niche in the market for "a more chilled vibe", the pair "booked a room, booked the best DJs we know and tried to



PHOTO CREDIT: AGATHA TORRANCE

create a space where people can hang, enjoy the sound, dance if they want, and sit and chat if they don't". Whether by chance or careful consideration, the room they got magnifies the smooth vibes.

Anyone who has ventured to Fibbers knows that when busy, it can get a little bit claustrophobic in that little black room. With Vanderground, this is not an option: situated underground the main Kuda Gladiator ring/dancefloor, it's decked out to chill. The Polynesian theme of the Tiki Bar room commands rum-based cocktails, a dark orange glow to all surfaces and as much bamboo as physically possi-

"Vanderground offers those who have fallen down the EDM rabbit hole a night off from the morning after and a shot of decent music to get them through the week"

ble, whilst the centrepiece of a VW camper van painted with alarming tribal masks just gives you one more reason not to go too crazy with your nightlife supplements. Once you're down there it's a deceptively large space with enough room so that any

dancing can be had without smashing into everyone around you.

Out of the crop I have sampled, and with the clientele ranging from those who have got lost trying to find Kuda's toilet, to the regular faces, VdG is by far the easiest to enjoy if you're not actually a die-hard fan of the music. Loud enough to dance to but holding enough back so you can hold a conversation sitting in the van, ultimately, it's refreshing not having the tunes crammed down your throat. Not to say that there was anything wrong with the music itself; the DJs present were a cocktail of what York offers in substantial talent: Residents Kit Munro and Harry Jones. Both started over at Bangers and Mash and Milli Vanilli respectively before making the move across town (we know it's just so you're closer to Willow lads). They also had special guests in the form of Sikh and Destroy (It's a Bass Thing) and Ramzi Meh (Breakz) to sweeten the deal.

You have to wonder how long this golden age of York nightlife will last, or whether we'll have an inversion of a Bloc 2012-esque implosion; too many nights with not enough people to fill them.

For the time being however Vanderground is yet another shining example of a student-led night making waves in a city which once had little to say for itself. And if the night's too chilled for your liking, you can always risk venturing upstairs.

I've never really had a problem with Reading and Leeds, but...

Chris Morris

Leeds Festival didn't sell out last year. Leeds Festival didn't sell out the year before that, nor the year before that. Reading Festival sold out a handful of days before the event itself last year. And the same the year before, and the year before that. Worrying times, in a market dubbed by almost all those in the industry as either 'saturated' or 'shrinking'.

But it's not surprising, though: as the tastes of the audience change, so too must the line-up posters. Take the last few T in the Parks - Beyonce, Coldplay and Swedish House Mafia played alongside the likes of The Stone Roses, Foo Fighters and Kasabian. The event sold out within hours in consecutive years. Or, take the two-day V Festival ("T in the Park Lite") exactly the same ticket price as Leeds, exactly the same ticket release as T.

It's a point that's been mentioned more than once: fewer people care about guitar music than five or six years ago, and EDM's basically taken over your Top 40; Reading and Leeds have failed to understand that. Clearly, with the amount of commercialisation and higher ticket prices/less acts to pay, T and V will

always display a much more stacked line-up than the August Bank Holiday resident festival. But it's the lack of imagination that gets me.

So, this year, things got a bit different: the weekend got an entirely new red and yellow branding and, more importantly, the first acts were announced as early as November, with the second batch coming last Monday. Eminem was a step in the right direction - a step that gave a clear message of intent - as was the introduction of the three-day Dance Stage and Radio 1Xtra tent. Hopefully, this year won't see Azealia Banks classed as Dance headliner, though.

But if they're going to do it, they need to go all the way. There's no middle ground here.

A handful of electronic acts with (still) the world's biggest rapper mixed with a mass of metal and indie may not entice any more than previous years. Last Monday's announcement was very guitar-based: Biffy finally get their headline slot, System of a Down and BMT add to Deftones to appease those at the heavier end of the spectrum and Jake Bugg joins Alt-J in offering something new and refreshing.

Will I be running to the phone to grab a ticket? I don't like Biffy Clyro. I saw Eminem two years ago. But there's enough there already to keep my interest until Announcement 3 and, given that my application for Glasto failed so miserably last year (trying to convince your mum that a festival ticket justifies arriving late to your first day at university is inadvisable), it's a definite maybe.

Reviews.



THE SAVOY BALLROOM
The Duchess, York
Fliss Turner
Friday, 1st January

The quandary I feared in writing this review is the point of contention critics must dispel: bias. In the first instance, I truly love The Duchess. Miles away from home it allows me to indulge in a hint of nostalgia. Friday evening the place held hostage to students, punks and gentlemen in ill-cut suits alike. The meagre crowd standing before The Savoy Ballroom signify why I so love this band. This is the second predicament I was to face that evening in abandoning all bias. You do not need to fit a certain manner of individual to love this band, and that, to me, signifies great music.

Despite the cry of my bank account as I handed over £12 at the door, despite the grumpy disposition of my post-hangover gloom and the sheer force of which the

disgruntled barmaid threw me my change, I haven't enjoyed a night like this in a very long time. The Savoy's set led forth a night of fun and dancing which mirrored the extraordinary energy with which they perform. These guys have a sense of cool and exuberance which I fail to aspire to every day.

Opening with 'Knitters Curse', the tone of the evening was set for the night with the regalement of a friend who, whenever she knitted something for a guy, would promptly find herself lacking a boyfriend (needless to say, that scarf I've been knitting has since been left untouched). With thrilling harmony, concise energy and husky vocals, my night was filled with laughter offset by their often satirically melancholy lyrics.

A personal favourite of mine, 'Maps', once again originated from the quirky antics of a friend who collected maps and happened upon a competition in which she won stacks of maps signed by the likes of Ben Fogle. Another song has been founded after a hotel in which we were advised to avoid "unless drugs and hookers are your thing".

Oh, how I could go on, but my word count denies me of that pleasure. There's truly something of this band which shivers through me from my toes to end in one hell of a smile.

The fact of the matter is, I can't help but love them for what they are and all they try not to be.



BIFFY CLYRO
Opposites
14th Floor Records
Isaac BD

Having not released a record since 2009's *Only Revolutions* graced our shelves, it came as something of a surprise when, in January of last year, it was announced that the band was working on a full-blown double album. Perhaps they were just making up for lost time, continuing to follow a biennial release schedule or, just maybe, this was a sign of something more exciting. Needless to say the prospect was divisive amongst fans; a double album is notoriously hit or miss, often alienating the less hardcore of an artist's following. The concept, too, was ambitious: *The Sand At the Core of Our Bones* would focus on the deterioration of relationships; *The Land at the End of Our Toes* would detail the aftermath, the picking up of the pieces.

The album, presumably the first of the titularly opposing

halves (although quite why they decided on the name escapes me, there being precious little difference between the two), begins with fire in its eyes. By the third track, 'Sounds Like Balloons', the bizarre combination of guitar and harp strumming becomes a little unnerving. The first CD flits mechanically between Reading-readied rock anthem and a more interesting, quieter vibe. The problem is that it's so easy to spot. Only in 'Little Hospitals' is there evidenced any attempt to combine the two genres which dichotomise the album and, at times, it can be a little predictable in a 'the last was loud, the next will be quiet' sort of way.

Literally, the whole thing is unremarkable. I thought it might just have been me, but was pleased to find that *The Telegraph* picked up on the same bizarre bit of nonsensical pop-rhyme that I'd found troublesome: "Where are you at?", asks Mr Clyro, "Is it trumpet or tap?", he continues; "Are you glued to the wall by this terrible snap?" he intones. Why no, Biffy, I'm not. I'm afraid I don't have the slightest idea what you're talking about.

I think that this will be received with no small degree of ambivalence: to fans of the Scottish rockers, this may well be the magnum opus for which they spent the last four years pleading with a deity; to others amongst us who aren't quite as taken with them, it was a bit of a struggle. Whilst the feat is admirable in its monumental size, the lack of consistency undermines its every turn.

Something completely different

James Tyas talks to the directors of *A Liar's Autobiography: The Untrue Story of Graham Chapman*

Come awards season, the cinema-going public have become used to, and somewhat jaded with, the glut of big-budget biopics vying for Oscars glory: last year, we had the lacklustre J. Edgar and *The Iron Lady*. 2013 has seen the release of the slightly better, but no less earnest, *Lincoln* and *Hitchcock*. It's fair to say, then, that Ben Timlett, Bill Jones (son of erstwhile Python Terry Jones), and Jeff Simpson's new feature *A Liar's Autobiography: The Untrue Story of Monty Python's Graham Chapman* comes as something of an antidote to the stifling seriousness of the current crop of biopics on offer; "We call it 'an animated, fabricated bio-pic'. It's Graham Chapman (best remembered as The Dead One from *Monty Python*) narrating his semi-fictionalised life story, with animated visuals and four of the other Pythons providing the voices of other characters. Oh, and Cameron Diaz as Sigmund Freud."

A Liar's Autobiography, based on Chapman's 1980's memoirs of the same title, is made up of a series of charmingly surreal, animated vignettes following Chapman's life. From growing up through wartime, through his difficult teenage years as a disillusioned, prodigious loner, onto his years spent in L.A at the height of his fame struggling with his alcoholism. Using seventeen different animation styles provided by fourteen separate studios and "dozens of interns," the directors went about reinterpreting the events described in the book visually. They tell me about the famous *Monty Python* sketch from Hollywood Bowl where Graham is in a wrestling ring, in a one-man wrestling match, recommending to "look it up on YouTube, it's an amazing piece of physical comedy."

"We've re-done that sketch with a rather extreme form of animation, because we saw it as a metaphor for Graham wrestling his demons." For any *Monty Python*-related animated film you would suppose that the inimitable animation style of Terry Gilliam would loom large but the directors were determined to assure that this wasn't the case. "We asked all the animators NOT to do a homage to Terry Gilliam. Gilliam had his own style, and we wanted ours to be different. The average age of our animators is 28, which was the same age he was when he started. We want to find the next generation of Gilliams."

The film draws largely from the recordings Chapman made of his aforementioned memoirs, and this is the ingenious way in which he is able to star in the film from beyond the grave. With the obstreperous and somewhat disjointed nature of the source material in mind, it would be fair to assume that it wouldn't be something that would easily lend itself to a narratively coherent on-



screen reinterpretation. The directors seem well aware of this too, playing up the disorderly and bizzare elements. Indeed, this approach seems only fitting in documentary the man's fascinatingly strange life. For the directorial trio, whose working relationship was more straightforward than you'd expect "there was always a 'two against one' decision

est to Graham said they never really knew who he was. And our interpretation of the book and also the film, is that it's Graham's search for self-knowledge. That's why he brings in Sigmund Freud to help him interpret a dream, for example - although, of course, Freud completely messes it up, and he ends up no wiser." The film's title gives some indication that the

Python project: "It's a Graham Chapman project, but the others all respect and enjoy his writing. Terry (Jones) and Mike (Palin) said it was quite spooky to be performing lines with Graham again. The only challenge was getting dates for the recordings. Terry J and Mike P did theirs together, as the mum and dad. Terry (Gilliam) came in solo, and was very nervous, but brilliant. And John Cleese was in St Lucia writing his book, so we got him in to a local studio, and directed him over Skype."

Getting them all in the film wasn't difficult, but deciding which characters they voiced proved to be slightly more problematic; "They all wanted to do David Frost, as they can all do a mean Frost but in the end we gave the role to John."

The former Pythons aren't the only vocal talents on display in the film though. They jokingly tell me that there was one person they had their heart set on to voice Sigmund Freud. "There was obviously only one choice to play the founding father of modern psychoanalysis, and that was Cameron Diaz, despite the fact that she's done it hundreds of times before. So we wrote to her and said, 'sorry about the typecasting, but if you can do the role one more time, it would be great'. She was fantastic, and we told her she should do more voiceover work for animation." M

"This isn't a Monty Python project. It's a Graham Chapman project"

making process. If there'd been just two, there would have been fights", the attraction to telling Chapman's story were obvious. "Graham Chapman was a man who was openly gay, but secretly alcoholic - that would be an interesting story whatever his profession, if he'd been a painter or playwright or football player. The fact that he was a Python adds a whole other dimension of surrealism and humour to the story."

With Chapman being notoriously the most inscrutable of all the Pythons depicting the story of his life was always going to be challenging. The directors agree: "even those clos-

events depicted might not be completely reliable. The directors claim that "Although it's 'A liar's Autobiography', and Graham delights in teasing us with what's true and what isn't - there's actually a surprising amount of truth in it, in that many of the stories are based on real events, which Graham has then embellished."

For long-time *Monty Python* devotees, *A Liar's Autobiography's* brand of surreal humour will delight, but even more excitingly, this is the first time since Chapman's untimely death in 1989, that all the Pythons have worked together on one project. But the directors are keen to stress that this isn't a *Monty*



How Harmful is Film Violence?

In light of recent controversy surrounding *Django Unchained*, **Alfie Packham** thinks it's all a fuss about nothing.

Dear cinema-going reader, I have a challenge for you. For one year, you must become a 'film-vegetarian'. No, this does not mean replacing the meat in your diet with a DVD (although that would probably taste the same as Quorn anyway). This does mean the total avoidance of all films with ANY scene where someone is shot with a gun.

For those who accept, you have a difficult task ahead of you. 2013 has already been a tough time for film-vegetarians, with January's riddled releases of *Gangster Squad*, *Bullet to the Head* and of course Quentin Tarantino's latest gory outing *Django Unchained*.

Since 1992, with his debut *Reservoir Dogs*, Tarantino has regularly come under fire (if you'll pardon the gun - I mean pun... I'll stop now) for his penchant for scenes of bloody violence. Twenty years later, the director recently defended *Django Unchained* by upholding his usual response in an interview with Krishnan Guru-Murthy of Channel 4; "It's a movie, it's a fantasy. It's not real life." This is a very fair observation. The joy of films is their potential to create detailed fictional worlds and show audiences anything they want. But when it comes to entertainment from violence, how thin is the line between the screen and reality?

Tarantino "slightly lost it", in Guru-Murthy's words, when pressed on his enjoyment in fictional violence. While he may have over-

reacted, I'm with Quentin on this one. I too would be upset if implicitly accused that, because I like a good shoot-out, I am therefore a prospective gun-wielding psychopath just waiting for his moment.

In another interview, the US Radio network NPR asked if his enjoyment of violent films had lessened after the killings at a Connecticut elementary school. His reply was: "Would I watch a kung fu movie three days after the Sandy Hook massacre? Would I watch a kung fu movie? Maybe, 'cause they have nothing to do with each other." Right behind you, Big Q.

There is no denying that gun violence is a real problem in the real world. December's tragic shootings in Newtown (after which the US premiere of *Django Unchained* was postponed) were a stark reminder of this. The reflex calls for censorship on films and video games with their depictions of similar violence is understandable, and to be expected. But rather than blaming the film industry, what about considering issues of mental health? Or the US government-sanctioned ownership of weaponry maybe?

I would not say that all control over film violence is a bad thing - far from it. Back in Britain, action was recently taken by the BBFC to adjust its policies on censoring scenes with sexual assault, rape and sadistic violence in films. This was decided after the indication of

"Violence is to the film industry what sexism is to a Lynx advert... It is utterly essential."



research that there was public concern over this, so sure, a tightening in these rules should not be problem.

But when we talk about the film violence we enjoy, we don't tend to mean sadistic sexual assault. It's fisticuffs. It's guns. It's explosions. The film industry is obsessed with this kind of violence, but it is an obsession justified by a demand from the public. In a survey by the Hollywood Reporter asking consumers about movie violence, 46 per cent of respondents said Hollywood should make fewer movies that feature violence and killing, while 48 per cent said the violent content should remain the same. (Perhaps unsurprisingly, men were half as likely as women to say Hollywood should make fewer violent films - maybe we should calm it down, fellas.) With no majority going either way, and with only 6 per cent believing that there should be more violent movies made, this suggests that audiences are not becoming more depraved in their movie tastes.

What certainly is changing at the cinema is progress in technology. This doesn't show signs of slowing down either, as filmmakers

are unlikely to waste the new opportunities that increased frame rates and retina-producing 3D stereoscopy has brought them.

Whatever your stance on blood and guts on the big screen, there is minimal proof that film violence is harmful to anybody. The two real dangers of film violence are firstly, that with its continued use, a good shoot-out simply won't be as much fun anymore. Once exciting final showdowns will descend into loud clichés, as audiences will expect more yet see the same, again and again. Secondly, the flip-side. Film violence could provoke increased censorship which would simultaneously limit freedom of expression and audiences' entertainment.

Violence is to the film industry what sexism is to a Lynx advert, what alcohol is to British culture. We know it's bad, but that's why we like it - and it is utterly essential. Then again, I am speaking with the bias of a blood-thirsty Tarantino fan. If you're not convinced, let me remind you that there are plenty of other, non-violent films out there to see. You could even take the challenge and become a film-vegetarian.

Hyde Park on Hudson

Director: Roger Michell
Review: Mary O'Connor



On reading a *Sunday Times* interview with the fearless Olivia Williams, (the woman who was given the colossal task of playing the remarkable lady who was Eleanor Roosevelt), I expected *Hyde Park on Hudson* to be replete with 'Eleanor worship'. But to my disappointment, the first lady's achievements in civil rights and international relations were not even acknowledged; instead she was reduced to a mere side figure.

The film captures a weekend in 1939, on which King George VI and Queen Elizabeth are paying their first royal visit to the President, an event interestingly narrated from the perspective of one of FDR's closest confidantes, Daisy. At times, Laura Linney's portrayal of Daisy was characterised by a quiet humility and sadness, given voice through some beautiful long shots of the doors closing on her as she gazed longingly at the President in his office. Other than these occasional glimmers of pity, the powerful emotional currency that should have been integral to Linney's portrayal was lacklustre, not quite convincing me of the loneliness and unhappiness I imagine somebody in her position would have felt.

The loveable characters of George VI



and Queen Elizabeth provided a welcome relief from all the in-house back-biting. Samuel West and Olivia Colman played the two young monarchs to perfection as their frantic concerns about eating hotdogs and reluctance to reveal themselves in the swimming pool were both believable and hilarious. Speaking of the film's central figure, Bill Murray got the balance exactly right. Although a manipulating and rather difficult character, it was almost impossible to dislike him, as the rogue-ish charmer with a twinkle in his eye.

Hyde Park on Hudson, although graced with an able cast, let itself down because of the choice to focus on the salacious gossip and intrigues going on within the President's household, rather than the more weighty political and social issues which were hyped up at the beginning.

Hitchcock

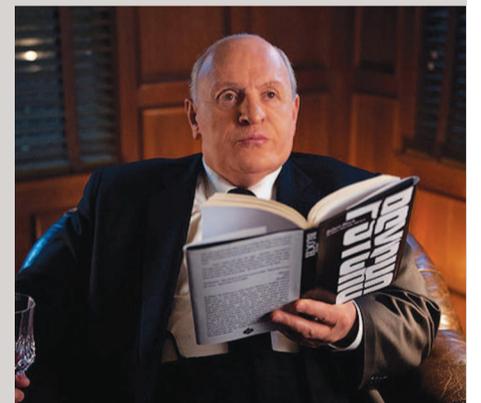
Director: Sacha Gervasi
Review: Steven Roberts



Hitchcock is a pleasant ride, but it shouldn't be: Gervasi aspired to haunt us with the sinister workings of one of the sharpest minds in film-making, but this version of Alfred Hitchcock (Hopkins) was caught between a genuinely likeable father figure and closet schizophrenic. The contrast seemed unintended and its deliverance clunky rather than subtle. For a film of 98 minutes, Gervasi perhaps tries to explore too many of his potentially interesting ideas about the pressures on a visionary's mind, and ultimately does too little.

The most awkward plotline is Hitchcock's hallucinatory befriending of the Wisconsin murderer Ed Gein, who inspired Robert Bloch's novel *Psycho*. Gein probably symbolizes bloodlust and possessiveness, but it's cheap horror.

In Hitchcock's supposed obsession for his leading ladies, which his wife Alma (Mirren) claims is so destructive to their own relationship, Hitchcock comes across as cheeky rather than darkly controlling. He peeps through spy holes, pinches candy corn and cracks flirtatious jokes. We really know his marriage is safe. Alma is too faithful, and if anything too prudish, for the side



story about a fellow screenwriter's advances on her to go anywhere disquieting.

It's a shame Gervasi didn't dedicate more of his film to the set of *Psycho*. When shooting the long close up of a guilty Janet Leigh driving to escape a suspicious policeman, the director's sexual anxieties are unraveled in his eagerness to provoke the right reaction from the actress and get the perfect cut. This portal into his mind certainly more interesting than scenes of a domesticated Hitchcock. "We've mortgaged our house!" says Alma to her husband, but their economic hardship is near invisible.

I'll probably remember this as pleasant viewing, perhaps a marital comedy with some excellent one-liners. But when we are invited to the set of *Psycho*, the film intermittently gives way to an otherwise stifled drama of great intrigue.

Giving you some Xing

*Amadea Ng unearths
the food revolution
in York, starting with
health store Xing.*

Simon Long and Pete Biller never believed in juices until they spent a year abroad in the States whilst pursuing business degrees at the University of Hull. They were fascinated by the American smoothie bar concept, “well-presented, clean, accessible for all. It wasn’t about being vegetarian, it just made you feel better”. After they graduated in 2006, they took their business expertise and their newfound love for smoothies and created Xing.

What began as a mobile bar outside the school gym developed into a permanent shop on one of UK’s most iconic streets, the Shambles in 2009. Initially a juice bar “that replicated the smoothie bar concept that worked at Uni.” But smoothies were only popular in summer, and there was a need to reinvent their business model. Simon saw the gap in the local market for “natural food, free from all the additives of processed food” and went on to start serving hot food such as stews, soups and ‘wrappinis’.

Xing stands out from other shops in York with its simple menu, featuring only one vegetarian soup and one hearty meal daily. Each dish is lovingly prepared every morning using the freshest ingredients from scratch, even the harissa paste is homemade.

While the menu does not offer too much variety, it never fails to take one’s taste buds on the proverbial world tour, with flavours from Southeast Asia, to the Mediterranean and South America being incorporated into every unique dish. Simon is often inspired by his travels, and is constantly “experimenting to get a feel, to learn what flavours go together” to create delicious, hearty meals for all.

“It’s a real challenge to use fresh ingredients and remain price competitive”, but Simon remains committed to fresh, quality

produce. Xing sources locally as much as possible, with fresh fruits, vegetables, meats and breads from Yorkshire producers. The bread at Xing is supplied by two Yorkshire bakeries, Bluebird Bakery and Via Vecchia, the Italian ‘mystery bakery’ in the Shambles.

Their mission to debunk the myth that “healthy stuff tastes awful” took an unexpected turn in 2007 when they were invited into a local primary school in Hull to con-

“Focus, and know your limits. We just do
what we know, and we’re good at it.”

duct a healthy living workshop. While it was a short session, it certainly left an impact on the children, as the school received letters of complaints from parents the next day that had children asking for smoothie makers and fruit instead of the regular crisps.

The Xing team received positive feedback from every school they went to. Many of whom said that it was the most enjoyable class they have ever taken. But Simon understood that in order for students to change their lifestyles and diets, there had to be “a permanent exam-

ple of healthy living and enterprise for young people”. And so, student-run smoothie bars in secondary schools were set up in deprived areas around the region.

While schools encouraged Xing enterprise and healthy living workshops, most were reluctant to implement student-run smoothie bars due to “higher risk of insurance” and labour laws. The Archbishop Sentamu Academy in Hull was the first school that took up the

challenge to allow students to run their own smoothie bars, responsible for everything from stocktaking and staff rotas. Students are given the opportunity to take on responsibilities that they hadn’t been exposed to previously.

Simon shared the personal satisfaction and joy he derived from these ventures, and attributed the success to the students alone. “The impact on these young lives have been tremendous, not only for their CV but in building their confidence and discipline.”

Xing is also increasingly popular amongst the York residents for its Juice Diet, inspired by Jason Vale’s 7lbs in 7days diet. It might seem crazy to some, since “there’s probably not a day since you were one that you haven’t eaten”. But Simon assured me that contrary to popular belief, it is not a crash diet.

Each participant of the juice fast goes through over 8 pineapples, 70 apples, 8 cucumbers and multiple avocados in a week. There’s certainly no lack of nutrients. It is simply a time for your digestive system to recuperate while consuming the best vitamins and minerals, and all through a straw.

7 days might seem like a long shot, but Xing also offers 3 and 5 day cleanses, each with 6 juices and smoothies daily. Over 150 people have done the juice fast with Xing despite its seemingly hefty price tag, with one particular 6-5-9 cabbie swearing by it because he claims the juice fast allows him to earn more as he is now able to concentrate longer at the wheel.

Simon’s tip to aspiring business owners: “Focus, and know your limits. We just do what we know, and we’re good at it.” **M**

Follow @xingsmoothies and Facebook.com/xinghealth for latest menu updates. Students get 10% off all juice diets.



IMAGE COURTESY OF XING

The Recipe: Xing’s Mayalsian Chicken Curry

To make curry paste, put two garlic cloves, one red chilli, a lemon grass stalk, 2cm fresh ginger and two shallots in a food processor or blender to form a paste. Or get the elbow grease out and use a pestle and mortar.

Next, heat the oil in a large heavy-based pan. Tip in the curry paste and stir over a low heat for 5 mins.

Add the onions and let them gently sweat for 5 mins until they go clear.

Add the coconut milk, lime leaves, cinnamon stick, star anise, stock, sugar, soy and fish sauces and turn up heat to bring to the boil. Reduce the heat back down to a simmer and cook gently for 1 hour to let the flavours come together. (It will

500 g chicken breast, cut into bite sized pieces
4 kaffir lime leaves
1 cinnamon stick
2 star anise
400 ml coconut milk
100 ml chicken stock
1 teaspoon palm sugar (or brown sugar)
1 tablespoon light soy sauce
1 tablespoon fish sauce
200 g green beans, trimmed
2 tomatoes, chopped
Coriander leaves, roughly chopped

taste very harsh straight away. Don’t panic. After an hour it’s lovely!).

Add the chicken, tomatoes and beans and cook for 10 - 15 mins until the chicken is cooked all the way through. Check a couple of pieces by pulling them apart. You don’t want any pink meat inside.

Add salt and pepper to taste, and serve with a scattering of coriander leaves over the curry, and a bit of rice.

The best place to buy these ingredients is one of the asian supermarkets around the town; the closest one is Freshways on Hull Road. It’s much cheaper to get all the spices, and you’re much more likely to find them.

The Spanish Train: Feel the heat

PHOTO CREDIT: ASH-RLY



I am not a big celebrator of Valentine's Day but one thing that I do like to do is cook a meal for everyone I love. Valentine's Day is also about experimentation (no euphemism intended), so I decided to come up with a recipe that throws some different ingredients from Europe together.

This chorizo and goat's cheese puff pastry tart includes ingredients mostly from Italy and Spain, places I associate with romance and good food, with strong flavours. Served with Spanish potatoes, this well-rounded meal is perfect for sharing over a glass of wine (or several).

Puff pastry is a very versatile type of pastry to use in a dish. Whilst it is originally from Muslim Spain, way back before the European Spaniards went castanet-ing down to southern Spain, it is now more commonly known to be from France due to the popularity of French patisseries.

Puff pastry is made up of many layers of dough separated by butter. Whilst baking in the oven the water between the layers turns into steam and puffs up each sheet of dough before evaporating in the oven, leaving a crispy, layered pastry shell ready for your savoury or sweet filling.

The most important thing to do with this recipe is use ingredients that the people eating

this love. There is no strict recipe or amount needed for any ingredient. Eat it with your hands and mop up all the lovely juices with the pastry. Eat the flaky bits with the fluffy potatoes. Use it for leftovers the next day (just pop it in the oven), which will be extremely useful for when your date goes well...

Here's a sumptuous chorizo and goat's cheese tart served with Spanish potatoes. It serves 4, or 2 with leftovers for the next day.

1 pack of ready-rolled puff pastry
200g cured chorizo sausage
4 tbsp tomato purée
1/2 Spanish (white) onion, chopped
4 tbsp mixed herbs (thyme, oregano)
1 handful of baby spinach leaves
100g goat's cheese

For the potatoes, heat your oven to 180°C. Mix oil, 1.5tbsp tomato purée, 1tsp paprika, and 1tsp oregano together and then toss 200g of potatoes thoroughly in it.

Squash a clove of garlic in its skin with the flat of a knife and place on an aluminum-lined baking tray with the potatoes. Season well and drizzle with more olive oil. It is what those Spaniards love, after all.

Roast for 40 minutes, tossing halfway

through, until the potatoes are crispy and fluffy. Serve with the parsley scattered over.

While the potatoes are roasting, get started on the tart.

Turn your oven up to 200°C /gas 7. Unroll a pack of ready-rolled puff pastry (because actually making it takes forever and a day) and lay on a baking sheet lined with baking parchment.

Lightly mark a 1cm border with a knife on all 4 sides of the pastry (to allow for the border to puff up) and then prick the base all over with a fork. Spread tomato purée on the base. Like a classy pizza, just better.

Slice the chorizo into medium-sized slices with a sharp knife. Spread the chopped onion, baby spinach, chorizo slices and herbs on top of the pastry (in that order), within the border.

Crumble the goat's cheese over and season with pepper. Drizzle olive oil over the filling and brush some of the oil over the border.

Put the tart in the oven for 15-20 minutes until it's golden brown, and the pastry is crispy, and has risen on the outside.

Whip it out of the oven as your gorgeous date arrives, like a domestic goddess or potentially perfect house-husband, and get ready to catch them as they swoon at the delicious smell engulfing them. *Sunaina Suri*

Looking for Love Potions

Helena Parker

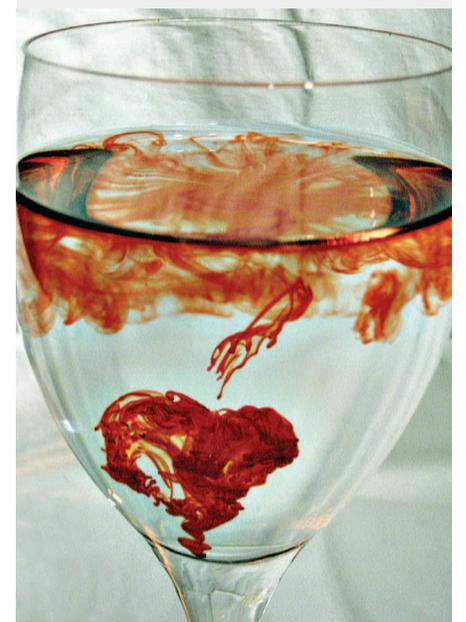


PHOTO CREDIT: RCOSEN12

You may have noticed a very minor theme of Valentine's Day running through this edition. You may also have observed in daily life that Valentine's conveniently revolves around food. Chocolate, heart-shaped biscuits, chocolate roses, sugar mice (for the less mature of us), going out for dinner, you name it, it's been done.

I also find it interesting that food is used in a subtle way so as to boost libido. Oysters, avocado, asparagus, nutmeg, take your pick.

However I generally find these foods are far more effort than they are worth. Take oysters, for example. Once you've smashed them on the floor, broken a couple of flimsy knives and finally managed to prise them open using an iron and a bike lock, the romantic and sexual undertones vibe you carefully fostered with rose petals and music and whatnot has scattered into the four winds. Plus you have inedible oysters. Fail on both counts.

So I decided to avoid the logistical nightmare of food, and turn instead to drinks. What could be easier than a simple cocktail for two? In amongst the plethora of sexual enhancement drinks with such charming names as 'Horny Goat Weed' and 'Rabbit Habbit', lie some interesting discoveries. Like, for example, who knew that ginseng was a form of aphrodisiac?

Red wine, interestingly, is also an aphrodisiac when drunk in moderation – other than relaxing you it increases blood flow and gets rid of those tiresome inhibitions. 'In moderation' being the key bit there; we all know what perils lie in too much alcohol before sex.

Aniseed works too, but this is not an excuse for the Willow-eager among us – Sambuca of the quality found in that particular establishment may make you feel like the sexiest goddess on earth, but only until you look at the photos the next day.

Almonds are also a notorious aphrodisiac – slip some amaretto into your hot chocolate (also a turn-on) and see the effects unfold.

Whether or not drinks flavoured like these foods do actually have the same effect or not, I cannot vouch for. But if you chink the red wine glasses together this Thursday over your avocado, asparagus and nutmeg dish, and find a mysterious bottle of amaretto nestling in the cupboard to go with the chocolate fondant, perhaps you've got your night made.

Or alternatively, just go out for dinner like everyone else.

The Naked Baker: Linzer Cookies

Fe Morizet

As Valentine's Day approaches, so too does that panic as you wonder what on earth you are going to buy for that one person you want to impress. Linzer cookies make the perfect treat for this. They're heart-shaped, pink, and adorably yummy.

The Linzertorte is believed to have originated in the City of Linz, Austria in the early 1700s. Traditionally this torte consisted of a crust made with flour, ground nuts (traditionally almonds), sugar, egg yolks, spices and lemon zest, that was filled with black currant preserves and then topped with a lattice crust. Linzer cookies use the same ingredients as a Linzertorte, but they are presented in the cutest of ways.

While there are many heart-shaped cookies in the world of baking, these have a warm and sweet surprise in the middle to warm the coldest of hearts this chilly Northern February.

The baked cookies are quite crisp, (also easy to overcook), but once they are filled with jam they start to soften to be sweet, adding the perfect homemade touch to make your loved one crumble. If it doesn't, clearly they're just not good enough (the person, not the cookies).



The Recipe

260g plain flour
1/2 tsp ground cinnamon
1/2 tsp salt
Zest of one small lemon
225g unsalted butter
150g granulated sugar
1 tsp vanilla extract
2 egg yolks
Icing Sugar
1/2 cup Blackcurrant Jam

Preheat oven to 180C. Sift together the flour, cinnamon, salt, and lemon zest in a large bowl.

In another bowl, beat the butter and 100g of sugar until light and fluffy (about 2-3 minutes). Beat in the vanilla extract and egg yolks. Finally, add the two mixtures together.

For a ball with the dough, wrap, and refrigerate until firm (30-60 minutes).

On a lightly floured surface roll out the dough and using a heart shaped cookie-cutter, cut out the cookies.

On half of the heart-shaped cookies, cut out a little heart shape on the inside.

Place in the oven for 12 minutes until golden brown, and give time for the cookies to cool before assembling.

Spread a thin layer of jam on the bottom surface of the full cookies. Place the cutout cookie on top and gently sandwich them together. Lightly dust the tops with icing sugar, and edible glitter for the girls.

And then they came for me



PHOTO CREDITS: ABOVE: ELEEPHOTOGRAPHY; BOTTOM: CHRISTOPHER AGATHANGELO.

Holocaust survivor and York resident **Marc Schatzberger** talks to George Wood about his rescue, emotions and confrontation with the ‘incomprehensible subject’.

2711 concrete slabs, or “stelae”, cover a 4.7 acre public site that stands one block away from the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, Germany. Walking through this “Field of Stelae” becomes increasingly uncomfortable; paths twist and slope, and what seemed an orderly, banal site turns out to be a disorientating and uneasy experience to walk through. There is only one plaque on this public site, and it reads “Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe”.

At first glimpse, this site seems unremarkable, barely adequate in commemorating one of the worst human atrocities of all time. But, as designer of the memorial Peter Eisenman once said, “The enormity and scale of the horror of the Holocaust is such that any attempt to represent it by traditional means is inevitably inadequate”.

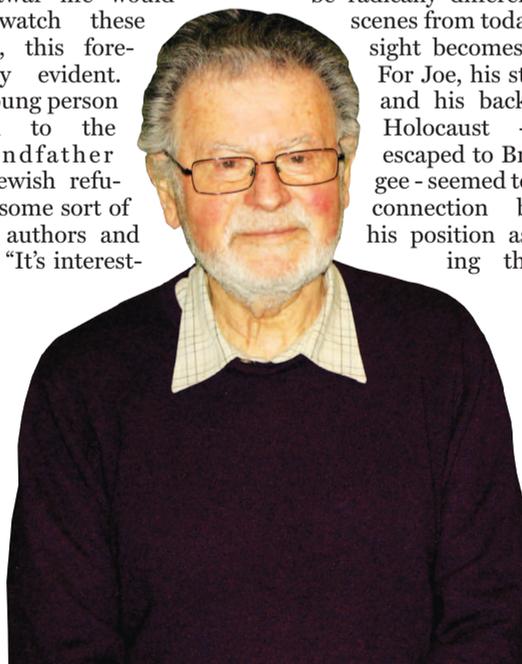
Joe Lichtenstein, a Theatre, Film and Television student who put on a play in York as part of the Holocaust Memorial Day, seems to agree, “Peter Weiss put the Frankfurt Trial on stage, but said you cannot represent the Holocaust on stage... It’s just impossible to even think about doing it.” His rendition of *Smoke of Home* at the University of York’s own memorial event last month was unique in its portrayal of the Holocaust. Written by Jewish prisoners in the Theresienstadt concentration camp, the play “is an allegory that compares the situation to the Thirty Years War”.

Premiering in the UK at York’s memorial event, this performance draws on research by Dr Lisa Peschel, whose historical investigation on Theresienstadt has revealed that great artistic works created by prisoners have survived the suffering and deprivation of this Jewish ghetto. According to Peschel, these pieces of art capture “the hopes, dreams and fears of their Czech- and Austrian-Jewish authors”, including the dream to

“return to their homes – the homes they remembered from before the war, from before Hitler”.

But where *Smoke of Home* differs from other plays of the time is in its foresight of its two young authors, Zdenek Eliáš and Jirí Stein, who realised that “even if they survived, postwar life would be radically different”.

I watch these scenes from today’s hindsight becomes shockingly evident. For Joe, his stance as a young person and his background link to the Holocaust - Joe’s grandfather a Jewish refugee - seemed to generate some sort of connection between the authors and his position as director: “It’s interest-



twenty-one, and the authors were twenty-one when they wrote it. So I feel like I’m sharing something.”

Exploring this answer further, I asked how far his grandfather’s experiences and his Jewish family background have shaped the person he identifies himself as now. “Having a father who is always dealing with being the son of a Holocaust survivor, I’m kind of having to deal with being the son of the son of being a Holocaust survivor... I feel that it’s a huge part of my life - part of my existence is that history, but I’m not sure. At the moment, in my early twenties, I’m discovering and working out how much this means to me, to have an identity which is connected with it.”

Joe’s grandfather survived the Holocaust through the Kindertransport, a rescue mission established by the British government prior to the Second World War which found refuge for 10,000 predominantly Jewish children in the United Kingdom. Describing him as a “moving forward kind-of guy”, Joe admitted that his grandfather “doesn’t really talk about [his experiences] very much”. Given that despite surviving the Holocaust, Kindertransportees were still torn from their homes and families, this is understandable. Nevertheless, Marc Schatzberger, Kindertransportee and York resident, was willing to share his experiences at the University’s memorial service.

Marc’s story begins in his birthplace of Vienna, as an only child of Jewish parents. He spoke of the situation in Austria following the country’s annexation with Germany: “Before I left, there had been a period of uncertainty and instability, because the whole Jewish population of Vienna was in a state of flux: people wanting to come out, people waiting for visas, people waiting for permits, people being carted away to con-

centration camps and others being left behind. All of this was instrumental in making one feel very insecure." I wondered how far Marc was aware of such events at the time, but at the age of twelve it was clear he could never forget such experiences. "[I was] aware of a lot of things... aware of the fact that I would be without my parents for the first time, aware that all the things that were familiar to me were left behind, and all the things that were ahead were unfamiliar, including the language."

Marc's experiences of coming to England were recounted through two postcards that his parents had left in Switzerland before being deported to concentration camps. The first was written on the train that took Marc away from Vienna on the 3rd June 1939. For a boy of 12 years, the brave face that Marc puts on here for his parents is remarkable - the opening line of his postcard reads: "So now your boy is gone too. Can't be helped. I'm having a good time." Interestingly, the postcard is signed by "Wolfe", rather than by Marc. "My birth certificate actually says Wolfgang Marc Schatzberger. When I came to England, the name Wolfe, or Wolfie as English people pronounce it, was a bit awkward, so they decided it should be Wilf, and from Wilf it became Will, and from Will it became Bill. At that point, I thought enough is enough. I'll use my other name, so that's how I became Marc."

The second postcard that Marc presented, which was sent two months later, was equally positive. Written in a children's refugee hostel in Margate, Kent, the postcard describes Marc as having one of his parents' "famous moments", or "a sort of very bad mood... dispelled immediately by the arrival of [his parents'] dear letter". The tone of his postcard was light and humorous, as Marc spoke of buying a dart at a threepence (which, as a boy, he described as a "sort of throwing arrow" and "a popular folks' sport here"), as well as eating apples all day. Incidentally, the apples referred to the times when Marc and the other Kindertransportees he was with would help a local farmer with his harvest. "Kent, being the garden of England, there were loads of apples, and they were delicious. I hadn't eaten apples like that ever since." But it was the strength of Marc's character in keeping up his parents' spirits despite his own troubles that was truly astounding: "It pleased me to know that you think of me as a tough guy. I've always wanted to avoid becoming a softy, and I think I managed that by my

"I've not sort of wanted to delve and delve and delve like some people who sit and think how tragic their life has been and so on. Yes it has been tragic, but we move on."

own efforts, because I think you rather spoil me."

The pause that Marc gave after reading out these two postcards in the memorial service indicated he was nearing the end of his testimony. "My parents had finally achieved permission to come to England in mid-September. War broke out in early September. I never saw them again."

When I talked to Joe about representing the Holocaust on stage, he spoke of the "unbelievably incomprehensible" nature of the subject that makes it so difficult to portray. It is the stories by survivors such as Marc which transform the vast and unimaginable enormity of the Holocaust into more relatable, personal tragedies. Yet films, books and plays about the Holocaust continue to be produced, and when asked about how he perceives such works, Marc acknowledged that his emotional response

is ultimately defined by his family: "I escaped the Holocaust because of being here, but inevitably, I transferred emotions on the Holocaust to my father and mother, and my uncle and aunt, who together went to their deaths in Auschwitz. Everything that I see, like *The Boy In The Striped Pyjamas*, I transfer in my thinking, not to me, but to them."

But the response I received when I asked whether or not he kept in contact with other Kindertransportees such as himself was surprising. "I'm not into navel-gazing, I've not sort of wanted to delve and delve and delve like some people who sit and think of nothing else, how tragic their life has been and so on. Yes it has been tragic, but we move on. So that attitude, which I probably have to a fault, means that I have not actually sought to be in contact with people that I met in a refugee hostel and so on." The resilience that shone through Marc's postcards as a child hasn't seemed to have faded. Marc settled into a country which was once a foreign land to him, and had most of his education here, as well as his family, which now grows into a fourth generation. He admits that when he does go back to Vienna, he feels "fairly comfortable there, which may seem strange", but emphasises that, in terms of identity, he feels "totally British".

However, Marc's testimony of his experiences as a Kindertransportee and survivor of the Holocaust continues to serve an important purpose. His story is one of many here in York; Ella Seligman, student president of the Jewish Society, reminded attendees of the University's memorial service that there is "almost no European Jew whose family is unaffected by the Holocaust, and each has their own personal pain". In Ella's family, 84 members were "identified by name as being killed in the Holocaust". But it is the legacy of the Jewish peoples' survival through this genocide, characterised by individuals such as Marc Schatzberger, that "should encourage us never to allow morality to sink so low again". For young people today, in relation to commemorating and understanding the Holocaust, Ella identified that "reducing injustice and hatred starts with treating each other with equality, humanity and tolerance".

And as for Marc, he finished his testimony with the following: "There are thousands of stories like [mine], different in detail, similar in essentials. That's why we are here. It's why we remember the Holocaust as a horrible example of what persecution and race hatred can lead to." M

"Labour makes you free": Theresienstadt ghetto, where the play, *Smoke at Home* was originally written in Czech



CABBIES' CORNER

WE ASKED JOHN WHETHER HE KNEW ANY LONELY HEARTS THIS VALENTINE'S DAY. WE'RE NOT SURE HE UNDERSTOOD QUITE WHAT WE MEANT.



“ She told me she hadn't seen her neighbours in weeks. Turned out one was dead and the other was in prison... ”

John
Driving cabs for 10 years

Tea and Troubles.

Dear Sophie,

Q. I want to dress up for my boyfriend on Valentine's Day to spice things up a bit. Could you recommend a costume?

A. Dress up as a janitor. I've heard that's very in vogue on the kinky fancy dress scene recently, especially with a toilet brush as a prop instead of a whip. I expect your boyfriend likes banal toilet humour anyway so it should go down well. Maybe blindfold him with toilet paper, and incorporate flushing noises into your strip routine. Then fashion nipple tassels out of your mop head, and use your broom in a Gangnam style dance. Put a 'Caution: Cleaning' outside the bedroom door and he'll be on Cloud Nine.

Q. How can I tell the girl opposite me in the library that plucking out your hair then eating it at your desk is really distracting?

A. Buy her a burger. Evidently, she's hungry. Failing that, buy her a hat so she can't even reach her hair. You are not alone in your distraction, there is an endemic of revolting behaviour at the moment, but it is being seen to. The JB Morrell is soon to be offering master classes in personal hygiene and public decorum so let's hope she goes to that. In fact, the University is also launch-



ing a new York Award in GBALD (Good Behaviour at Library Desk). The 'bald' was no pun intended.

Q. I need to dump my girlfriend on Valentine's Day because I'm in love with another girl who I'd rather spend the day with. How can I do it?

Do it in Waitrose. Say you need to go to pick up some provisions. Then have it out in the dairy aisle. It's always best to have a big confrontation in a public place, on neutral ground, so that things don't get too heated. It's a spacious supermarket so you should be able to escape fairly easily and what's more the staff are extremely attentive and always very keen to help if you need it, which you probably will. If I could recommend offering her the consolation that quinoa is on special offer at the moment: aisle 4.

THE STUDENT NOTEBOOK

MARY O'CONNOR

Naughty Step: Is it me or is Facebook like a spoilt child? Never satisfied with being at the centre of our daily lives begging our nurturing love and care, it continues to make a ruckus to get our attention, with its new notification 'ping' continuing this trend of toddler tantrums. In the past, that quiet and humble little red globe would let me reach out to that blessed person in cyberspace, who genuinely thought I would like to see yet another video of a Slow Loris performing the apparently impossible - no, not by eating a rice ball, kids, far more skilled than that, this time 'Sonya' the Slow Loris eats a banana! Miracles do happen. Now, being robbed of the quiet surprise of those notifications, every time Facebook pings its irritating doorbell sound, I embark upon the long trek downstairs to see which unfortunate is at the door. Sadly, I'm disappointed to realise that no one has run the gauntlet of Tang Hall to sojourn our humble abode, it's just the narky 'ping' of Facebook. I find it is like mounting the bull at Reflex, you know, before you get on it that you'll fall off in less than a minute, in probably the most undignified and unladylike manner given the badly-chosen-what-on-earth-would-mother-say skirt that you're wearing; but the air of invincibility that your drunken state has given you, convinces you that you are now Billy the Kid, bull-rider extraordinaire. Ditto Facebook - I'm sat there waiting for that 'ping' on a witty status and inevitably, nothing happens. But, all this is inferior to the bigger question: Why a ping? And WHY NOT Boris Johnson's plummy

tones enunciating 'wiff-waff'? I think I know which one most of us would prefer.

Conclusions - leaping to them. Two very wise friends say I am afflicted with a particular problem - the rare condition known as 'conclusion leaping.' Up until recently, I vehemently denied such a diagnosis, but then one of a number of events occurred, which has made me more open to this view. The sign came when I voluntarily went on a proper night out to Willow. Not the kind where I left after a painful 45 minutes, but the real deal - the all-night marathon. Up until that evening, I thought Willow was York's cesspit, containing only those people who had been submerged in liquid sunshine and then covered in the sickliest type of sugar; people, who if I was forced to spend more than 5 minutes with, I would seriously consider amputating a part of my body. I won't go as far as to say that I've had an epiphany when it comes to Willow, but for that single night, Willow was akin to a comfort blanket as I danced unreservedly in my drunken stupor with people who do simply love life and the big W, of course.

Survivor: The years of booty-shakin' and her invaluable lessons on being a 'strong, independent woman' certainly indebted me to her, so I must come hastily to Queen B's defence against all those 'neigh'-sayers (an appropriate pun at the moment...) who have been attacking her choice of outfit at the Superbowl, on the grounds of animal rights. An animal rights

group have blasted Beyoncé for her handmade bodysuit which was apparently made from 'python, iguana and cow.' Predictability, as the nature of fame goes, no matter who you are, or the contribution you have made to the world (Beyoncé has pioneered the music industry as a leading female soul singer as well as working with innumerable charities including founding the Hurricane Katrina Survivor Foundation) you won't escape criticism from any kind of slip-up. Can any of us (except those exceptional individuals who can pass up the crisp, oaky and frankly divine smell of a leather handbag) say that we've never worn something that has an animal by-product in it? On a more serious note, I sympathise with Beyoncé, I really do. Whilst she is apparently being chased by the ghosts of iguanas, snakes and goodness knows what else her outfit was made of, I think back to a time in first year, when I ill-advisedly (and drunkenly it must be said) invaded a duck's nest to be chased by a terrifyingly rapid little bugger (who must be the Usain Bolt of the Duck world), who caused me to spring at least 10 feet into the air (I admit this is an exaggeration, but it was certainly very high) and make a screeching sound that probably only dolphins could hear. And the worse thing is, it's on video. I just hope it won't turn up on You've Been Framed in my lifetime. Wait 'til I'm dead, guys.





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Politics



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STUDENT HACK



60 Harvard students have been forced to withdraw after allegations of cheating were found to be true. Over 125 cases were heard by the University's Administrative Board following suspicions of collaboration and plagiarism in an open book exam.



The number of non-EU post-graduate students entering the UK to study has fallen for the first time in 16 years. The UK's aim has always been to encourage the brightest students, from all over the world. However this drive for innovation and ambition is now being threatened by a harsh immigration policy.



A degree is no longer enough, as students are pressured into paying for PhDs and Masters in order to find a job in today's market. The number of students holding more than an undergraduate degree has increased almost four fold since the mid-1990s, dragging students even deeper into debt.

Research shows increase in privately educated students

Kieron Hazell
POLITICAL REPORTER

RECENTLY PUBLISHED data shows that there has been an increase in the percentage of private school pupils winning places at elite universities, despite a recent Government scheme to raise the number of state school students at these institutions.

Whilst in 2010 and 2011, pupils from independent schools achieved an average success rate of 71.7 and 72 per cent when applying to university respectively for those years, in 2012 this increased to 75.8 per cent.

State school students' success rates remain well below this despite around half of Russell Group universities having recently signed an agreement with the Office for Fair Access (OFFA) which sets them the aim of increasing the share of places offered to state educated pupils.

It is suggested that in response to the continuation of these trends despite such pledges, OFFA has outlined effective outreach activities such as summer schools, master classes and mentoring as ways universities can encourage applications from those areas where few pupils progress to higher education institutions.

The University of York, for which these statistics were unavailable at the time of writing, appears to be at the forefront of such widening participation schemes. In Realising Opportunities (RO), an original en-



Over 90 per cent of Eton College students obtained offers to Russell Group Universities

terprise it is currently part of, along with eleven other British universities 'working to promote fair access and social mobility of students from under-represented groups'.

The RO programme includes participation from other research intensive institutions, such as King's College London and Manchester University. Under this scheme, sixth

form pupils are given significant support in their post-16 studies.

This is done through a combination of e-mentoring, assistance in the completion of a piece of independent research work, and the opportunity to meet RO representatives at a National Student Conference.

Yet, in the face of the pro-

liferation of widening participation schemes such as the RO programme, these recent figures would seem to indicate their limited impact at a national level.

Ultimately therefore, there will be calls for the government to do more in order to encourage students from poorer backgrounds into higher education.

Six month proposal towards peace

Rosie Shields
POLITICAL REPORTER

AFTER MEETING for the third time, trilateral talks last week in the UK finally saw the leaders of Afghanistan and Pakistan agree to work towards bilateral peace. The target for this peace to be achieved is now set within the next six months. Prime Minister David Cameron has emphasised the need to build closer cooperation between the countries and claims both are now willing to "take all necessary measures" in realising this. Indeed in a joint statement from Hamid Karzai, the Afghan President and Asif Ali Zardar, the Pakistani President they spoke of the 'urgency of this work'.

These discussions could be vital in achieving peace in the countries independently as well as together with collaboration playing an increasingly influential role. The talks, which centred around the Afghan-led peace process, also tried to encourage Taliban cooperation. Previously Karzai had abandoned ideas of cooperation with the Taliban after rejecting the set up of a Taliban office in Qatar due to fears that



Foreign ministers from Afghanistan, Pakistan and the UK agree peace

this would lead to the government in Kabul being sidestepped by the USA in favour of negotiating with the Taliban. This newfound willingness to work with the Taliban then could turn out to be key in restoring the countries. However, despite this hint at reform no representative from the Taliban attended the tri-

partite talks, threatening the practicality of the agreement.

Indeed relationships between the neighbours still seem uneasy. The Afghan government would like to see the release of Mullah Baradar, their former second-in-command of the Taliban, with the aim that he would be able to influence the Tali-

ban into agreeing to talks in Kabul.

Nevertheless overcoming mistrust between the neighbouring countries is a big step towards overall peace. The importance of this certainly cannot be overlooked, with both sides emphasising again their commitment to signing the Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA). Karzai even said that he hoped the future for the two countries would be a 'very close, brotherly and good neighbourly' relationship. It seems the Afghan government have recognised that once NATO troops leave Afghanistan in 2014 peace with Pakistan could be crucial in keeping the country's stability.

It is hoped that these talks will lead to further commitments in the future including the strengthening of economic ties, free trade and border security. Working together is the obvious key here. David Cameron himself spoke of the "clear message to the Taliban" calling for 'now' to be the time where 'everyone' could finally participate in 'peace in Afghanistan'. Of course it is hard to see what will come of these discussions but Afghanistan is certainly on its way to ending this long war.

Mali success will not bring end to terrorism

Maisie Cook

POLITICAL ANALYSIS

After only three weeks of French military intervention, the crisis in Mali appears to be waning. Troops are being withdrawn from Timbuktu, instead targeting Islamist bases and fuel depots to conclude the conflict. Responsibility is already being transferred to Malian forces. Peace is at hand. End of story. Or so it seems.

The intervention began on the 11 January after Islamist rebels threatened to move south. Colonial ties clearly still run deep, as Hollande responded decisively to pleas for help, sending in 4000 troops. Action has been deemed broadly successful by the international community, likened to the swift response of the Libya air strike.

This victory is desperately needed by the French President. Hollande has been faring poorly in the polls after several blunders, including the embarrassing failure of his 75% tax policy to be even declared constitutional.

His bold decision over Mali, however, prevented the situation from deteriorating beyond the point of rescue. Visiting Mali last week, Hollande thus received a hero's welcome, raising his domestic approval rating to 40%.

Nevertheless, despite the jubilation, the end is not yet in sight for the President. Although Hollande acknowledges that the conflict is not over, this rhetoric is not consistent with the premature withdrawal

of French forces. Malian troops are not yet ready to take on the role of peacekeepers, whatever their military may say to reassure the public.

Ethnic divisions threaten to complicate this mission, as well as humanitarian troubles caused by mass displacement of citizens and an ongoing food shortage. Mali is not simply an in-out operation, it requires structural change if the country is to remain secure.

Indeed, the French military must still decide whether to pursue Islamist forces who have withdrawn to the mountains. Although the cit-

“The terror threat remains prominent, regardless of the supposed success of the current crackdown”

ies may have resumed relative normality, the hostage problem remains to be tackled.

With the possibility of the struggle continuing comes the possibility of UK intervention. Although Cameron denies the prospect of direct deployment of British troops, the UK may be forced to involve itself more than originally intended. Blair, increasingly advising Cameron on his premiership, argues that the UK cannot afford to keep out of this conflict without endangering



MAGHAREBIA

Despite success in defeating Islamist rebels for now, there is no guarantee that terrorism in Mali is extinct

national security, a position Cameron may be forced to recognize.

The terror threat in the region remains prominent, regardless of the supposed success of the current crackdown. Intervention, though necessary, fuels speculation of a Western imperialist attitude, further alienating those who may later turn to extremist causes. The war on terror cannot just involve

isolated military operations aimed to prevent extremists from presuming positions of power, as the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq no doubt prove.

How to tackle the war on terror once and for all is no easy question, and thus presents no easy solution. However, treating each incident of terrorist activity as separate is not the answer.

More studies need to be made into the kind of socio-economic conditions that foster terror, and ways to deal with these at a grassroots level, instead of imposing the West's military might on cultures unwilling to listen.

Though the Malian crisis may be subsiding, there is still a long way to go before terrorist threats are relegated to the history books.

Is the UK a representative democracy?

Callum Elliot

POLITICAL ANALYSIS

The recent news that Chris Huhne, the former Energy Secretary, had admitted to perverting the course of justice by coercing his now ex-wife to take a speeding ticket he had incurred, allowed me to reflect upon the by-election that will take place in his constituency, Eastleigh, in the coming months.

This, a Liberal Democrat seat before the former Energy Secretary resigned, will now be contested by the Conservative Party who will be looking for a win and Labour possibly seeking to make a point and put the Lib Dems firmly back in their place; third place that is.

But what about Respect, the Green Party, UKIP, BNP and other smaller parties that represent a select group? Why do they have no chance of gaining this seat in Parliament, but then also struggle on a national basis in the general election?

The answer is of course the use of the First Past the Post system used general elections in the UK, which has allowed the party system that is in place here to manifest and dominate.

It has managed to undermine the whole notion of representation, by hazarding over what it is to actually have someone voting on your behalf



THE KILLER BISCUIT

The UK democracy is deeply rooted in the less directly representative First Past the Post system

on national matters, someone who would act on the same principles as you, if we were to live and vote in a direct democracy.

The use of party politics in Parliament itself is a major perpetrator of stealing representation away from the public. MPs who are voted in are

expected to 'tow the party line' and the use of whips effectively blackmails the representative to vote on behalf of the party, even if their constituents are against it. They are practically puppets being controlled by the upper reaches of their party.

The public are effectively, in-

directly voting for their next Prime Minister by voting for the MP with the same logo in a general election. Most voters usually know little about, or even who actually represents them, and only know about their leader.

Thus, the majority of elections

are just the granting of a mandate for the Prime Minister to push through their manifesto and act in the nation's interests, the majority of them anyway.

Surely it should not be a case of choosing the party who you have to make the least compromises with, but actually the one that represents you entirely. A political party cannot represent both students and retirees; these two groups are unequivocally different and are only two of many with their own unique circumstances and interests. A multiplicity of small parties is what's needed for the UK to ever come close to being a representative democracy.

This article is not calling for the creation of a ludicrous amount of political parties for every single sector of society to gain effective representation, but instead a realisation that the UK is not a true representative democracy. Your MP is not representing you at all, but is ensuring that the country remains stable by forming a collective, strong government.

A foundation is needed for a decisive and responsive government that aids the country in times of crisis. What we have to work out is whether we want a truly representative state or one that can respond adequately in times of despair. The two, unfortunately, cannot be combined.

The press must retain its freedom

Adam Highland
POLITICAL ANALYSIS

The press has not received favourable coverage of late. The Leveson report laid bare the extent of the appalling incursions into the private lives of celebrities and crime victims, as well as the cosy relations between the press, ministers and the police.

The media may soon be subject to an independent regulator, if the government chooses to implement the proposed reforms. However the power and indeed duty of the press to exert intense 'press-ure' on ministers suspected of breaking the law or behaving inappropriately, even when this leads to their resignation, must remain untouched.

The 'press-ure' on a minister to resign before conviction in a court of law is warranted because a role in government demands total dedication, which is impossible under scrutiny from the press and the public. However the solution is not to silence the press until a judge delivers the verdict, because at worst, while the courts deliberate, departmental orders are issued by someone who has acted (and could continue to act) outside the law. Taken to the extreme, the entire rule of law is threatened and there is a very real possibility of corruption.

Two recent examples can offer some perspective. Recent CCTV footage and revelations about a witness in the Andrew Mitchell 'Pleb-gate' affair have introduced the possibility that Mitchell could return to the front bench in the future. The damage to his reputation if the allegations prove unfounded is unfortunate, but he would still be an MP with his name cleared and his career prospects restored.

Consider the alternative that he was guilty and stayed in office, and then had to resign off the back of a conviction. The standing of the British Government would be left in tatters.

Even if he stayed and was innocent, not only would his ability to perform his role be hindered by constant questioning of his integrity, but the case could be thrown out



The Chris Huhne scandal has shown that press scrutiny can help ensure that politicians remain accountable

because a fair trial was no longer possible in light of nonstop media coverage.

The second example is Chris Huhne, who resigned due to 'pressure' last year despite protesting innocence, but has subsequently pleaded guilty and will surely never return to politics.

The press is not immune from complaint here. The texts between Chris Huhne and his son, Peter, should not have been published for the sake of the 20-year-old student. It cannot be one rule for Milly Dowler and another for a politician. Equality before the law includes those on privacy. The Leveson re-

port is evidently not the final chapter in this saga.

“The solution is not to silence the press until the judge delivers a verdict”

Nevertheless, the press has done its job. Had Huhne stayed in office, the headlines last week would have read 'Coalition minister resigns after lying to police'. Instead,

they read 'Disgraced ex-minister quits politics', which, while still inevitably damaging, makes for far easier reading for Cameron, Clegg, the Coalition and ultimately the British public.

The press should not be restrained from investigating a possible scandal on the basis of a rumour or a small shred of evidence, so long as it acts within the law and within reason. On numerous occasions, an investigation starts with a whisper or a leak from a disgruntled insider. The press must retain its freedom. The alternative is an unaccountable government which believes itself exempt from the law.



@dsmitheconomics
David Smith, Economics Editor, The Sunday Times

“Carney written evidence on changing inflation target: “The bar for change is very high but review and debate can be positive.””

7 Feb



@SophyRidgeSky
Sophy Ridge, Sky News

“Ed Miliband pushing on “bedroom tax” is a victory for the Sunday People, who have been campaigning on this #PMQs”

6 Feb



@DavidLammy
David Lammy, Labour MP

“Cameron badly misunderstanding how his Bedroom tax is going to work. It’s going to unravel badly. #pmqs”

6 Feb



@DeborahJaneOrr
Deborah Orr, Columnist, The Guardian

“Chris #Huhne seems to me like just another of those people who expected things to go his way and insisted that they should when they didn’t.”

5 Feb



@BBCNormanS
Norman Smith, BBC News

“Labour MP Michael McCann says “complete fabrication” to say #equalmarriage bill about equality and “opens up a can of worms””

5 Feb

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Marx resurgent

As Editor-in-Chief of *Jacobin* magazine, Bhaskar Sunkara has attempted to give socialism a re-boot. Hussein Kesvani speaks to him to find about the future of socialism across the world.

To most, Marxism might seem an outdated term. But to Bhaskar Sunkara, editor-in-chief of *Jacobin* magazine, it might just hold the radical solutions needed to tackle the ailments of our age.

The magazine has just released its ninth print issue, and since launching in 2010, has attracted 3,000 digital subscribers, over 250,000 web hits a month and is a regular feature on US news networks such as MSNBC and CNN. Prominent contributors to the magazine have included Walter Benn Michaels, American literary theorist, and Slavoj Žižek, the cultural philosopher. Impressive, considering that Sunkara is a recent college graduate only in his early twenties.

Distancing themselves from the stuffy, high-brow intellectual rigidity found in the *New Left Review*, Sunkara suggests that *Jacobin* offers “a completely different venue from what existed before. It has a vibrancy and accessibility that is extremely rare on the 21st century left”. And with op-eds boasting blunt titles including ‘Burn the Constitution’, the publication has not shied away from controversy. Rather, it relentlessly exerts radical critiques on issues ranging from workers’ unions, labour rights and the failures of American democracy.

Yet, far from advocating the dogmatic orthodoxy often associated with Marxist political thought, Sunkara believes that the magazine offers a platform in which the modern structural compositions of capitalism and liberal democracy can be effectively challenged. Asked about the social purpose of the publica-



BHASKAR SUNKARA

Sunkara thinks Marxism can hold the answers to the current economic and social crises across the world

tion, he says “I established *Jacobin* to both assert the relevance of and modernize the Marxist class analysis and traditionally socialist ideas about the necessity of working class organization”.

In addition, he believes the popularity of the magazine lies in its engagement with the public; alongside a sleek, minimalist design, its writing “is clear and accessible, and we approach our polemics in a way that is good in faith, but unrelenting in criticism”.

Being an independent publi-

cation, much of its reputation has been built from the ground up,

“We have a vibrancy and accessibility that is rare on the 21st century left”

through contributing to debates and political activism. In particular,

Jacobin’s presence in the Occupy movement in 2011 truly put it at the forefront of the intellectual left-securing its position as a force to be reckoned with.

While Sunkara associates himself politically as a ‘socialist’, he’s aware of the problematic nature in the usage of this term. Associating more towards the philosophy of Ralph Miliband, the British socialist academic and Ed Miliband, father of current Labour leader. Sunkara acknowledges the diversity of leftist thought evident today, suggest-

ing that “socialism has warped into some type of floating signifier for many”. Regardless of the term’s possible misappropriation by both the Right and the Centre, he notes an array of statistics suggesting “people under 30 have positive impression of socialism than capitalism.” While some may be confused by the nature of modern socialist thought, an association with the welfare state probably means “they know it’s better than the brutal form of capitalism our generation has been subjected to”.

But in an America notoriously suspicious of anything remotely Marxist, can a publication like *Jacobin* truly go beyond a marginal readership? Sunkara argues that “Despite the political defeats of the neoliberal era, there is still an active working class that generally votes left, has been at the vanguard of anti-austerity efforts, and remains poised to potentially re-emerge as a political force.”

At the same time, movements like Occupy are indicative of a wider discontent with the way that both society and governance operates, as well as a desire for real change, beyond presidential campaign slogans.

Sunkara hopes to “maintain momentum and consolidate *Jacobin*’s position as the leading magazine of the American left”, and this year will be publishing books and continuing public activism.

Yet, while he may remain in New York, he maintains that *Jacobin* always had an international outlook; “We’re socialists and internationalists, our intention was never to focus domestically”.

Cameron is becoming the leader we need

THE LAST WORD Sam Shepherd



Last week witnessed a watershed moment in British societal and political history, in the form of the House of Commons passing a bill to allow homosexual marriage. This was, however, not only a stunning moment in history, but a turning point in this parliament.

136 Conservative MPs voted against the bill, casting severe doubt on David Cameron, and whether he has full control over and respect of his party. Whilst not a rebellion in the traditional sense of the word (Conservative MPs were given a free vote, as opposed to Labour and the Liberal Democrats), the fact that so many members of his party went against the leadership will give Cameron some sleepless nights over the coming months.

Whilst inevitably the vote has shown that some Conservative MPs remain strikingly traditionalist, it perhaps indicates more that Cameron, since he was elected leader in

2005, has failed to modernise the Tories sufficiently.

On the surface, this undermines his entire leadership. Elected in the aftermath of an embarrassing defeat to an unpopular Labour Party in 2005, Cameron has attempted to

“Cameron has stuck to his principles and finally stood up”

inject youth and vitality into a party intent on clinging on to its outdated history.

Initially, it all went swimmingly for Mr Cameron. Ultimately able to shake off comparisons to Tony Blair, he set about turning the Conservatives into a party that could challenge and ultimately usurp Labour from their perch. Indeed, victory at the 2010 general election appeared at first glance to be the moment when Cameron grew from merely a politician to a leader.

Was this the case though? It is plausible to say that despite winning 307 seats, the Conservatives



GOVERNMENTZA

Cameron is finally showing the guile, backbone and nous to be a leader

severely under performed.

With Labour in tatters, a Prime Minister who was the laughing stock of the nation and one of the worst economic crises the country had ever seen, the Conservatives blew the chance to secure their first majority government since John Major.

To place the blame entirely on David Cameron would, however, be somewhat misguided. He managed to turn the party into an electoral force once again, with a package of

policies that were attractive to undecided and faithful voters.

Since then however, his leadership has been criticised severely. His judgement has been questioned on numerous occasions and he has often been accused of being spineless.

I do think however, this criticism is unjustified. Admittedly, there have been more ‘U-turns’ than he would care to mention, however Cameron has gone about his business in a dignified, proper manner that many seem to have ignored.

His victory in managing to secure a cut in the EU budget is a sensational one for a man who many had dismissed as spineless. Moreover, deciding to offer a referendum on British membership of the European Union finally showed that he is prepared to make bold decisions. This boldness was extended when the equal marriage proposals were announced and ultimately passed. Whether or not you agree with the legislation is irrelevant, the fact of the matter is Cameron has stuck to his principles and has finally decided to stand up to his backbenchers.

Criticism of failing to modernise the Conservatives is also unfounded. Compared to 2005, this party is radically different. There will always be a traditionalist core to the Tories, and this core very much raised itself from the depths last week. But the fact that Cameron has managed to secure a monumentally progressive with nearly half the parliamentary party is quite an achievement.

Cameron has had a difficult two and a half years as Prime Minister, but it appears that he has finally become the leader that both the Conservatives and the country needs.

Business



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A Grand Départ for Yorkshire?

The decision to stage the opening two stages of the 'Tour de France' in Yorkshire has many possible benefits, as **Alastair Ellerington** reports.

The people of Yorkshire are known for their pride in 'God's Own Country.' This will not be helped by the vindication from the organisers of the 'Tour de France', who have decided to set the opening two stages of the tour in the county. The stages are starting in Leeds, looping Northwards to the Yorkshire Dales, and stopping at the spa town of Harrogate. Starting in the city of York, and ending in Sheffield after going round Leeds again, this promises a large boost to the whole of the county.

The Yorkshire tourism board website bases an estimated boost of £100m, on the last time the Tour visited England. In 2007, a London-Kent route brought in £88m to the local economy and £35m worth of media coverage. With 2 million spectators turning out over two days, 1,200 rooms booked each night, and a television audience of up to 3.5bn. Big numbers.

The benefits are clear. The short-term injection of money should help revive a local economy which does not boast any significant industries, with South Yorkshire still flagging from the widespread closure of the mines and the economy in North Yorkshire perhaps over-reliant on a farming industry, that has suffered a lot in recent years. More importantly though, the legacy of raising the profile of Yorkshire to a global audience will offer the best opportunities for business and tourism here to expand and make use of the Tour.

However, the benefits should not be overstated. The Tour goes through the key economic centres of Leeds, Bradford, York, Harrogate



DAMIEN

Stage two of the tour will start in the historic City of York then looping northwards to the Yorkshire Dales

and the urban conurbation that seems to be South Yorkshire, and

“The Yorkshire tourist board bases an estimated boost of £100m on the last time the Tour visited England”

the loop through North Yorkshire should help its narrow economy, but the tour misses out on South Yorkshire significantly and East York-

shire is not included at all. The Hull City Council has a partnership with the British Cycling Association but is the area that will miss out.

South Yorkshire has plenty to offer, with a much wider economic base than the other ridings – from the Peak District National Park to the famed steel-making in Sheffield – and the decline of East Yorkshire's economy and image in recent years suggests that it could have benefited most from it. Youth unemployment in East Yorkshire is generally between 8% and 10%, compared to between 2% and 5% in North York-

shire. The North York Moors' National Authority, meanwhile, touts the

benefits of the Tour to local hotel and hostel businesses, and to local cycling in general. The tour could have benefitted Hull much more, with its links to the continent by ferry and the greater potential for economic development with the dearth of unemployed workers and buildings around the Humber.

However, maybe that is overstating the Tour itself. The Tour is a sporting competition; entertainment for spectators, not a business conference. Business comes from the spectators and the images they take home with them. The Grand Départ in July 2014 will kick-start the region, but it is still firstly a great sporting competition.

York's local shops stand strong

Georgina McCreadie

The recession has sounded the death knell for many well know high street shops. Woolworths, Jessop's and HMV have all suffered with the fate of the high street often lamented in the press, as has the demise of the traditional shopping experience. Many of Britain's high streets seem to be emptying as people favour out of town shopping centres or the ease of the Internet. Yet York still has a vibrant and buzzing town centre. As a historic town it is unique in many ways, and is filled with independent and boutique shops, that seem to be thriving despite the current economic climate.

The Yorkshire Soap Company is one of many new shops to have opened in York in the past year. They sell luxury soaps for low prices and have reported a business increase of 43 per cent from last year.

This almost unprecedented growth comes from the fact that they are in a market that is growing and that they offer luxury items for low prices. They also attribute their



NARGIZIK

The cobbled streets of York offer a unique shopping experience

success to the fact that York has a very unique city centre in terms of the history, beauty and other attractions (including museums, the walls etc.) but also highlight that 60 per cent of their customers are locals and regulars.

Another boutique shop is Saf-

frons of York; a small card and gift shop. They say that trading is currently "fantastic" and that they haven't felt the recession. They highlight York as a quirky town centre which benefits from the large amount of visitors.

However, they also commented

that over half of their customers are local, which has helped them to build up strong customer loyalty.

York also contains a lot of shops that have a following and reputation outside of the city. Betty's is an obvious example, although it has a shop in Harrogate too. It is one of the most popular shops in York; like the smaller shops it has a mix of regular customers and tourists.

It was established in 1919 and has continued to grow in strength, with the smaller Betty's on Stonegate, and their successful shop and website; it is one of York's most popular and well known shops and destinations.

The success of York as a city centre seems to be the combination of everything the city has to offer. The history and the individuality of the shops attracts visitors but also ensures that locals don't leave to shop elsewhere. Shops can build up a relationship with their customers to offer them the best service, and this is perhaps what is missing from bigger, more generic companies.

Business Bitesize

Jasbir Norris
BUSINESS EDITOR

The Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) has been fined £390 million by US and UK authorities following its part in the Libor rate-fixing scandal, over £100 million more than that issued to Barclays last year for similar offences. The UK Financial Services Authority (FSA) reported that the misconduct at RBS was "widespread", with over 219 inappropriate requests for submissions for Libor rates documented along with countless numbers of oral requests.

These wrongdoings took place over a period of nearly five years until as recently as November 2010 – two years after the £45.5 billion bailout. To date the bank is still 81%-owned by the taxpayer, with George Osborne quick to assure the public that "the bill for any US fine related to this investigation should on this occasion be paid for by the bankers, and not the taxpayer".

According to RBS, all 21 of the employees indicted in the wrongdoing have either been disciplined or left the bank, with Sir Phillip Hampton, RBS Chairman, pledging new measures to "fix the culture in the banking industry".

Virgin Media has accepted a \$23.3bn (£15bn) takeover bid from international cable company, Liberty Global. The US firm reported that the merged entity will have 25 million customers across 14 countries, with the potential to reach almost 47 million homes. The deal, subject to shareholder and regulatory approval, will create the world's largest broadband company and also the second biggest pay-TV business after BskyB in the UK.

Dell Computers is to be bought back by founder Michael Dell, in a \$24.4bn (£15.5bn) move that will take Dell off the Nasdaq stock exchange after 25 years. In recent years the firm has struggled to compete with cheap Asian rivals as well as rising sales of smartphones and tablet computers.

It is hoped that this freedom from quarterly reporting and share price worries will allow the firm to refocus on its core markets all the while expanding its ever-growing cloud computing services.

ELL BROWN



Smart start-ups

Tom Williams

Despite being a young nation compared to those in Europe, for the past century America has been the world's leader in business innovation, with Silicon Valley being recognised as the international hub of technology and enterprise.

This culture of technology and innovation has become inherent in this part of America, and for many years has left Europe trailing behind. However, recent cultural changes and a push in the EU to promote tech start-ups have seen some interesting projects develop. As the Euro Start up awards approach we look at some of the finest ideas across the continent.

Here's four European start-ups that are paving the way:

HÅYKAN DAHLSTRÅM



1) iZettle.com - Stockholm, Sweden

iZettle is a revolutionary small card-reader that plugs into iPhones, iPads and a number of Android smartphones or tablets. It makes payment by card possible for traders that would otherwise not be able to afford a card machine.

It's aimed at competing with the similar product brought out by Jack Dorsey, Twitter's founder, Square.

You hand over your card to the painter - or carpenter or RAG collector - it is swiped through the device, and then you sign for your purchase. The merchant pays a commission of 2.75% a transac-

tion, and the consumer gets to use their plastic rather than cash in new places.

It has been seen by many as a giant progression towards a cashless, and more efficient Europe.

COAL MIKI



2) LikeOurselves.com - London, UK

This unusual web and mobile app allows people to find like-minded individuals with similar interests within their area.

Users of the app are able to choose to submit a profile of individuals that they would prefer to meet in various categories such as hobbies, spontaneous dates, and a range of different activities.

Though it may be a divergence from the traditional way to make friends, users argue that anything that brings the right people closer must be a beneficial service.

It may become a popular destination for people new to a city or university, though on the other side of the coin, it may have the problem of attracting unwanted users that other social platforms share.

DELGROSSO



3) Lengow.com: Nantes, France

Though there are similar companies out there, Lengow.com answers the annoying problem of having to stay in the house for the whole day when you are waiting for

a delivery.

The Nantes-based startup offers a web interface that allows online merchants to centralize and track the distribution of their product catalogues on all online distribution channels. Customers can also track their orders online to pin point the exact time their delivery will arrive.

Though in its infancy, the service is now present in many countries worldwide, Lengow's system is indexing over 68 million products every day and 15,000 feeds on more than 750 supports in the world.

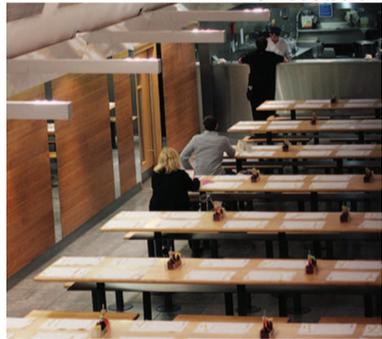
4) Storific - Paris, France

A start up that may not be welcome among students in York that hold part time jobs in restaurants, Storific aims to make dining-out easier. This is done by offering Storific mobile-app users the ability to check the menu of the restaurant they are in, and then place their orders whenever they choose without waiting for restaurant staff.

Some feel that this French start-up has the possibility to fundamentally adapt the job of waiters inside restaurants and ultimately make the volume of waiters in restaurants unnecessary.

They claim that the app substantially increases the amount of orders created by one table and is therefore a positive influence on the restaurant's revenue. It is certainly something that restaurant managers will be interested in taking on if it creases their orders and reduces their cost on wages.

CRAIG DOES STUFF



Lessons from the past

Harry Ashcroft

Austerity could be doomed to the chapters of a history George Osborne would rather not be a part of. Remembered alongside Neville Chamberlain and his bit of paper, Marianne Antoinette and her common touch, or Caligula and his love of married women. History has accepted that these individuals' judgements were wrong, and their legacy is one of failure.

The Conservatives brag that the deficit has been reduced by 25 per cent in three years, but isn't that in line with Labour's forecast at the last Election? To cut the deficit in

“Cameron was stupid to argue that the economy could grow directly because of austerity”

half this parliament, so surely, Ed Balls got it right?

But I don't believe so, as the UK economy is undergoing structural changes which cannot be pain-free or easy. Austerity, despite its harsh ramifications, is saving us from the perils engulfing the continent. Europe is collapsing around us; in 2010 the situation was not this bad, we knew Greece was in trouble, but the German economy was for a period, booming.

Assumptions of recovery were everywhere, and the reason austerity hasn't reduced the deficit as hoped, is due to the fact that the arguments made in 2010 were arguments made in a different economic climate.

The Eurozone last quarter clocked growth of -0.4, with the traditionally strong economies of Belgium, the Netherlands and France all in negative or zero growth. Europe's private sector is struggling with uncertainty and stagnancy, and

when looking at Britain, the indicators of private investment are significantly stronger. In this parliament, the private sector has created more jobs than those lost to cuts despite gloomy growth figures.

Cameron was stupid to argue that the economy could grow directly because of austerity, and he may pay for such political opportunism, taking large swaths of investment out of defence or health isn't going to help anyone, but that doesn't mean they aren't necessary.

History has shown austerity can work; Thatcher delivered one of the strongest boom eras in modern history, despite the inherited debt. History is also showing that not dealing with debt is destructive, which firm would invest in Greece?

Keynesian economics, like austerity economics is a vicious circle, just one the public aren't yet aware of. For every penny a government spends without knowing how to pay it back, is likely to be a penny an investor in Singapore or New York is more adamant to spend, so don't write off the British economy just yet, Cameron may yet deliver us from this mess.

ALTOGETHERFOOL



A high cost of growth for China

Satnam Shergill
DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

China's smog has continued to cause havoc, with recent news showing that it has now drifted over to Japan. The smog is caused by PM2.5 particles emitted from factories and older vehicles, and are small enough to pass through your lungs and to other organs, providing serious health risks when inhaled. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), "chronic exposure to particles contributes to the risk of developing cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, as well as of lung cancer."

As the world's second largest economy, China has fuelled its growth predominately through coal. This has handed them extraordinary growth figures, but at the cost of a grim environmental fu-

ture which may well lead to restrictions on prospective development. China's economy has been subject to slower growth in recent months; however it continues to remain stable with recent year on year growth figures of 7.4 per cent. China's rapid rise to economic dominance in the past decade can be seen through the international community's dependence on cheap Chinese exports, however this has come at a high price in putting its peoples health at risk.

The environmental and health pressures falling upon China from its media, citizens and foreign press cannot come as a shock. China burns the same amount of coal domestically as the rest of the world put together, a staggering fact that has left numerous cities in China beneath dark, thick smog for weeks now. A recent study from Green-

peace showed that air pollution had caused 8,000 premature deaths in

“A recent study from Greenpeace showed that air pollution had caused 8,000 premature deaths in China last year”

China last year.

The end of January saw the government in Beijing introduce measures in an attempt to reduce the smog; they suspended 30 per cent of government vehicles and closed down 104 factories indefinitely. These measures are only being put

in provisionally, and therefore do not address China's long-term issues.

The discontent and protests may continue to rise amongst the Chinese people, however there are doubts over the government's supposed attempts to alleviate the problems, with the main fears surrounding the possible negative impacts on future growth.

It seems that if China wish to progress further, they will need to find a cleaner energy source than coal and put more emphasis on its environmental issues.

This is not the first time China's air quality has come under scrutiny, most memorably before the Beijing Olympics where the air quality wasn't at its required level 10 days before the games started.

According to the WHO's, China's PM2.5 levels are currently at

a staggering 600 micro grams per cubic meter in some places, with the recommended levels a much smaller 25. This fact can only emphasise the scale of the problem that China faces and one that they must aim to solve in the near future.

LU, FENG



Science



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Potential pesticide ban causes a buzz

Nikky Farthing

DEPUTY SCIENCE EDITOR

Every April, in the pear orchards of southern Sichuan, China, thousands of residents gather, each carrying a step ladder and a small feather duster. Surprisingly this is not actually some bizarre ritual or collective act of madness.

This is one of the first examples of mass human pollination. Ever since bees disappeared from the region almost twenty years ago, the locals have been undertaking this herculean task of pollinating each individual blossom every spring. Welcome to a world without bees.

It is not just China that's seen a fall in bee numbers. The problem has been recorded all over the globe, and this week, the European Commission announced it is considering suspending the use of three neonicotinoid pesticides on all agricultural crops that attract bees in an attempt to stabilise the situation.

This is in response to a report produced by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) which identified "a number of risks posed to bees" due to the toxins. Stud-



SEANMCMENEMY

An EU ban on neonicotinoid pesticides would affect farmers and pesticide manufacturers across Europe

ies have shown that neonicotinoid pesticides affect the central nervous system of some insects, causing paralysis and death. If passed, the two year ban will come into force as soon as this July across the whole of the EU, although national bans are already in place in France, Italy and Slovenia.

In the UK, DIY shops such as B&Q, Homebase and Wicks have removed gardening products, containing the pesticides, from their shelves. However, the government (along with those of Spain and Germany) has confirmed it will stand against the immediate enforcement of the ban.

Owen Paterson, the Environment Secretary, says "It's important that we take action based upon scientific evidence rather than making knee-jerk decisions that could have significant knock-on impacts."

The proposed ban has been well received by both environmental groups and scientists, who have

long suggested a link between the decline of bees and the increased use of such pesticides.

On the other side, pesticide producers, seed companies and farmer groups warn that the ban could hurt the EU economy and threaten jobs in the industry. Syngenta, a pesticide producer, even questioned the accuracy of the EFSA report saying that it was based on 'political pressure to produce a hurried and inadequate risk assessment [of the pesticides]'.

However, Tonio Borg, the European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy claimed that 'swift and decisive action' was needed to protect Europe's bee populations. He said "The time is now ripe to ensure an equally high level of protection for bees across the EU."

The decline in bee numbers has had a dramatic effect on the farming economy because so many crops rely on bees for pollination. Recently, farmers have resorted to hiring beekeepers to bring their hives to the crop fields so that the plants are more likely to get pollinated. One estimate for the price of bee pollination in the UK only is £200m per year. So the next time you hear a bee trapped in your room, let them

York research reveals centre of perception

Matt Ravenhall

SCIENCE REPORTER

In 2006, two curious regions of the human brain were described by Larsson and Heeger, two New York scientists. These areas, known simply as lateral occipital areas 1 and 2 (LO1 and LO2), were deduced to be two visual areas. This initial conclusion was reached due to the functional properties and location of the areas. Less than a decade later, University of York researchers have utilised an, almost literally, mind-blowing technique to unravel the functions of LO1 and LO2.

Enter Edward Silson, a York student who undertook the research as part of his PhD; the project itself having been designed by Professor Tony Morland of the University and Dr Declan McKeefry of the University of Bradford. By utilising Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI) and Transcranial Magnetic

Stimulation (TMS), whilst also taking advantage of some of the high tech equipment at the York Neuroimaging Centre (YNiC), the roles that LO1 and LO2 play were revealed.

Initially, fMRI was utilised in order to locate the tiny areas within each of the participants' brains. Once located, TMS could be applied. This intriguing technique works non-invasively to temporarily activate or inhibit the activity of a chosen subset of neurons in the living brain. By targeting a rapidly changing magnetic field at specific areas of the brain, their functions can be disrupted and therefore determined. In this case, participants performed orientation and shape discriminations whilst having LO1 or LO2 activity disrupted.

With LO1 activity disrupted, it was discovered that the ability for participants to discriminate between the orientations of an object



REV.XANATOS SATANICOS BOMBASTICOS AND EVERYONE'S IDLE

An fMRI image of the brain, this allows visualisation of activated areas

was reduced. In regards to LO2, a similar reduction was apparent when attempting to discriminate between the shapes of objects. The

data therefore suggests that LO1 and LO2 have vital roles in the effective processing of orientation and shape respectively.

Concerning the project, Dr McKeefry stated that "The combination of modern brain scanning technology along with magnetic neurostimulation techniques provide us with a powerful means by which we can study the workings of the living human brain." With Professor Morland further explaining that "Measuring activity across the brain with fMRI can't tell us what causal role different areas play in our perception. It is disrupting brain function in specific areas that allows the causal role of that area to be assessed."

It is hoped that future work will reveal exactly how information from all relevant visual areas in the brain, including the LO1 and LO2, come together to produce object recognition. Four further areas, which house currently unknown functions, have already been pencilled in for investigation.

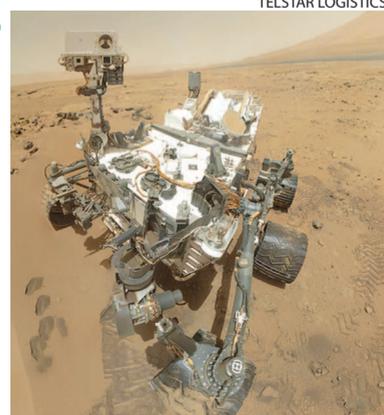
Top Four Space Inventions

Sara Farish

presents the top four things we've managed to send into space since we've first set our sights on the skies

Mars Rover

The latest in a long line of expeditions to our neighbour Mars, the rover Curiosity takes over from the incumbent Spirit and Opportunity Rovers. Whilst Opportunity will continue to run, Curiosity aims to find if Mars currently or has ever harboured life, and to research the climate and geology of the planet. Curiosity has already found evidence that water once existed on Mars and has recently deployed its drill - the first human invasion of humans into Mar's pristine surface.



TELSTAR LOGISTICS

Dragon Capsule

The Dragon spacecraft is run by SpaceX, the private company contracted by NASA to take supplies to the International Space Station. With the space shuttle retired, and never quite reaching its promised 'shuttle' like cheap and frequent potential, it is hoped Dragon will help NASA continue to operate in space. Dragon Rider is the manned version of Dragon, designed to carry a crew of 7 and cargo and to dock at the International Space Station for 180 days.



BRUNOSAN

GM comes to the table

James Cameron
SCIENCE EDITOR

In 1983, the first genetically modified (GM) plant was created; a tobacco plant with an antibiotic resistance gene.

Ideas of how plants could be modified to combat global problems such as malnutrition followed. Golden Rice, with its elevated levels of beta carotene, which is converted into vitamin A in the body, would fight vitamin A deficiency, drought and virus-resistant potatoes and plantain would provide for communities in the face of inhospitable conditions.

Now, thirty years later, the dreams of those first scientists could be coming true, as plans are set for the planting of Golden Rice in the Philippines in the coming months. Other countries such as India, Bangladesh, and Indonesia have also expressed an interest in the crop after the Philippines' decision.

Golden Rice addresses vitamin A deficiency, a highly important issue in developing countries. A deficiency in vitamin A can lead to blindness and has serious effects on the immune systems of children in particular.

The rice has been developed in association with philanthropic organisations such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and under a Humanitarian Uses Licence, meaning no one stands to make any real money from the project.



IAEA IMAGEBANK

Despite setbacks GM research is attracting attention across the globe

This news, received enthusiastically by many scientists, is unfortunately framed by the length of time it has taken for the crops to gain permission for planting. Golden Rice was first created in the late 1990s, and was ready for its initial field trials by 2000. However, due to the public outcry, it took another five years before they actually took place.

Despite setbacks, these initial trials demonstrated that the rice could produce beta-carotene, the precursor to vitamin A. However, it was produced at a low level and so

further research was undertaken to increase the quantity produced.

By 2009, sufficient improvements were made to the rice, such that it could provide a substantial amount of a person's recommended daily intake of vitamin A in a small portion of approximately 120 grams.

Coming close on the heels of this is another potential victory for GM, the possible production of the world's first genetically modified fish fit for human consumption. AquaBounty, US biotechnology firm, is seeking to engineer an Atlantic salmon that is able to reach

full size in half the time it takes their natural relatives.

This work has taken a similarly long time to bring to the table, for the last 17 years, AquaBounty has been working towards approval. Now the US food regulator, the Food and Drug Administration, has declared that transgenic 'AquaAdvantage' salmon have "no significant impact". This is the final environmental impact decision they make.

The AquaAdvantage salmon, reared from the eggs of wild Atlantic salmon, includes several extra genes from the Pacific Chinook salmon, an eel, and the ocean pout. Together, these genes enable the fish to grow both faster and all year round.

As with all GM animal research, there are concerns. The Atlantic Salmon Federation has fears that the fish could get into the wild, start breeding and seriously disrupt the ecosystem.

However, this is a negligible risk as the engineered salmon are all female, sterile, and are all grown in onshore tanks based in Panama, so the chance of the fish breeding in the wild is near impossible.

Whilst many may disagree with GM for their own reasons they cannot deny that in order to keep pace with the taste of the ever growing middle classes for meat and to supply the malnourished with enough nutrients, GM organisms are going to become increasingly accepted and included in our menus around the world.

Cats blamed for ecosystem decline

James Ellis
DEPUTY SCIENCE EDITOR

Domestic cats may well be a perfect pet to some people; however, a recent study has discovered how destructive cats can be to ecosystems. Cats have already played a major role in the extinction of at least 33 different animals.

The recent study was published using U.S. figures, it is estimated that there are as many as 84 million cats living in America, and if each of these cats is killing an estimated 23 to 46 birds per year this results in up to 3.7 billion birds killed due to cats alone.

This makes cats more dangerous to birds than any man-made invention including cars, poison and buildings. Unfortunately cats aren't just a problem for birds, they are also killing as many as 20 billion

small mammals a year as well.

The issue arises as cats are essentially an invasive species, with no natural predators, and hugely popular amongst pet owners.

The study did emphasise that un-owned cats are by far the largest culprit in these numbers. One easy solution is to keep domestic cats inside to prevent them harming local ecosystems; however, one environmentalist in New Zealand has gone a step further.

Gareth Morgan has set up a website called "Cats to Go," which is encouraging owners to make the cat they own their last. His hope is that people will gradually phase out the cat population in New Zealand, and in turn hopes that this will increase the native bird numbers.

There is a flip side to this argument however, that by reducing



CUBAGALLERY

cat numbers we indirectly increase the population of rats and other rodents. Rodents such as weasels and rats are well known for climb-

ing trees to find and eat bird eggs; it could well be the case that cats are actually causing an increase in bird numbers by keeping more damaging predators in check.

As with most food chains, it is not as simple as remove A and B increases, yet some islands have managed to make the bird population flourish. One such example is Kapiti Island, located 5km west of New Zealand's North Island. The island has managed to remove all of the island's bird predators such as rodents and cats, thus increasing the bird population significantly.

Although not all of the facts are clear, one thing is: it is down to human involvement that cats are having this level of impact. If people stopped allowing domestic cats to fend for themselves, these figures would be significantly reduced.

Richard III remains recovered

Sarah Pryor
SCIENCE REPORTER

History has depicted Richard III as an evil man with a twisted back, who seized power from his own nephew following the death of his brother.

A mere two years later, Richard, the last king of York, was killed at the Battle of Bosworth fighting Henry Tudor, thus ending the War of the Roses. His body was then buried in an unknown location and, after a time, lost to history. Last year, this changed.

From beneath a car park in Leicester, emerged a skeleton. Scientists determined that it was of a male in his 20s to early 30s. Richard died at the age of 32. The skeleton also had a curved spine owing to a condition called scoliosis, which would be in-line with the historical representation of the monarch.

The body had suffered from many head wounds, two of which would have been fatal. One was most certainly caused by a blade. There was also sign of injuries clearly intending to humiliate. This all pointed to the conclusion that this person had died in battle.

Based on this discovery, academics began to get excited. Although there was no sign of a withered arm, or the other abnormalities attributed to him in the history books, the signs pointed to this being Richard III.

But how did they prove it? Firstly, carbon dating was used to check that it was from the correct time period.

When an organism dies, it has a certain ratio of the carbon isotopes ^{14}C and ^{12}C . As ^{14}C decays, this ratio decreases at the rate of the half life of ^{14}C (the amount of time it takes to decay by half).

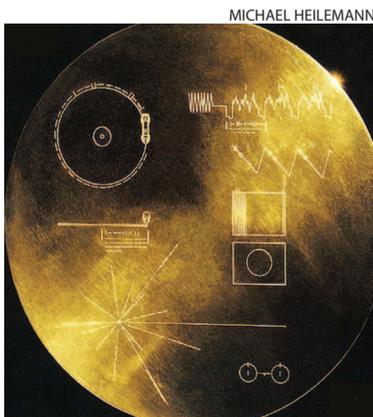
There is no way for the ^{14}C to be replenished, therefore the time period in which the organism died can be determined based on the amount of ^{14}C that is there at the time of analysis.

The other, and most conclusive piece of evidence, is mitochondrial DNA. This is DNA found in the mitochondria (which convert the chemical energy of food into a form that cells can use) and which consists of about 16,000 base pairs. It is passed on solely down the maternal line.

Scientists found two living descendants of Richard III and compared their DNA with that found on the skeleton, with promising findings.

Voyager

The Voyager space probes were launched in 1977, taking a tour of the outer planets, using them as a gravitational slingshot before heading out into the solar system. Both spacecraft contain a golden disc containing information about humanity to whom it may concern. Voyager takes with it greetings and our position in the universe. Voyager 1 is the most distant man made object in the universe, having recently passed the edge of the solar system and into inter-stellar space.



MICHAEL HEILEMANN

International Space Station

The International Space Station (ISS) is a satellite built in sections, from modules first launched in 1998. The ISS has been continuously occupied for 12 years, and has been visited by astronauts of 12 nations. When NASA retired the space shuttle programme in 2011, Russia became the only nation still able to send manned missions to the ISS. The station is divided into two main parts the Russian and USA capsule, the USA capsule being inhabited by many nations. The space station

carries which could not be conducted on Earth and allows a long term study into the affects of zero gravity on the human body. The space station also gives us an idea of the challenges faced by humans permanently inhabiting space with many videos available detailing day to day difficulties such as hair washing. The crew of the International Space Station may celebrate Christmas many times a year depending on the calendars followed by the home nations of the crew.



MPANCHA

Sport

>> Pages 29-31

Full reports on all of Sunday's college football action, as Wentworth stay top of the table



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PARK LIFE

Dan Holland
SPORTS EDITOR

In this column a year ago I wrote a piece extolling the virtues of White Rose Varsity, and imploring you all to get out and support our teams as Hull travelled up here for the 2012 tournament.

And although the consensus around last year's competition was that things had improved, there was a feeling that the improvement was not as significant as had been hoped.

There were a few more people – including a lot from Hull, who took everything very seriously – and some much enjoyed events – MMA springs to mind immediately!

But, generally speaking, there is still the prevailing sense of Varsity apathy that so irked me a year ago.

“The sooner Varsity becomes accepted as a viable sporting contest the better”

In my days as a wide-eyed fresher, I was open to the idea that Varsity could quickly come closer to Roses in terms of spectacle and that more people would be willing to spend their day standing on a freezing cold 22 Acres in February.

I'm still optimistic that it can happen, but perhaps not in my time here.

The theory goes that Hull are improving as a sporting university and the scores will soon be much closer than in the past.

But with our own fortunes in the BUCS leagues much improved this year, anything less than a reasonably comfortable win on Sunday would be a tad disappointing for the York Sport elite.

Speaking to some of the organisers after last year's event, they were keen to assure me that before long we would be covering an event where the final score is closer to 40-40 than 60-20; if that is the case this time I will be pleasantly surprised.

However, I do think that staging it in Hull this time around is a big positive.

It might prove a learning curve for them in terms of organising such a big sporting event, but the supposedly weaker side holding home advantage can only be good in terms of competition.

And if the Hull fans are as passionate as they were last time, then there should be a few decent atmospheres around the place.

That's the hope anyway, but the truth is that the sooner Varsity becomes accepted as a viable sporting contest the better.

Ground is being made up, but there is still a way to go to convince the student population of York of its worthiness. Here's hoping...

Continued from Back Page

Both sides seemed to be losing their composure at this point - York were shooting at every sight of goal, while Leicester almost gifted them a comical own goal. Cries of frustration from the home bench rang out as York remained one behind going into the closing stages.

From nowhere, though, Daly forced an equaliser, his deflected shot wrong-footing the uncertain visiting keeper for his second goal.

And straight from the restart, York took the lead for the first time in the game. McCoy made an interception on the half-way line and slipped in Tringham to slot an effort into the top corner.

The home crowd's jubilation was short-lived, however, as Boggs lashed an unstoppable free-kick past a motionless Sim.

Hallas and Daly both saw shots flash wide of the upright, but were left in further despair as Boggs added to his tally after yet another well-executed counter-attack.

With time running out rap-

idly, Tringham equalised for York once again, firing a left-footed effort through a mess of defenders, setting up a grandstand finish. The pressure the home side had exerted in the closing stages was paying off, and Tringham had a golden chance to win it from a clever free-kick but blasted over the bar.

Into the final minute, the tension was palpable within the tent. A swift Leicester move was once again foiled by Sim, whose latest in a string of remarkable saves drew adulation from the supporting crowd.

But the fairy tale ending was still to come. Running onto the ball close to the half-way line, Daly let fly with a thunderous drive that arched into the top corner, sparking wild celebrations on the pitch and on the touchline.

With less than half a minute to play, York were able to run down the clock and revel in a hard-fought victory that puts them through to the last eight. The faces of both the team and fans afterwards were a picture of joy and relief, after such an epic encounter.



Ash Daly's late winner prompted wild celebrations from players and fans

Exhausted captain Tom Day told *Nouse* afterwards, "It was the worst performance of the season, especially compared to how we played against Sheffield in the last game. We were awful today, going 2-0 down, but it shows a lot of character from the team. You can definitely see the spirit and we were buoyed on by the crowd that came

down today.

"We knew that as soon as we got level with them we could go on and win it, it was just a case of getting that two-goal difference back up. Ash Daly and Alex Tringham were outstanding as usual, as was Jonny Sim. I'm buzzing to get through."

The quarter final match will be played on Sunday 24 February.

Water polo men grab promotion

PHILIPPA GRAFTON



After two wins over Liverpool and Chester on Saturday night, the men's water polo team secured promotion

Tom Fennelly
DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR

TWO CONSECUTIVE wins in the York Sport Village swimming pool gave the water polo men's firsts a delightful undefeated run into the next tier of the BUCS leagues.

Each of the five teams in the league converged in a double-header event held at the brand new pool facilities that lurk beyond Heslington East, with York pulling out the most dominant displays of an enjoyable and action-packed Saturday evening.

The congestion of the fixtures meant that the games would be played in two halves instead of the conventional structure of four quarters.

The opening match of the event saw the home side take on Liverpool's second team. York were incredibly swift in breaking the deadlock as they worked the ball forward with ease to Mike Perkins,

who whipped out a shot that was too powerful for the opposition goalkeeper.

Team captain Joe Marshall doubled the lead only a minute later; York 'keeper Chris Snowden (who only conceded two goals all evening) picked Marshall out perfectly down the left-hand side and he was given the space to approach on goal and slot away an easy finish.

York's flow looked briefly disrupted after they committed a string of fouls, but then a foul by Liverpool freed up Gabriel Cramer to break quickly down the right and score comfortably, making the score 3-0.

York's final goal of the half, to make the score 6-0, came when Cramer picked out the unmarked Matyas Mulnar in the middle of goal – Mulnar bounced the ball past the helpless Liverpool goalkeeper.

Liverpool's shambolic marking was giving the Black and Gold far too much time and space in front of goal, but it was Liverpool who

looked the brightest at the start of the second half. York reacted by adding another two goals to their score sheet.

The Merseyside team did, however, manage to pull one back. But York were never going to let their opposition get away with scoring any more, as they dominated possession and continued to score goals until the final whistle.

Marshall then decided to settle the scoring by completing a well-deserved hat-trick when he was allowed too much space in front of goal, producing an unstoppable finish at 11-1. York had left Liverpool dead in the water.

York hoped to carry their form into their next game against Chester's first team, but the bottom-of-the-league side looked to have other ideas.

In a low scoring first half, the game's first chance came when Snowden played the ball through to Marshall and then to Perkins, but

he was denied by the crossbar.

Chester then went on the claim the first blood of the match. They worked the ball well across the pool to find some space in front of goal; Snowden got a hand to the shot but it wasn't enough to deflect the effort away.

This setback only motivated York further, and it clearly motivated Johnnie Ball more than others as he powered his way through the centre of the pool and coolly finished well to level the score at 1-1.

Chester were closing down York's attackers very well, giving them no room to throw any dangerous shots on goal.

The White Rose did eventually break through just before half-time; Lim cleverly drew the defenders wide, freeing up space for Perkins in the middle to finish calmly.

From the very outset of the second half, York opened the (metaphorical, thankfully) floodgates when Lim won the ball from the swim-off and delivered the ball to Ramage, who tucked it into the top corner to make it 3-1.

York's fifth goal came when Mulnar cleverly switched the ball to Marshall, whose solid shot rippled into the roof of the net.

Chester did have their chances in the second half, but Snowden remained adamant that he was not going to concede again.

An illusionary sixth goal did go just before the full time whistle. Missed by most of the spectators, a strike from York managed to break through the net at the back of goal – the many onlookers simply presumed that it had gone behind goal from the side netting.

After a successful evening, a pleased team captain Joe Marshall told *Nouse*: "We proved our credentials today and we've put in a lot of hard work. Lancaster better watch out!"

The Best Is Yet To Come

Beth Jakubowski speaks to Rowing Club President **Ed Scobie** about the '2012 Effect', founding Roses, and the gruelling demands of his sport

On a mild, balmy day at Eton Dorney, amid the patriotic chaos and turbulence of the London 2012 Olympics, two British athletes were storming their way to Great Britain's first gold medals of the games. Helen Glover and Heather Stanning successfully became the first two British rowers to record gold in London.

Rowing went on to become the second largest contributor to the team GB medals table as they took haul of four gold, two silver and three bronze medals.

The success of London 2012 prompted me to find out how grassroots sport has been impacted by the table topping brilliance of British rowing. So, the first thing I asked Ed was to clarify exactly what competitions and squads York's rowing club will be entering this year.

"We're made up of two senior squads," Ed tells me, "so one senior men's squad and then one senior women's squad, and then we also have two novice squads." Ed explains that "anyone who has any rowing experience rows in the senior squads," which means that anyone without any rowing experience prior to university rows in the novice squads, so that those who are inexperienced "train together and learn how to row."

The club enter two BUCS competitions over the year, one is BUCS Head which is in two weeks time and the other is a regatta in April. BUCS Head is a time trial whereas the regatta is where the boats race side by side. Ed unequivocally tells me, "Henley Royal Regatta is our biggest race."

Last year York were competing against Harvard University; Ed says, "We unfortunately lost to them, but we expected that with Harvard coming all the way over from America... they meant business." But last year was the first time they qualified for Henley and Ed reflects on this, stating that it was "a

"You wouldn't join if you didn't get a buzz off it"



BOAT CLUB

very strong year."

With this in mind, I ask him how the club plan to move on from last year's success. Ed tells me about the Head of the River race at the end of this term and the women's equivalent which takes place a few weeks before. "About 500 boats race in the Thames on the boat race course, last year we came 78th, and it was our best result for a long time," Ed informs me. But York are being more ambitious this year, "We hope to enter three crews this year, but definitely two, we'd

like the first crew to finish in the top 40 and we'd like the second crew to finish in the top 80."

It's clear that the club are definitely aiming big this year; Ed is bullish on their Henley prospects as well. "The senior women could have a chance of winning their event at Henley, which would be incredible and it would be the first time we've

ever done that." He's hopeful for the men's chances as well, even though they're competing in the senior category this year, which is a huge step up from the intermediate 1 category they raced in last year. "We'd like to get as far through the competition as possible," Ed acknowledges.

Considering the vast numbers of people who signed up to the boat club at Freshers Fair, 568, which Ed reliably informs me is the "largest number of any boat club in Yorkshire," I ask about the future long term aims of the club. It's a tricky question for a club so heavily reliant on funding. "We are in the process of increasing in size and facilities but it's difficult because a good new boat is upwards of £30,000," and Ed explains, "as a club, we can't generate the income at the moment."

I ask him whether, with a good year behind them and hopefully a good one to come, they would be looking for more funding from the University. "As with all clubs, we're always looking for more funding," Ed agrees, "But we do the best with

what we've got."

He absolutely does not see funding as a reason not to succeed though, "It's not an excuse not to strive to achieve just as much as the universities who have more funding" he says resolutely. Certainly, the success of the club already is a testament to that fact.

Speaking of success, I turn the conversation towards Roses 2013. Rowing has always kicked off Roses, it's usually one of the most exciting events of the whole tournament and it takes place the weekend before the rest of the teams compete.

"It's an accessible sport because it's mentality over physicality"

"If we don't win I'll be very embarrassed, I'd like all the boats we enter to win, I'm confident both senior squads can win every category." It's not a task to be taken lightly, rowing is the founding Roses sport, there's a lot at stake for the York squads. "It should be a really good day, and a good one to come and watch," Ed adds.

I chat to him a bit about British rowing now, for the past four Olympic Games, Great Britain has dominated rowing, and the men's coxless fours have won four Olympic titles in a row with various different squads. Ed tells me "I think British rowing is going to improve, we performed better than anyone thought we would this year."

He pinpoints a few boats he feels could have more success, "the lightweight pair could easily win gold [at Rio], and the men's eights could have won [in London]." He doesn't think British rowing is at its peak though: "British rowing is an amazing organisation and its run so well that there's definitely more to come."

Rowing however, is one of those sports that is, quite bluntly, brutal. Who can forget one of the defining images of the 2012 games; Mark Hunter and Zac Purchase collapsing into the arms of Steve Redgrave after having quite literally put their bodies, hearts and souls on the line for Team GB. The torture they had put themselves through in their effort to win gold and ultimately come away with silver was one of the most heart breaking moments of the London Olympics. So, with the knowledge that rowing is one of the most physically demanding sports out there, one that requires an incredible amount of focus, endurance and drive I have to ask Ed whether the time constraints put people off joining.

Ed doesn't think so: "Lots of people join rowing because they know that's one of the factors of it, you wouldn't join if you didn't get a buzz off it." As sadistic as it may sound, Ed is right. He tells me, "It's hard work and it is tiring and it does take up a lot of time, but it's enjoyable."

"It all pays off", Ed decides, "people who don't enjoy it stop, and we're left with the people who are really devoted, which means the crews get better and stronger."

He agrees that it's "a sport that requires a lot of commitment". Rowing is one of those university sports that is seriously competitive and very popular - many rowers in Team GB started out rowing at university. With this in mind, I ask him whether the future of rowing lies within universities. "Rowing is unique in that not many schools offer rowing, you come to university and it's often

your first opportunity to row." Ed says, "This sport facilitates beginners, whereas other sports, people have had experience before coming to university, so there is often an advantage there."

It's an interchangeable sport, cyclists have become rowers, rowers have become cyclists, and even swimmers have made the swap. This suggests that rowers often tend to benefit from having come from a sporting background. After considering this, Ed says, "It's a sport where being a natural athlete gives you an advantage but it's the same with any sport." He goes on to say, "Lots of people haven't done sport previously but they're the right size or shape for rowing, it's an accessible sport because it's mentality over physicality."

As we come to the end of our interview I ask him for any final thoughts, after a moment he simply says "come and watch us at Roses." Considering just how determined York's Boat Club is this year, I have a feeling it will probably be something to behold - don't miss out.



BOAT CLUB

Sport

White Rose Varsity 2013 Preview

With York's teams travelling to Hull this Sunday for Varsity, *Nouse* looks at where this year's tournament will be won and lost

Women's Football

Points available: 3

The women's football will definitely be a match worth watching next weekend. Vicky DeCamp's side have been in imperious form in the past few weeks with her side reaching the semi finals of the BUCS cup, defeating a very strong Leeds unit on their way. With the exceptional Bea Rye and Sam Barker providing York with some serious creativity in midfield and strikers Amy Johnson and Jess Craig in dangerous form, York will be confident they can walk away victors.

Their Hull rivals may be in the league above York, but the Black and Gold have shown their class this season and have clearly been a cut above the rest in the BUCS Northern Conference 4B. York will go into the match as the far more confident side as well after defeating the higher placed Hull 2-1 last week on their way to their cup quarter final against Leeds.



Men's Football

Points available: 7

Football provides one of the biggest points hauls of the day and, perhaps more importantly for York, a shot at revenge. Last season, the men's firsts were locked in a tense relegation battle that came down to their final match - against Hull on 22 Acres. A lacklustre performance was punished by a late wonder goal that consigned the Black and Gold to a demoralising 3-2 defeat and relegation.

But with Matt Mawdesley's side looking good for an immediate promotion this season, Sunday may be their chance to exorcise some demons.

The men's seconds and thirds side are also in action, as are a college barbarians side.

Tom Day, Football President: "After some disappointing experiences of Varsity to date, I'm hoping that now it's being held in Hull it will be taken a little more seriously. There should be a few competitive matches and it's a good opportunity for the boys to get a run-out at the weekend."

LILY GRANT



Badminton

Points available: 9

There are a lot of points up for grabs in the badminton, with the men's firsts match in particular promising to be a thrilling contest. With the sides having drawn twice already this season, whoever can come out on top in this encounter would provide a significant boost to their university's chances.

Baillie Watterson, Badminton Team President: "I'd agree the men's firsts match is likely to be the hardest fought battle of the day. When we played the away, we were missing two of our strongest players due to illness and injury, so we are hopeful that we can finally secure a win against them this season. Hull have some strong players, so it promises to be a tough match."

"The men's third team are also looking for revenge having been knocked out of the BUCS Cup by the Scarborough campus team, while we are expecting a fairly comfortable result in the ladies match, as our ladies second team beat Hull firsts in the league earlier this season."

PHILIPPA GRAFTON



Lacrosse

Points available: 6

It's a big week in lacrosse - the high-flying men's team are in BUCS action against Hull on Wednesday before Sunday's clash. The women's team will also be confident of picking up yet another big victory on Humberside.

William Chun, Men's Captain: "We're feeling confident. We'll be playing them twice in one week so we hope to beat them both times."

Netball

Points available: 8

The 2012 edition of the women's firsts netball clash was one of the most exciting matches of the day. Facing a team that are two divisions above them, York pushed their Humberside opponents all the way and only lost by a narrow three-point margin. That two league gap still exists, but if York can replicate their performance from last year, it could be close again.

With four more netball matches on Sunday, if York produce the kind of form they showed last year they can go a long way to bringing the trophy back home.

AGATHA TORRANCE



Mixed Martial Arts

MMA was the undoubted highlight of last year's contest, as a capacity crowd in Hendrix Hall was electrified by a series of intense battles. Hull came back from a 4-2 deficit to draw the match, but it was a superb performance from York in their first taste of competitive action.

Herbert van Litsenburg, MMA Club President: "It is a quite an important event and we are all very motivated. I am expecting a win this year. Depending obviously on the level of Hull's fighters. But we as a team have increased significantly, simply by putting more hours into developing our fighting skills."

"Any MMA event, which is quite unusual for a tournament such as Varsity, will clearly bring a lot of excitement to the tournament. As long as there is a friendly but competitive atmosphere, I'll be satisfied. And I'm sure there will be as I know both our team and Hull's team are very excited about fighting on the 17th."

Wentworth win again to keep top spot

Alcuin 0
Wentworth 3

Aaron Stennett
SPORTS REPORTER

WENTWORTH COLLEGE are now two games unbeaten and top of the table after defeating Alcuin in a scrappy game on 22 Acres.

In a game where wet and windy conditions would limit the number of clear cut chances for both teams and neither side would dominate, the postgrads scored goals at the tail end of each half, to win the game with a rather flattering scoreline of 3-0.

Despite several chances at the death to score a consolation goal, Alcuin allowed Wentworth to walk away from the match with their clean sheet intact.

Both teams had won their first games of the term, with Alcuin defeating Halifax 2-1, and Wentworth sealing a convincing victory over James 6-1.

Despite the Wentworth attack being seemingly more prolific in their previous games, both teams struggled to gain a foothold in the match, with no clear cut chances created during the first 20 minutes.

It would be Alcuin, however, who would have the first chance of the match.

Strong hold-up play from lone striker Danny Matthews created enough space to allow the advancing midfielder Graham Kimber to shoot from the edge of the box, forcing a tidy save from Wentworth

goalkeeper Jon Cook.

This early pressure from Alcuin was fruitless though, as it was Wentworth who scored the first goal of the game.

Moments after Wentworth missed a gilt-edged chance to take the lead in the match, they found themselves in the lead regardless.

With Alcuin failing to clear their lines fully from the earlier chance, Dai Taira drove the ball from the edge of the box past the keeper's far post.

Just as the momentum appeared to be shifting towards Wentworth with the goal, the referee blew for half time, leaving Alcuin only one goal behind. They were also given considerable respite from the late half Wentworth pressure.

At the beginning of the second half, Wentworth, recognising attack as the best form of defence, immediately began piling pressure onto Alcuin.

Several corners caused considerable panic in the Alcuin penalty area, but Wentworth failed to convert these into finishes.

About an hour into the game the Alcuin keeper pulled off a stunning close range save, to prevent Wentworth captain Dom Green, who had been strongly marshalling the Wentworth attack, from heading Wentworth into a two goal lead.

Unfortunately, after this acrobatic save, an error only a minute later saw Alcuin picking the ball out of their own net.

Under pressure from a high ball, Boyd and Billimore both failed to clear the Alcuin lines, allowing



After two consecutive wins this term, Wentworth are ahead of Derwent in the college table on goal difference

the ball to drop to Green.

Though Boyd seemed to have successfully prevented Green from

Alcuin:	Wentworth:
Boyd (C), Houlgate, Billimore, Burge, Nazzicone, Armstrong, Kimber, Fearne, Scholz, Allen, Matthews.	Cooke, Sellers, Cantrell, Walner, Keane, Clinton, Parker, Harrison, Martin, Taira, Green.

Man of the match: Dom Green

rounding him, he allowed the ball to continue to roll into the path of Green once more, who made no mistake in front of the open goal for 2-0 Wentworth.

Unfortunately for Alcuin, their troubles were only just beginning; under pressure from the Wentworth attack, substitute Bentham ensured victory for the postgrads, slotting the ball into his own goal whilst attempting to pass the ball back to his keeper.

With little time left to look for a consolation goal, the final whistle soon confirmed that Wentworth had won 3-0.

Wentworth's captain Daniel Howden was thrilled with the result, citing the "historic record" of the team, which has been less than successful in the past.

In contrast, a downcast Alcuin captain Boyd admitted, "we made two mistakes at the end and conceded two goals."

ELECTIONS DEBATE 2013

See the Candidates in action at the
Elections Debate 2013

7pm, V/045, Tuesday Week 7 (Feb 19th)
or watch online at www.ystv.co.uk/live

www.yusu.org/elections

Who Should I vote for?

Sport

Brewer goal claims point for Vanbrugh

Halifax 2
Vanbrugh 2

Beth Jakubowski
SPORTS EDITOR

HALIFAX AND Vanbrugh shared the spoils on a freezing cold 22 Acres in Sunday's college football.

A late comeback from Vanbrugh secured a draw after two own goals gifted Halifax a lead early on.

It was a cagey opening ten minutes with Vanbrugh dominating the majority of possession, but there was little in the way of chances for either side.

The match seemed to be ruled by the terrible conditions in the opening stages as neither team managed to create a breakthrough.

The first real chance of the match proved almost catastrophic for Halifax as Hamid Arezoo almost headed the ball into his own net. Thankfully for the men in white, the ball sailed just over the bar.

Halifax:	Vanbrugh:
Lock, Darling (C), Arezoo, Seed, Kershaw, Gennoy, McCoy, Earnshaw, Meckin, Denham, (Howarth)	Wilson, Wignall, O'Brian, Brewer, Sanderson, Parish, Picknell, O'Dwyer, Grout (C), Lewis

Man of the match: John Sanderson

Vanbrugh's Adam Lewis provided a probing strike moments later but the ball skidded shy of the far post.

Vanbrugh continued to dominate for the next five minutes and it culminated in a free kick just outside of the area. Kieran O'Dwyer's strike was fumbled by Halifax keeper Joe Lock, but they were unable to capitalise and Lock was left to gather the ball and safely clear it.

But it was Halifax who drew first blood as a corner curled in by Connor McCoy was deflected into the goal by an unfortunate Tom Parish.

The game picked up after the Halifax goal with the men in white driving forward in an attempt to find another. A great header from Parish cleared the ball out of the danger area and gave Vanbrugh some breathing space.

It was more scrappy goalkeeping that almost gifted Vanbrugh an equaliser as Lewis almost latched onto a fumbled clearance.

Halifax went into halftime 1-0 up having played the far better football towards the end of the first half.

The second half began in the same manner as the first, with very little in the way of chances to note down. But it was Halifax who eventually came out stronger, dominating possession.

Vanbrugh were refusing to lie down though and provided a moment of beautiful play with O'Dwyer crossing a sublime ball to John Sanderson, who picked it up on the right wing and lofted the ball into the box. Unfortunately the Vanbrugh players were unable to get on the end of it and it trickled harmlessly into the arms of Lock.

A crunching tackle from Matt Darling, Halifax captain, on Vanbrugh's Sanderson gave Vanbrugh a free kick 25 yards out.

The subsequent free kick was floated into the box but Lock gathered it cleanly to neutralise the attack.

Halifax's second goal was also a gift from the Vanbrugh defence as Kieran Gennoy's free kick just outside the area was deflected into the net once again.

Phil Kershaw was pulled up for a cynical shirt tug on Lewis but the resulting free kick was fruitless for the men in red and blue.

However, Parish soon made up for his earlier own goal as he latched onto the end of a corner from Harry O'Brian to give Vanbrugh a much deserved goal.

Minutes later Vanbrugh completed their comeback as they were able to equalise after a dreadful fumble by Lock. Max Brewer was on hand to slot home the goal much to the despair of the Halifax players.

BRANDON SEAGER

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts.
Wentworth	2	2	0	0	9	1	+8	6
Derwent	2	2	0	0	9	3	+6	6
Vanbrugh	2	1	1	0	4	2	+2	4
Alcuin	2	1	0	1	2	4	-2	3
James	2	1	0	1	5	8	-3	3
Halifax	2	0	1	1	3	4	-1	1
Goodricke	2	0	0	2	2	6	-4	0
Langwith	2	0	0	2	3	9	-6	0



Vanbrugh produced a late comeback to cancel out two early own goals and claim a point against Halifax

The remaining minutes of the match provided some end-to-end football but it lacked precision and an accurate finish.

The match eventually tapered out to a 2-2 draw with both sides sharing the spoils in what was an eventful game.

Captains: Draw was a fair result

AFTER AN exciting match finished with Vanbrugh and Halifax sharing the points, both captains admitted that a draw was a fair outcome at the end of the 90 minutes.

Matt Darling, Halifax captain, commented after the game that he was "bitterly disappointed not to win the game but I think a draw in the end was a fair result."

He went on to praise his opposition saying, "Vanbrugh were the better team in the second half but we should have done better in the first half to try and get a couple more goals."

The game, which was slow to start, eventually picked up in the most bizarre of circumstances as

Halifax found themselves 2-0 up after two dubious own goals from Vanbrugh.

Vanbrugh went on to record a draw with an equally as scrappy comeback.

Vanbrugh captain Johnny Grout said, "I think we were quite unlucky to go 2-0 down, I think they were both quite lucky goals."

But he was quick to praise the opposition as well, "Halifax kept the ball pretty well - they always do."

He reflected on the match commenting, "In the end we were probably unlucky not to nick a winner. But to be honest a draw is probably a fair result they always look dangerous as well."

UPCOMING BUCS FIXTURES

Wednesday 13 February:

Badminton: (H) York Men's 2nds vs Huddersfield 1sts - 1pm, Hall; York Men's 3rd vs Leeds 3rds - 4pm, Hall; York Women's 1sts vs Durham 2nds - 1pm, Hall; (A) Durham Men's 1sts vs York 1sts.

Basketball: (H) York Men's 2nds vs Newcastle Men's 2nds - 2pm, Tent (A) Sunderland Women's 1sts vs York 1sts.

Fencing: (A) Liverpool Men's 1sts vs York 1sts.

Football: (H) York Men's 2nds vs York St John 2nds - 3pm, 3G; York Men's 4ths vs Richmond International 1sts - 1pm, 3G; (A) Huddersfield Men's 1sts vs York 1sts; Sunderland Men's 4ths vs York 3rds

Golf: (A) Sunderland 1sts vs York 1sts.

Hockey: (H) York Men's 1sts vs Leeds Met 1sts - 5pm, JLD; York Men's 2nds vs Leeds 5ths - 3pm, JLD; York Men's 3rds vs Huddersfield 1sts - 1pm, JLD; (A) York St

John Women's 1sts vs York 1sts.

Lacrosse: (H) York Women's 2nds vs Sheffield Hallam 1sts - 2pm, 22 Acres; (A) Hull Men's 1sts vs York 1sts; Leeds Women's 2nds vs York 1sts.

Netball: York Women's 1sts vs

James bounce back to take win

LILY GRANT



James recovered from their 6-1 defeat to Wentworth last week in Sunday's comfortable 4-2 triumph over bottom-placed Langwith on the 3G

James 4
Langwith 2

Tom Fennelly
DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR

AFTER BOTH teams suffered heavy defeats in last week's opening round of games this term, it was James who bounced back the strongest with some exquisite attacking play that ran the Langwith defence ragged in a chilly encounter on the 3G on Sunday.

James spent major periods of the game camped in their opponents' half and from the very outset

of the game, James began to show the dominance that they had displayed last term.

The best of the early chances came from corners, however, James came closest after a quarter of an hour when Andrew Jopson fired a sublime dinking shot that rattled off the crossbar.

The deadlock was finally broken after 25 minutes. James had been relying on clever runs into space and fluid passing to create their early chances, but their goal came from a more conventional header from a set piece.

Matt Bainbridge received the ball with space on the right and he

picked a pass to the overlapping run of centre-back Nick St George, who won a corner. The corner was bounced in off the line courtesy of the head of Spurling.

Shortly after, James doubled their lead. Spurling played the ball to Bainbridge once again, and his low, fizzing cross was reached by Haresnape ahead of the Langwith centre-back Tom Hughes – the ball trickled into goal neatly at the far post ahead of Cheshire. Spurling was constantly creating chances by placing clever diagonal balls for the wingers or simply offloading it to the supporting full-backs.

Just before half-time, the

stretched Langwith defence cracked once more. Freddie Ferrao broke down the left and centred the ball to the unmarked James Briars – it looked like a certain goal but the 'Cheshire Cat' managed to miraculously deflect the ball out for a corner with his foot.

However, the resulting corner showed Langwith's shortcomings at defending set-pieces as the ball found the head of centre-back Elliot with ease from six yards.

In the second half James found it harder to maintain their earlier levels of dominance. Langwith began to look more confident on the break. For the first time in the entire

game, they created a chance on goal when Sam Woodall burst down the right, but his cross only found the arms of James keeper Gooch.

On the hour mark, Langwith scored an ironic goal. Woodall did well to break down the right and win a corner. Similar to the two goals Langwith had conceded to corners, Marcus Campbell dropped his set piece onto the volley of Hazell close to the goal.

James reacted ten minutes later when they found a fourth. Ferrao beat his opposing full-back Luke Holbrook down the left before cutting the ball back across the box to Briars, who had all the time and space in the world to finish easily.

In the final minute of the game, Langwith did find a peculiar second goal, on one of the rare occasions in which their attackers decided to apply pressure on the James centre backs. The ball fell to the supporting midfielder Campbell; his effort was saved by Gooch, but his save could only find the head of the helpless Elliot as he rebounded the ball into his own net.

After the game, Langwith captain Matt Jones felt his side had not learned their lessons from last week: "You may as well repeat my quote from last week. We were asleep in the first half but we won in the second half. That has to change".

His James counterpart, Josh Spurling, told *Nouse*: "We should have put this game to bed earlier. We got tired towards the end and we lost our shape."

James:	Langwith:
Gooch, Mellor, Elliot, St George, Bainbridge, Spurling (C), Haresnape, Kreienbaum, Jopson, Ferrao, Briars.	Cheshire, Holbrook, Starling, Hughes, Waters, Woodall, Campbell, Jones (C), Hazell, Hutt, Morton (Flaherty).

Man of the match: Matt Bainbridge

Derwent victorious in scrappy Goodricke encounter

Derwent 4
Goodricke 2

Jamie Summers
SPORTS REPORTER

AN UNDER-STRENGTH Derwent side claimed victory over Goodricke in a scrappy game on Sunday.

Bad weather and a poor surface set the scene on 22 Acres to suggest this match was never going to be a thriller.

It was Goodricke that made the brightest start, as they forced two corners in the opening minute, ultimately to no avail. This was followed up by a superb cross from

captain Joe Mann which Rob Young found himself unable to get on the end of.

Goodricke's bright start paid off in the 10th minute, when Derwent were penalised for a blatant handball and Young calmly stepped up to slot the ball home from 12 yards.

Having taken the lead, Goodricke then went in search of extending their advantage; Young sent a stinging effort crashing against the crossbar on 15 minutes.

The game then became scrappy and meaningful chances were few and far between. Derwent eventually found their equaliser 10 minutes later. After a scramble in the Goodricke area, David Kirk even-

tually picked out Ryan Gwinnett to slot past Munroe.

The game fizzled out approaching half-time, and sides went in level at the break.

Having endured a sluggish first half, Derwent came out after the restart with a greater sense of purpose and they took the lead just one minute later as an excellent cross was gratefully received by Kirk to make it 2-1.

Derwent extended their lead as Harry Lambert knocked the ball brilliantly beyond Luke Inness for Sabas to score their third.

Substitute Jamie Trant entered the field on 77 minutes, and made an immediate impact as he

Derwent:	Goodricke:
Franklin, Askham, Jeffreys, Moro, Lambert, Nock, Nozaki (Trant), Easter, Gwinnett, Sabas, Kirk.	Munroe, Thomas, Olsson, Parker, Hurd, Mann, Inness, Gilbanks, Gorrington, Ashurst, Young.

Man of the match: Sven Sabas

showed a touch of class to make the score 4-1 to Derwent.

Goodricke responded well to this latest setback, and just two minutes later captain Mann showed good determination to beat Ruari Franklin and reduce the arrears to just two goals. However, time was not on their side, and after a close

final 10 minutes, it was Derwent that grabbed all three points with a 4-2 victory.

Goodricke captain Mann said: "I'm a bit disappointed with us actually. We started really well - there was only one team in it in the first 25 minutes - but then we took our foot off the gas."

By contrast, Derwent skipper David Kirk told *Nouse*: "I thought we played really well today. I was feeling a bit pessimistic before the game because we were absolutely decimated by injuries and we had to cobble a side together. But Goodricke are a good, solid side, so to win and also score four goals was pleasing."

Northumbria 3rds - 2pm, Tent; (A) Northumbria Women's 4ths vs York 2nds; Sheffield Hallam Women's 3rds vs York 3rds.

Rugby Union: York Men's 3rds vs Teesside 1sts - 2pm, 22 Acres; York Women's 1sts vs Liv-

erpool 1sts - 2pm, 22 Acres; (A) Liverpool Men's 1sts vs York 1sts; Leeds Men's 3rds v York 2nds.

Squash: (H) York Women's 1sts vs Northumbria 2nds - 1pm, Squash Courts; York Men's 1sts vs Sheffield 2nds - 1pm, Squash

Courts.

Tennis: (H) York Men's 2nds vs York St John 1sts - 1pm, Tennis Courts; York Men's 3rds vs Northumbria 2nds - 1pm, Tennis Courts; (A) Leeds Met Women's 4ths vs York 1sts; Leeds Men's 2nds vs

York 1sts.

Volleyball: (H) York Women's 1sts vs Newcastle 1sts - 2pm, Tent; (A) Sheffield Men's 1sts vs York 1sts.

Sunday 17 February:

American Football: (H) York Men's 1sts vs Leeds 1sts - 2pm, 22 Acres.

Futsal: (A) Bangor Men's 1sts vs York 2nds.

Sport

Spring Term Week Six
Tuesday 12 February 2013
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Rowing

We talk to the Boat Club about Olympic success and Roses ambitions

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College Sport

Full match reports on all four of Sunday's college football fixtures

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PETROC TAYLOR

Daly winner keeps futsal dreams alive

York 8
Leicester 7

Dan Holland
SPORTS EDITOR

A LAST minute winner from Ash Daly ensured a dramatic victory for the men's futsal firsts on Sunday night, sending them through to the quarter finals of the BUCS Championship.

Daly struck with just 30 seconds left on the clock to see his side overcome Leicester, after what had been an intense and frenetic affair in which York made things difficult for themselves.

An electric atmosphere produced by a raucous home crowd, though, was vital in pulling the Black and Gold through their toughest test of the season so far.

Things began badly for the hosts, as a positive start from Leicester caught them off guard. Jonny Sim made a couple of smart stops, but would soon be beaten as the visitors took a deserved lead.

An off-colour beginning from the White Rose was punished further when Daly was caught in possession and Sim was rounded as he went to ground, allowing the attacker in blue to tap in.

After a time-out, the home side were much improved and pulled one back through Alex Tringham, who side-footed an emphatic effort into the corner to give the crowd something to cheer.

The visitors would soon re-establish their two-goal advantage, though, as another lethal counter-attack was again hammered home.

A lovely exchange between Tom Day and Dom Hallas resulted in the Club President bringing it back to 3-2 with a clever toe-poke, but it was Leicester's Zac Boggs running the show at this stage.

It was he who scored the team in blue's fourth, crashing a shot through a mass of bodies.

James Briars came close time after time before the break; first he

hit the side-netting, before putting a header onto the bar and back-heeling a Daly drive onto the foot of the post.

As the half-time whistle blew, York were left to reflect on a frustrating 20 minutes in which they had failed to produce the standard of play they had shown in previous encounters.

The second half, though, began in similar fashion. The men in black and gold looked disjointed, as crisp passing and first touches eluded them.

Daly beat his man and screwed a left-footed effort into the corner to make it 4-3, but York still looked suspect at the other end.

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Double victory secures BUCS promotion for the men's water polo team

Only the brilliance of Sim between the sticks kept them within touching distance, although Leicester would later be left to rue their profligacy in front of goal.

York would soon be punished again, though, as Gregory Jones pounced on some lax defending to chip Sim and score.

Jonny Brown brought the White Rose back into it immediately afterwards, taking a cross-court pass in his stride to slam a shot across goal and into the corner.

But Leicester still looked like the better team, and hit the bar with Sim stranded. Day and Connor McCoy were both frustrated as chances came and went, with Tringham forced to make some vital interceptions at the other end.

With eight minutes to go, York had little choice but to throw men forward, and again it was the unflappable Sim who kept them in the game; the York goalkeeper came flying out of his goal to execute a perfect sliding tackle.

Continued on Page 26



PETROC TAYLOR



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