

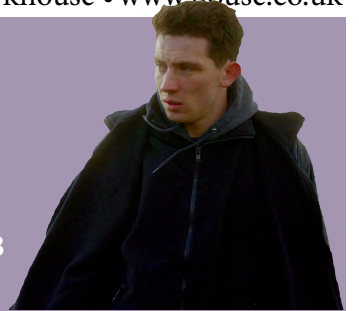


## YUSU Elections

Read our 16-page elections supplement inside

## Yorkshire Pride

A look at God's Own Country M.8



# Nouse



Est. 1964

*The University of York's  
longest-running  
student society*

Tuesday 13 February 2018



University staff have come under pressure as UCU announces 14 days of strikes over the next four weeks as national pensions protest begins

## York BAME admissions lower than Oxbridge

- Only 12.2 per cent of students who receive offers from the University of York are Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Students
- University of York is on course to fail government 2020 target to increase Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic admissions

**Jacob Phillips**  
EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY OF York is less diverse than Oxbridge according to new figures produced by UCAS. In 2017 the University gave 1220 offers to Asian students and 630 offers to

black students while giving 18 490 offers to white students. In total Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) students received only 13.3 per cent of all offers the University gave out, although this is higher than the equivalent figures for 2016 in which 12.2 per cent of students who received offers from York were BAME students. The statistics presented for York are lower than the

figures produced at the University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge. Oxford gave 18.4 per cent of its offers to BAME students. Meanwhile Cambridge gave 21 per cent of its offers to BAME students.

In November 2017 MP for Tottenham David Lammy described Oxbridge as having a "social apartheid" when it was discovered that 1.5 per cent of offers from Oxbridge

went to black students. However, York gives a small proportion of offers to black students. Only 1.8 per cent of 18 year old students who received offers from the University of York were black. UCAS data from 25 January 2018 corroborates with the Freedom of Information requests submitted by Lammy to

## Lecturer strikes to hit York

**Eloise McMinn Mitchell**  
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY AND College Union (UCU) has announced 14 strike days starting in 22 February across 61 universities across the UK. The strikes are in response to the proposals from the Universities United Kingdom (UUK) group to reform the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS). The proposed changes would end the 'defined benefit' funds which provide a guaranteed income on retirement. Lecturers would be set to lose £10 000 per year or a total of £200 000. Out of 700 UCU members at the University of York, 430 voted on whether to take strike action with 88 per cent in favour.

The strikes are intended to put pressure on UUK to change or negotiate their planned reforms. The UUK is made up of vice-chancellors and principals of universities across England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland. The University of York's Vice-Chancellor Professor Koen Lamberts is a member of UUK, alongside the equivalent authorities at Oxford, Cambridge, and Imperial College London among others, with the UUK hosting 120 members and acts on behalf of 350 USS employers. They face UCU's 120 000 members, the largest further and higher education union in the world. The proposed changes will not affect already retired teachers nor any benefits already earned under the USS scheme. Should they go through, it would mean that investments change from being guaranteed to a defined contribution scheme, which would be subject to stock market changes.

The University of York will

Continued on P.7

Continued on P.4



CONTENTS

NEWS

- Student Support P.4 ●  
A look at the new mitigat-  
ing circumstances report
- Elections News P.8 ●  
Nouse reports the latest  
updates on the YUSU  
elections

FEATURES

- Haus of Dench M.4-5 ●  
Imogen Bellamy talks to  
York’s finest drag queens



POLITICS

- Natalie Bennett P.17 ●  
Joe Silke interviews the  
ex-Green Party leader
- Miliary Politics P.17 ●  
What will happen if  
military spending  
changes?

FILM & TV

- Daniel Day Lewis M.14 ●  
Film and TV recollect the  
career of Day Lewis



THE SHOOT

- The Roaring 20s M.10 ●  
Newly-refurbished  
Everyman Cinema is the  
venue for our shoot

COMMENT

- Panic Eating P.10 ●  
Panic Eating is not the  
solution to our issues
- #MeToo P.13 ●  
Our focus should be on  
victims not perpetrators

BUSINESS

- Billionaire CEOs P.18 ●  
Billionaire CEOs should  
shoot for the moon



SPORT

- Nouse Tries P.24 ●  
Chay Quinn has  
a go at parkour
- Varsity Preview P.26 ●  
The Sport team predict  
Varsity’s outcome



A NOTE FROM THE DEPUTY EDITOR

A t long last, this is it. It’s our fourth edi-  
tion and it’s finally time for me to do  
the Editor’s Note. I should have been  
spending months carefully crafting this note.  
I should know exactly what topic I want to  
write about, and eloquently have chosen the  
words.

Unfortunately, it’s currently three min-  
utes to one on Monday afternoon, as we go  
to print this evening. So much for making  
this perfect. I’ve just been too busy to do  
this. *Nouse* takes up a lot of time, as I’m sure  
everyone reading this is aware (I mean it’s  
only members of the team and my mum who  
will bother to read this, surely?). It’s almost  
like having a full-time job, once every three  
weeks, on top of the already jammed time-  
table that studying a BSc in Film and Televi-  
sion Production has given me. I’m also the  
President of VegSoc (promise I’m not trying  
to brag), so when you add all these commit-  
ments together the amount of free time I’m  
left with is basically only just enough to catch  
up on the previous day’s *EastEnders* (no hate  
alright, it’s lit).

I’ve only got myself to blame though: no  
one’s forced me to do any of these things. I  
can’t even really complain about the number  
of contact hours my degree has, as I knew  
full well how heavy it was when I applied for  
it. I wanted to be a filmmaker, so I chose my  
degree. I’m a raging vegan (“oh my god how  
do you know someone’s vegan? Don’t worry  
they’ll fucking tell you hahaha lol”) so I chose

to run for VegSoc prez. I was interested in  
journalism – and now want to be a journal-  
ist (sorry to my degree and the £27 000 the  
government is spending on it) – so I became  
involved in *Nouse*, and, well, I’m now halfway  
through my tenure as Deputy Editor.

So, while I may moan that I’m so incred-  
ibly busy, I don’t really regret it. I do all these  
things because I want to. As sixth-formers on  
open days, the one thing we’re always told is  
to do a lot. Don’t waste your time at univer-  
sity lying in bed, with your laptop balanced  
at a right angle as you scroll the web at 2AM  
(although I do a lot of that too now that I  
think about it), but, if you want to and you’re  
able to, get out and do something. What bet-  
ter training for the world of journalism could  
I have than running a uni paper? How better  
could I engage with an entire community of  
veggies and vegans than running their soci-  
ety?

And although it means that I was in the  
*Nouse* office until four last night and con-  
sequently woke up at half 11, missing this  
morning’s contact hours (Simon, if you’re  
reading this, sincerest apologies), it’s some-  
thing I’m glad I’ve done. In the moment it  
may be frustrating and stressful, but at the  
end of each edition it’s glorious. When’s next  
prod week again? I’ll try not to be so busy  
this time.

Oscar Bentley

*This edition is dedicated to News Editor Samuel Chadwick, who, due to a bereavement, has stepped down to take some time away and support the rest of his family. He misses York and, in due course, looks forward to reporting again for Nouse. We will be running a by-election for his replacement soon. He wishes the rest of the team all the best.*

*The opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the editors, writers, publishers, or advertisers. Contact editor@nouse.co.uk with letters and complaints.*

<b>EDITOR</b> Jacob Phillips	<b>SUB-EDITORS</b> Catherine Kirkham-Sandy	Niamh Carroll	Stella Newing
<b>DEPUTY EDITOR</b> Oscar Bentley	Sarah Lisgo	Frederico Rueda Grassi	<b>FASHION EDITORS</b>
<b>MUSE EDITOR</b> Emily Taylor	<b>DESIGN</b> DIRECTOR	<b>BUSINESS EDITOR</b> Matt Freathy	Robyn Ball
<b>DEPUTY MUSE EDITOR</b> Izzy Moore	Jack Davies	<b>DEPUTY BUSINESS</b> Mirza Ahmad	Janan Jama
<b>MANAGING DIRECTOR</b> Jatin Mapara	<b>ILLUSTRATION EDITORS</b> Ellie Hopley	Nick Brown	Peter Jacobs
<b>DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR</b> Ali Agah	Alistair Knifton	<b>SCIENCE EDITOR</b> Nathan Castro Pacheco	<b>SHOOT EDITORS</b>
<b>ONLINE EDITORS</b> Georgie Smith	<b>PHOTO EDITOR</b> Jay Dyer	<b>DEPUTY SCIENCE</b> James McNulty	Daisy Wallis
Lizzy Holling	<b>DEPUTY PHOTO</b> Lizzy Holling	Josie Rogers	Lily Abel
<b>SOCIAL MEDIA DIRECTORS</b> Niamh Carroll	<b>NEWS EDITORS</b> Imogen Bellamy	<b>TRAVEL EDITORS</b> Flavio Sansa	<b>MUSIC EDITOR</b>
James Hare	Samuel Chadwick	Seren Hughes	Beth Colquhoun
<b>TECHNICAL DIRECTOR</b> Owen Hurford	<b>DEPUTY NEWS</b> Eloise McMinn Mitchell	<b>SPORT EDITORS</b> Adam Philpott	<b>DEPUTY MUSIC</b>
<b>CHIEF SUB-EDITOR</b> Kendra Rabbitts	Georgie Smith	Chay Quinn	Sam Bright
<b>DEPUTY</b>	<b>COMMENT EDITORS</b> Jan de Boer	<b>DEPUTY SPORT</b> Jordan McWilliam	Alistair Knifton
	James Hare	Virginia Stichweh	<b>FILM &amp; TV EDITOR</b>
	<b>DEPUTY COMMENT</b> Ed Smith	<b>FEATURES EDITOR</b> Fran Carruthers	Andrew Young
	Saskia Staritt	<b>DEPUTY FEATURES</b> Emma Jacob	<b>DEPUTY FILM &amp; TV</b>
	<b>POLITICS EDITOR</b> Joseph Silke	<b>ARTS EDITOR</b> Charlie Ralph	Maddie Scarlett
	<b>DEPUTY POLITICS</b>	<b>DEPUTY ARTS</b> Rosemary Evans	Jasmine Onstad

Printed by Mortons of Horncastle Ltd, Media Centre, Morton Way, Horncastle, Lincs, LN9 6JR, UK. For back copies, contact the JB Morrell Library. Front image: Jay Dyer; Back images: Catriona Stothard, Jay Dyer, FA, YUSU



# Election candidates complain of 'outing' at training

**Chay Quinn**  
NEWS REPORTER

CANDIDATES IN THIS year's YUSU elections have complained that an activity at a mandatory training session has resulted in outings and was "needlessly divisive". The session involved standing next to varied denominations of social identity and also asking personal questions around said identifications, which were: sexual orientation, gender, nationality, religion, age, disability, and class.

One of the candidates who spoke to *Nouse* said that they had been asked "which aspect of your identity was most emphasised in your family", which they were said to be uncomfortable with, due to the negative connotations of this particular candidate's family's relationship with their sexuality.

Summing up how divisive the session was received was one candidate's illustration of the event with "LGBTQ students standing on one side of the room with a bunch of straight white men standing on the other". One candidate told *Nouse* that the activity "led to explanations which outed people or candidates deliberately hiding aspects of

[their] identity".

According to someone present, the activity also didn't let candidates know they had the right to abstain, a fact that was only made clear after the activities had ended and candidates raised their concerns. A candidate added that even if said right had been presented, it would effectively serve the same purpose as walking over to the signs. The candidates were also allegedly not told about the personal nature of the activity beforehand, exacerbating the invasiveness of the activity's format.

This is the second time the activity has been a part of YUSU elec-

tions, and the second time in which the partakers have raised their concerns. One participant who was at both years' events said that the training session had remained effectively unchanged from the previous year.

*Nouse* has been informed that this activity was also lacking of chances for the participants to emphasise their concerns, in the form of a debriefing. Many expressed the needlessness of the blatant and obvious way in which the candidates had to express their identities. Some candidates suggested that YUSU do away with the activity all together.



IMAGE: TOM WITHEROW

A further blow to the event was the lack of accessibility candidates felt the event afforded. The session required a prolonged period of standing, again without forewarning, leaving people who are part of marginalised communities, namely disabled students, feeling further alienated.

Overall candidates who spoke to *Nouse* were left "massively disappointed". It remains to be seen whether whomever runs the next YUSU election will heed the calls for change in the training that some have called for.

One candidate told *Nouse*: "Questions such as 'which aspect of your identity was most emphasised in your family' may be uncomfortable for some candidates ... sexuality was without a doubt the most emphasised aspect of my identity within my family, but for very negative reasons."

When asked for a response to the allegations, YUSU President Alex Urquhart told *Nouse*: "While we are sorry to hear *Nouse's* report that some students felt uncomfortable, there was absolutely no requirement for participants to share identities or disclose personal experiences that they did not wish to. Candidates were entirely free to make a choice about whether or not they participated. They were

informed of this at an appropriate point.

"YUSU welcomes constructive feedback on the candidate training session. Candidates had been invited to inform organisers of access needs ahead of the training day and the training was designed to accommodate those needs. It drew on feedback from a similar session in the 2017 candidate training and was incorporated into the 2018 session at the specific request of students, who on the whole were extremely positive about the session."

"YUSU is committed to creating an inclusive, respectful and welcoming environment for all members. This element of the candidate training used a session on intercultural dialogue that has been delivered extensively throughout the University as part of intercultural competency training. The activity was a variation of a common 'identity corners' workshop, which encourages participants to think about different social identities and the emotional influence they carry. It is designed for participants to recognise the spectrum of perspectives around social identities to help highlight to the candidates the diversity of the student body, and therefore the importance of being sensitive and respectful when campaigning."

# One Planet Week kicks off sustainability focus

**Georgie Smith**  
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY IS hosting its second annual 'One Planet Week', featuring a series of talks and activities designed to inspire York's students to make small changes in order to lead a more sustainable lifestyle. The 'One Planet' project takes its name from the fact that if everyone in the world consumed as many natural resources as the average person in western Europe, we would need three planets to support us.

One Planet Week aims to encourage students to make pledges to make lifestyle choices that are environmentally sustainable in order to reduce waste, decrease their individual carbon footprint, and even help their local communities. These

pledges include resolutions to: cycle to campus, save water by turning off the tap while brushing teeth, choose reusable bags for grocery shopping, eat less meat, printing double-sided whenever possible, buy fresh produce from local farmers rather than the supermarket, and volunteer in local community events.

The week's myriad of environ-



mentally-focussed events includes allotment planting, a quiz night, Green Chemistry talk by Dr Avtar Matharu, the Zero Waste Challenge, the YES waste symposium, workshops on upcycling and guitar repair, and debates. There are also a host of food events to tempt stu-

dents, such as the ethical food fair, which includes stalls from vegan caterers Once Upon A Garden and VegSoc, and vegan bake-off planned this week.

The week kicked off with a karaoke night in Courtyard in aid of Toilet Twinning on Sunday, and wraps up with a sustainability themed pub quiz on Friday.

And, a prospect that may seem more and more appealing as your student loan begins to dwindle, the Biology department offers the intriguing opportunity for students to try edible insects as they learn about sustainable farming.

YUSU President Alex Urquhart, when asked to comment on the importance of One Planet Week in promoting sustainability on campus, responded that "Anything that builds upon YUSU's Green Impact award, on our ethical and environmental officers' ambitions, and on improving the York and wider glob-

al environment is well worth trying. The One Planet Week programme looks pretty eclectic with ethical food fairs and a fairtrade pancake night plus loads more - I hope it's successful!"

A University spokesman told *Nouse*: "The University is focused on promoting and facilitating sustainability across its campus and activities, as evidenced by its world-leading research and commitment to student health and well-being. The

importance the University places on sustainability is evident in the University's sustainability champions, Jo Horsburgh (Registrar and Secretary) and Professor Deborah Smith (Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research) also being on the University Executive Board."

More information on the week's activities can be found at: [www.york.ac.uk/about/sustainability/get-involved/uoyoneplanet](http://www.york.ac.uk/about/sustainability/get-involved/uoyoneplanet) or facebook @UoYSustainability and twitter @UoYSustain or the hashtag #OPW18.



IMAGE: UNIOFYORK

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### JB Morrell runs for YUSU Prez

JB Morrell, whom part of the University library is named after, is set to run for YUSU President, according to a new Facebook event. Hosted by the JB Morrell memes page, Morrell's supposed policies include getting rid of Nisa, opening free rooms in his namesake library, and installing cable cars between colleges.

### Courtyard search policy

Courtyard has introduced a new search policy in collaboration with North Yorkshire Police and City of York Council intended to combat drugs use in the city. A new sign lists the potential of being searched as a condition of entry, and states that refusal to cooperate will result in admittance to the premises being refused.

### York Prof celebrated in LGTHM

David K. Smith, a professor of Chemistry at the University of York, has been recognised online by the Royal Society in an effort to promote LGBT scientists in celebration of this year's LGBT History Month. As well as teaching at York he's also active on YouTube on the channel 'ProfessorDaveAtYork'.

### Kuda bans plastic straws

Kuda nightclub from 19 February will offer a biodegradable alternative instead of plastic straws in their drinks, in an effort to cut down on its plastic consumption and to reduce their environmental impact. Kuda is part of the Deltiuc group, who are bringing the ban across their 65 nightclubs across the UK.



# Lecturers to strike

>>> Continued from front

experience strikes starting Thursday 22 February and continuing the next day in week 7. Weeks 8, 9, and 10 will have increasing numbers of strike days, with the entirety of week 10 being scheduled for strikes. The maximum impact is likely to be felt in the first two days, as the teachers need to demonstrate how much the University will suffer without them. The University's official statement expressed a "deep concern" for the dispute and said they would work with "all parties involved; the USS pension provider, Universities UK (who are representing University employers) and UCU through the next phase of consultation and reform."

Issues concerning University staff income have been the subject of discussion for months, with the former Universities Minister Jo Johnson saying in September that Vice-Chancellors should earn no more than £150 000 a year – the same as Prime Minister Theresa May – whereas in 2017 the average Vice-Chancellor's pay was in excess of £275 000 a year.

A University staff member and member of UCU told *Nouse*: "although the majority of lecturers stand in solidarity over the need to strike due to changes in the pension scheme, there is an increasing likelihood that many will never be able to afford to retire, let alone worry about losing £10 000 each year".

The UUK Deputy Director and Head of Communications and Campaigns, Michael Thompson, has said that without the reforms "universities will likely be forced to divert funding from research and teaching to fill a pensions funding gap, or if they did not, they would risk the sustainability of USS." UUK and UCU met over 35 times to discuss the valuations made to do with USS from 2017, with a deadline extended twice for both parties to make a decision. UUK revised its initial proposals and brought forward new ones to the Joint Negotiating Committee in January 2018, but the UCU did not alter its position.

YUSU President Alex Urquhart outlined the Union's aims to *Nouse*: "The union is focusing its efforts on lobbying the University and UCU officials to ensure the impact on students' studies is minimal and holding both sides accountable. We are working to ensure the University put robust contingency plans in place across departments to mitigate any loss in teaching time. I have recorded an interview with the co-President of UCU York and the Vice-Chancellor so students can hear all sides to the debate, and I'm collecting questions and concerns and sending them directly to both leaders so you can hear their answers. Ultimately YUSU is here to represent and support York students' interests to all those with influence in the debate."

Concerning the effect on students, he stated that "It is important to remember that the strikes

won't affect everyone. A proportion of the staff are members, a proportion of that number were in favour of industrial action, and a proportion of that number will actually strike. I don't doubt, however, that a significant number of students will be affected and this will have different impacts depending on your course, year, assessments etc. I urge students to email their departments for information, they are coordinating the response to the strike action. They will have the most up-to-date developments."

Students' reactions to the strike have generally been understanding to the reasoning behind them, but frustrated that they are necessary. York student Conrad White has begun a campaign for students to each be refunded £300 for the contact time they will miss due to the strikes. The petition online made national news. Students at King's College London have taken a more extreme approach, demanding that if the university cannot negotiate, they must "issue a full tuition refund to all students for each day that academics are on strike". At the time of writing, the York petition has nearly 2000 signatures while the King's College petition has 1100.

There have been mixed reactions to this, with Urquhart saying: "Though I absolutely agree it is unfair for students to be caught as collateral damage in this dispute, I'm not convinced that a £300 deduction on the eye-watering debt a student will eventually graduate with is the right solution. What it is clear evidence of is that students increasingly view university as a marketed product which, though an inevitable and fair view in the current HE models, is a real shame. The petition both supports the strikes and demands compensation, which perhaps carries contradictory political sentiments. In my opinion, requesting reimbursement, amid a dispute which has stemmed from a deficit in funds – albeit from a different pot – is not the best way to support UCU's goals, as it perpetuates the toxic, marketized, product-buyer elements of what should be a mutually beneficial and academically enriching relationship between students and their teachers. But sadly, this is a symptom of what the expense of education is doing to students' relationship with the amazing academics that teach them. Yes, we deserve to get what we are paying for – or should I say will pay for, when we can afford it – and academics deserve to not have the T&Cs of their pension contract changed after they've signed the dotted line. The progression of university marketisation and pension disputes of this nature are undeniably linked and, as students, we must commit to our preferred direction, even if it costs us."

Students should refer to the YUSU website and contact course reps and departments for information regarding their courses, but it appears a vast number of students will be affected by the action.

# Spark:York launches this spring

Imogen Bellamy  
NEWS EDITOR

SPARK:YORK HAVE stated their intention to open in spring 2018, at Piccadilly, York. The shipping container-based shopping venue will house a combination of dining locations (with a focus on street food), retail plots, and work spaces. While its initial opening date was set for September 2017, it had been delayed due to constraints on the budget.

The creation of Spark:York

follows the success of the Boxpark sites in Shoreditch and Croydon, with a Wembley venue due to open later this year, though they claim their inspiration stems from shipping container installations across Europe. York's own alternative to the London brand aims to interact with and help the local community, saying on its website that "Activities and support will be offered to all, including those with additional needs, low incomes, and those suffering exclusion, isolation and loneliness."

The 24-unit space had over 10 times the applicants needed to occupy it. Successful tenants include Speakeasy Libations, Munchie's

Cakeaway, Tikk's Thai Kitchen and CWTCH, a coffee brand. The focus on less widely known brands is a means of diversifying the local food scene.

Spark:York's mission is clear: "York is full of talented and visionary people. We are creating an affordable and inclusive space in the middle of town that will create opportunities for local people to realise their ambition. Whether it's a local chef with a unique culinary idea, a budding retailer who can't afford a space in town, or a volunteer who wants to take their charitable ideas to the next level; we aim to be the Spark that starts their journey."

# New report reveals 48% do not receive support service advice

Imogen Bellamy  
NEWS REPORTER

A NEW EXCEPTIONAL circumstances report has been released by YUSU Community and Wellbeing Officer Mia Shantana Chaudhuri-Julyan. Chaudhuri-Julyan conducted a survey to look into the discrepancies between academic departments regarding allowances for those in need.

There were 209 participants across the University, from a range of subjects, all of whom had needed to use Exceptional Circumstances Affecting Assessment, as it is formally known, in the past. Mental health provision, including the allocation of exceptional circumstances, has been widely criticised at York in the past and this report reveals a similar trend, with 40 per cent of student respondents having being directed to Open Door.

48 per cent of respondents claimed that they had not received information on support services from their supervisors, while one fifth claimed they felt there had not been adequate support at all. There had also been claims of increased anxiety and isolation as a result of the students' experiences.

Breaches in the University's code of conduct, dissatisfied students due to inflexibility of adjustments made, and a "problematic inconsistency in support for students" have all been highlighted by the report. As a result, an event on 12 February will help supervisors know how to properly provide effective signposting, pastoral support to students, and improve the support and information they are given regarding their mental health and wellbeing.

A third year English and Related Literatures student, who had received an extension due to exceptional circumstances in the past,

had this to say: "I didn't find it difficult to receive support – I emailed my tutor, and she told me who to go to. It was less than 24 hours before I was assured that I had a week longer to complete my essay. This may, however, have been due to the medical nature of my problem. If it was pastoral, or psychological, I'm not so sure it would be as easy to prove, and therefore it may have been a lot harder for me."

Chaudhuri-Julyan released the following statement to accompany her report: "This research has been a key manifesto project. In pledging to lobby for a fairer exceptional circumstances procedure, I have been surprised by only one thing – that it has not been the policy itself that is the key issue. It's clear from the research that it is generally well thought out. The problem is the variation in the implementation of this policy across the departments."

"The policy itself is broadly speaking designed to be applied in a flexible way, however this has not translated effectively into reality. Communication of the policy to students has been found to be lack-

ing, along with supervisors' understanding of the breadth of support services and their ability to support disclosures and signpost effectively.

"In presenting this report to the University and handing it over to the Academic Officer, Julian Porch, to take forward as part of a formal review of exceptional circumstances, I have felt very positive in that the University has really listened to the voice of the students on this issue and the recommendations YUSU has put forward. This report goes beyond just an academic procedure, it is clearly a window into the overlap with student welfare and shows the gaps that we now must work hard to fill.

"I want to see this report's recommendations go forward into concrete action plans for the year ahead. I have no doubt that the positive relationship we have with the University in our mutual care about these issues will drive forward positive change in the months to come, and I will continue to lobby for these recommendations to be taken seriously as a matter of the utmost priority."



IMAGE: LARS CURFS



# Piazza building may be built over ceremonial ritual ground

**Jacob Phillips**  
EDITOR

THE UNIQUE ARCHAEOLOGY of Heslington East means that there is a strong possibility that a ceremonial burial ground used to stand where the Piazza Building has been erected. The archaeology on Heslington East is known for its strange findings. In 2008 the oldest human brain was discovered on Heslington East after the £500 m expansion of Heslington East began. This particular case was considered unusual due to the conditions it was found in. The Iron Age skull was discovered in the centre of a muddy circular pit.

The analysis of the skull upon its discovery reported that the vertebrae attached to the skull revealed that the man who it belonged to had been hung and then decapitated. However, the mysterious thing about this situation was that the head was then thrown down into a three foot ditch, leading experts to suspect that it was a ritual offering.

The data collected on Heslington East reveals that there used to be an extensive prehistoric farming landscape of fields, trackways and buildings dating back to at least 300BC. There have been many unusual discoveries at Heslington East already. Prior to the discovery of the oldest human brain, a team from the University of York's Department of Archaeology unearthed the skel-

eton of a man believed to be one of Britain's earliest victims of tuberculosis. In addition, an isolated small pit was discovered on Heslington East to reveal a well crafted and polished Bronze Age battle-axe.

The strange findings and sudden burials of skeletons and bodies on Heslington East therefore leaves open the possibility that beneath the new Piazza building or beneath Greggs there may have been pagan rituals and sacrifices.

The history of Heslington East is well documented. 14 000 years ago the Vale of York was filled by a glacier moving south.

This led to a large lake of melted water appearing in the south of the region. Ancient money was discovered by experts on Heslington

East from the third and fourth centuries, meaning that money has been invested in Hes-

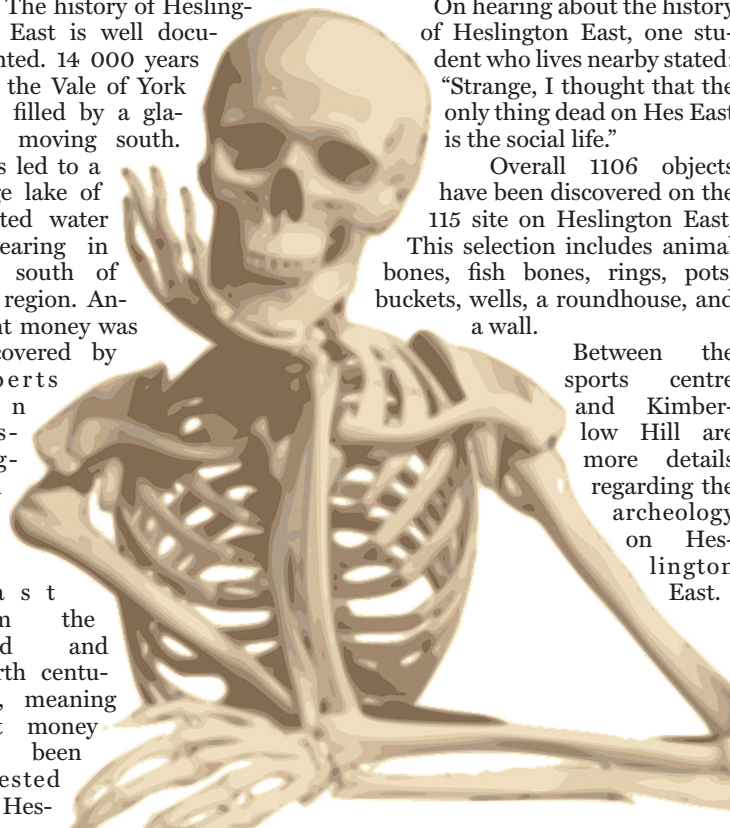
lington East for 1700 years. A late Roman well was also discovered on site.

Heslington East has historically been a site of community and action with evidence of settlers being on site from the Bronze and Iron Ages as well as a strong Roman presence being discovered. Unfortunately, the current University atmosphere on Heslington East is struggling to keep up with the buzzing social life it once had.

On hearing about the history of Heslington East, one student who lives nearby stated: "Strange, I thought that the only thing dead on Hes East is the social life."

Overall 1106 objects have been discovered on the 115 site on Heslington East. This selection includes animal bones, fish bones, rings, pots, buckets, wells, a roundhouse, and a wall.

Between the sports centre and Kimberlow Hill are more details regarding the archeology on Heslington East.



# Big student survey launches

**Georgie Smith**  
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

YUSU HAS LAUNCHED the Big Student Survey, to gather information from students about their experience at the University of York. The data gathered from the survey will help to influence how YUSU represents and supports its students. As an incentive to encourage students to participate in the Big Student Survey, YUSU is offering prizes which include Polaroid cameras, Black Cards for Official YUSU Club Nights, and a free ticket to the Summer Ball.

The survey enquires about YUSU's effective representation of all students, and whether students perceive YUSU as allowing students to make change happen and have their voices heard. It also invites students to judge the visibility of the representatives of various networks of student representation

such as YUSU Sabbatical officers, and course, department, and faculty representatives, and asks whether students have an awareness of what each of them do in their capacity.

The survey aims to take into account and examine all facets of student life. Students are encouraged to expand on the opportunities on offer to them and whether they have: participated in York's societies and sports clubs; found employment at YUSU's commercial outlets; been involved with volunteering or Raising And Giving opportunities; or held positions within a college JCRC or Student Association.

YUSU hopes, through student participation with the survey, to discern whether the student opportunities on offer at York have made a positive contribution to the personal development of its students. It also asks whether such involvement will have a long-term value once they leave university and start seeking employment. The survey gathers feedback on YUSU

events, support and advice services available to students, and on the quality and value of the campus' student bars and cafés Courtyard, The Kitchen, Glasshouse, and The Lounge.

YUSU President Alex Urquhart told *Nouse*: "This survey is a rebrand of what was the 'Student Life Survey'. The annual survey generates data and evidence about what students want and need for the elected officers to use in campaigning and representing students views to the University. With the views of several thousand students it strengthens the arguments me and the other officers can make in our discussions with the University.

"Asking students their opinions and views so we can then try to respond to them is one of the key reasons we exist! In previous years, data from our annual survey has contributed to campaigns and lobbying that eventually led to the creation of Spring Lane Teaching Building, expansion in the Library opening hours and the creation of degrees with a placement."

# What's On...

*The best upcoming events for you to check out on campus, in York, and beyond*

Ethical Food Fair, 15/02/2018, Spring Lane Building, 12PM - 3PM

Anti-Slam, 22/02, Upstairs in Dusk, Doors open 8PM, Free with contributions encouraged.



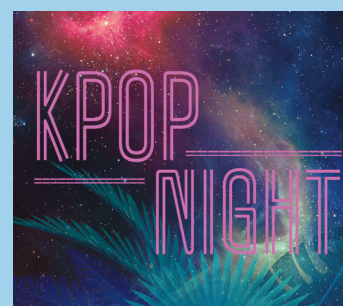
**Featured: Jorvik Viking Festival, 12 - 18/02**

If you fancy archery, sword-fighting, big birds and Viking tours, you need to hit the Viking Festival taking over town this week. From mead

tasting to Viking encampments taking over streets, any resident of York would have to go and try the largest event of its kind in Europe.

LipSync Lollapalooza, 18/02, 9.30PM, Fibbers, £8 on the door

Fagiolini, 31/01. Roy Howat (piano), 07/02. Both Sir Jack Lyons Concert Hall at 7.30PM. £5.



**Featured: Kpop Night, 23/02, £3/£4.50/£5**

The University of York Korean Cultural Society is hosting a night dedicated to Kpop at Kuda. Could it get any better? Yes, if you are among the first 40 to arrive you

will receive a free drink voucher. Tickets online or sold at the door when you arrive at Kuda.

Inter-University Opera Festival, 24 - 25/02/2018. £25 per day, £40 for weekend. Advance booking required; will involve lessons, discussion and opportunity to talk to professionals. Venue for 2018 is University of York.



**Featured: Varsity College Finals, 25/02**

York will be hosting Durham in a battle to reclaim the trophy from the collegiate rivals. The matches will begin at 11 on the day, and will be filled with competitive athletes

desperate to defeat Durham's best colleges. Sure to be followed by an intense night regardless of whether Durham or York are victorious.

PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL INCLUDED



## Ex-student Dunmore wins Costa book title

**Eloise McMinh Mitchell**  
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

YORK ALUMNA HELEN Dunmore was posthumously awarded the Costa Book of the Year award for her final poetry collection *Inside the Wave*, published in April of 2017.

The author, who has written 12 novels and poetry collections was the second author to have won the award posthumously; the other winner was Ted Hughes in 1998. *Inside the Wave* was her eighth poetry anthology and addressed her terminal cancer and impending death. One of the poems included was written just 10 days before her death in June 2017, aged 64. Throughout her career, she was nominated for or won nine different literary awards for both poetry and prose works.

A University spokesperson told *Nouse*: “We are proud of all of our alumni, many of whom achieve outstanding success in their chosen careers. We were deeply saddened to hear of the death of Helen Dunmore last year but delighted she was posthumously honoured for her final poetry collection.”

Emeritus Professor in the English and Related Literature Department, Derek Attridge, also praised her, saying: “Helen Dunmore has left us a last gift, a collection of verse that exemplifies her craft and sensibility at their best. These are

poems written from her hospital bed that are hard to read just as poems, knowing as we do what she was facing as she wrote them, but most of the collection celebrates the variety and concreteness of being alive.

“When, as Head of the English Department, I contacted her about a reading in York, I discovered that she still had warm memories of her time as a student here. Few of our alumni have contributed to the continuing vitality of English literature”.

Dunmore, who was a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, was born in Beverley in East Yorkshire in 1952 and attended the University of York in the early 1970s. Her most famous novels included *A Spell of Winter* (1995), a gothic fiction on World War I which won the inaugural Orange Prize, *The Siege* (2002) and its sequel *The Betrayal* (2010) which were set during and after the siege of Leningrad in World War II. *The Betrayal* was longlisted for the Man Booker Prize.

The Costa Book of the Year winner is selected from five books which have already won prizes as either novels, first novels, biographies, poetry or children's books. *Inside the Wave* contained 50 poems and was described by the judges as “an astonishing set of poems – a final, great achievement”. Its proximity to her passing cannot be ignored; *Hold out your Arms*, the final poem included in the collection was composed just 10 days before her death.

## University announces £1.5m waste contract with Yorwaste

**Eloise McMinh Mitchell**  
DEPUTY NEWS EDITOR

THE UNIVERSITY OF York has sealed a new five-year contract with Yorwaste worth £1.5 mn. Yorwaste will continue to provide recycling and waste disposal services throughout the University. The collection services will process 6500 bins around both campuses. Yorwaste will be delivering non-recyclable waste to the newly built Allerton Waste Recovery Park when it is fully operational, while green waste will be processed and made into Yorganics. 56 per cent of waste at the University is placed into non-recycling bins.

The deal between the University and Yorwaste was announced in January of 2018 and discloses a contract that will last until 2022. On the renewal, a University spokesperson told *Nouse*: “The University has decided to take up the option of the contract extension with Yorwaste due to a number of factors. These include the level of service delivery they have provided to us over the initial years of the contract, along with the continual improvement they have shown not only in their own service and sustainability but in working with us to improve our sustainability performance. Through Yorwaste the University are able to recycle more materials than a lot of other service providers and the waste collected

from campus as non-recycling is now diverted away from landfill to generate energy instead. They also provide added value by helping the University on research projects as well as other student engagement”. Yorwaste initially had to undergo a tendering process, but has since led to a successful relationship with the University. The University's Envi-

ronmental Manager, Mark Clough, praised Yorwaste for helping “supplement the various recycling initiatives that we have implemented across the University, adding to our

staff and student experience, and diverting all waste from landfill”. Meanwhile, Yorwaste's Commercial Manager Gill Mulroe said that Yorwaste was “delighted” to have been awarded the contract. Yorwaste is the largest company of its kind in North Yorkshire and is now working with the Amey Waste disposal group that built the Allerton Waste Recovery Park. The Park collects non-recyclable waste to either be reused, recycled or used in green energy production. Allerton Park's management works in partnership with the North Yorkshire County Council as well as the City of York Council. The site is expected to be fully functional in early 2018. It will provide waste disposal services to the city and North Yorkshire area. Yorwaste will maintain control of green waste.

56

Percentage of waste placed in non-recycling bins



IMAGE: YORWASTE

## Conservative York Council leader ousted by party

**Oscar Bentley**  
DEPUTY EDITOR

THE LEADER OF York City Council, Councillor David Carr, has been ousted from his role following a vote of no confidence by his fellow Conservative party colleagues. He was dismissed as the Conservative group leader on 31 January, although remains council leader until a vote can take place at the next full council meeting on 22 February.

Cllr Carr has been replaced as Conservative group leader by Cllr Ian Gillies, Executive Council member for Transport and Planning and former Lord Mayor of York.

The vote of no confidence came after Cllr Carr dismissed fellow Conservative executive member Cllr Stuart Rawlings on Monday 22 January over a conflict of interest with the city's Local Plan for housing and development. A member of Cllr Rawlings' family had interest in a plot of land which was identified by developers for part of the Local

Plan, but has since been rejected. While Cllr Rawlings maintains he made council leaders aware as soon as he realised and claims that his connection to the land is distant, Cllr Carr saw fit to dismiss him.

The row became inflamed further when the Conservative group released a statement on Tuesday 23 January saying that Cllr Rawlings had “stepped down for personal reasons”, with Cllr Rawlings hitting back and calling the statement “factually incorrect”, indicating that he did not agree to its release. Cllr Sam Lisle, who held the Housing and Safer Neighbourhoods portfolio, also resigned within hours of Cllr Rawlings' sacking, explaining “irreconcilable differences” with Cllr Carr led to his decision.

Cllr Rawlings said: “I have done nothing wrong. Openness and transparency are core values which I will always stand for and uphold. As such I self-referred the issue to the Standards Committee on Monday evening because I believe it is the right thing to do.”

At the time Cllr Carr stood by his dismissal of Cllr Rawlings, say-

ing “I stand by every decision I have made as leader of the council and I believe those decisions will be vindicated in due course.”

New Conservative leader Cllr Gillies is the third leader the group has had since 2015. Cllr Gillies previously acted as group leader, but in 2014, when Labour held control of the council, he was dismissed after party officials cited concerns over his record and effectiveness. York Council is currently run by a coalition between the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats.

The dismissal comes amid news that council tax is set to rise in York by 3.5 per cent, although as most students are exempt from this charge it is unlikely to have an impact on them.

Cllr Gillies said: “On behalf of the group I would like to thank Cllr Carr for all of his hard work and for the many hours he has put in leading our joint administration. Our group has resolved to pull together to strengthen our position and to continue to lead an administration which has put front line services at the centre of what we do.”



IMAGE: CITY OF YORK COUNCIL

Cllr David Carr (above) was ousted after he dismissed Cllr Stuart Rawlings





## UKIP leader speaks out over sticker

**Jack Davies**  
NEWS REPORTER

SENIOR MEMBERS of the UK Independence Party, including party leader Henry Bolton, have reacted angrily towards anti-UKIP propaganda that has recently appeared on the University of York campus, *Nouse* can exclusively reveal.

Photos reportably emerged on Thursday 8 February of stickers plastered at various points around the University, that depict the UKIP logo obscured by a 'no smoking'-style warning bar, beneath which a statement reads "UKIP members are often vile, homophobic and racist". However, *Nouse* has also been informed by other sources that only one sticker was discovered.

Unsurprisingly, UKIP supporters in York have been keen to voice their disapproval at the campaign against their party. Abigail Eatock, speaking to *Nouse* in her capacity as Chair of the UKIP Society, was eager to condemn the stickers.

"I am deeply disturbed and appalled that intolerant and ignorant individuals feel it is appropriate to incite hatred against members of an opposing political party without the first inkling of the damage it can cause", she said, citing the unfounded and emotive nature of the content of the claims made in the stickers as an obvious attempt to portray UKIP in a negative light."

She went on to say that those behind the stickers were "ignorant towards UKIP and its members" to a "truly astounding" level.

It is unclear exactly as to who is responsible for the propaganda. Further research has revealed that the stickers seem to have originally come from the Brighton Anti-Fascists group, shortened to Antifa, with the poster-style adhesives available to buy on their website in the merchandising section. The incident has attracted attention

far beyond York within UKIP circles, with many, perhaps due to the source of the stickers, pinning the blame on the Left. Henry Bolton, the new UKIP leader, who took over from Paul Nuttall following the party's leadership elections in September of last year, was angered by the stickering. Speaking to *Nouse*, Bolton commented: "The effort being made to shut this great party of ours (UKIP) out of debate is the perfect example of the hypocrisy of the 'Liberal Left' who themselves demand freedom of speech and expression. They're the bigots; the enemy within, set on disassembly of our British culture and identity."

*Nouse* understands that senior UKIP member David Kurten, who was the former education spokesperson for the party and stood for leadership against Bolton last year, made a formal complaint to the University. Speaking to *Nouse*, Kurten said that he was "horrified" by the stickering, and by the general treatment of students across the country harbouring "conservative and pro-Brexit opinions".

When questioned about the University's response to his complaint, Kurten stated that "they replied saying they had removed the posters they found and had informed security services, but they could not find out who had put the posters up on a large and open campus". *Nouse* can confirm that since Kurten's complaint, the stickers appear to have completely disappeared from campus.

Kurten, like Bolton, went on to pin the blame for the stickers the 'Liberal Left', stating that he hopes universities such as York are serious about dealing with UKIP supporters suffering from "harassment and intimidation from left-wing groups like Antifa".

This is not the first time such campaigning against right-wing groups and politicians has happened on campus in recent years. Back in February of last year, *Nouse* reported on a number of posters appearing across campus bearing such slogans as "fuck the fascist fucklords", "craft antifa [sic] poems" and "fuck Trump".

## Staff and Sabbs thrashed by York's Uni Challenge team

**Ed Smith**  
NEWS REPORTER

TUESDAY 23 JANUARY saw the greatest University Challenge showdown come to a head in Hendrix Hall. The current University Challenge team from York had three rounds to battle against University Executive Board, Academic Officer Julian Porch and faculty representatives, and the Sabbatical officers.

The quick fingers of the York University Challenge team were too fast for all three teams. When asked by *Nouse* how the Sabbatical officers felt about being thrashed, YUSU President Alex Urquhart said "I think I used the word 'spanked' - it was a humbling experience."

Some present say 'spanked' does not completely cover the demolition that the Sabbatical Officers underwent at the hands of the Challenge team.

Probably the most surprising win however came when the Uni-

versity Challenge team beat the staff, as Joan Concannon, Director of External Relations at the University conceded that the students were "strong opponents" and the staff team were in need of a major overhaul and revision prior to the competition if they have any chance of "challenging their title next time!"

York has previously had a superior strength in its University Challenge team by reaching the semi-final in 2015-16 series, only to be stopped by the eventual winners

Peterhouse Cambridge, losing 145-100.

The dismantling of each team demonstrates that the York University Challenge team are formidable and are certainly capable of winning the competition.

This year's University Challenge team was selected at a hustings on 16 November 2017, which after a head-to-head battle on topics including Shakespeare, French classical music, and Charles Darwin.



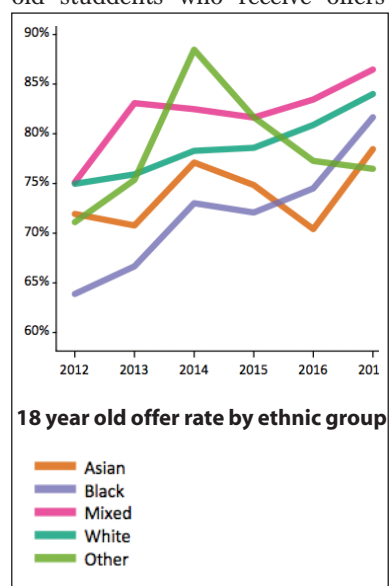
Last year's York University Challenge team featuring captain Benjamin Maier

## BAME offer number is a concern for the University

>>> Continued from front

Oxford and Cambridge. 2.3 per cent of offers given out at both Oxford and Cambridge were given to 18 year old black students. Last week Cambridge was reported to be Britain's most unequal city.

The figures for the University of York are proportional to the local population. 1.7 per cent of the Yorkshire and the Humber population is black. In addition, Durham University has even lower representation for Black students than York does: just 1.6 per cent of 18 year old students who receive offers



from Durham are black. Despite this, York is still slipping behind government targets for diversity. In 2015 a target was set to increase the numbers of students from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) backgrounds entering Higher Education to 20 per cent. However, York will not reach this target unless there is some drastic change.

Last year the University spent £1 888 772 on trying to aid students coming to the University of York. When questioned about the money a University spokesman stated: "The University has an extensive programme of outreach to carefully targeted schools and pupil groups which aim to meet clearly identified targets for widening participation. The programme includes a mixture of measures to raise aspirations, stimulate applications from students in disadvantaged and under-represented groups, as well as activities relating to student success and progression."

"Each year we agree targets and a programme of activity with the Office for Fair Access (OFFA) through our Access Agreement. The University's Access Agreements, including the most recent for 2018/19, are available on the OFFA website at [www.offa.org.uk/access-agreements/searchresult/?prn=10007167](http://www.offa.org.uk/access-agreements/searchresult/?prn=10007167)

"Outreach to Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) students is in-

cluded in the activities within our Access Agreement and we work specifically in a number of areas with significantly higher BAME populations than York - for example East London and West Yorkshire.

"In the period from 2012/13 to 2017/18, the proportion of BAME first degree home entrants to the University has risen from 8.7 per cent to 13.4 per cent.

"The University provides significant support for such students. Some of this is financial - in 2018/19 we expect to distribute nearly £7mn in bursaries for example - but additional non-financial support is provided, for example, to students with disabilities and to students coming to the University as care-leavers. Our collegiate system also provides a level of support that is not available in most other universities."

"The overarching framework for equal opportunities for students at York is provided by the University's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy (<https://www.york.ac.uk/admin/eo/EDIStrategy/EDandI-Strategy-Nov2017.pdf>) and there is particular provision for students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Services for students with disabilities are part of this but there are others: for example financial support to help students from disadvantaged backgrounds to participate in study abroad, internships and placements."



# Donation from uni for every voter

**Eloise McMinn Mitchell**  
 NEWS EDITOR

YUSU RECEIVED 93 nominees for positions in this year's elections, more than doubling the number from 2017. All bar two of the Part Time Officer (PTO) positions and Non-Officer positions were contested, again an improvement on last year. The current official YUSU list has 67 candidates, although several candidates on the final list have informed *Nouse* that they have dropped out. Higher numbers of voters come with cash incentives, with every 1000 votes cast resulting in 10p off house pints in YUSU, and a 50p donation from the University for each voter. 40p of this goes to equal access scholarships, and 10p to the YUSU RAG charities IDAS and Action for Children.

A position of particular interest this year is that of Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME), as the number of first degree home entrants to the University has increased from 8.7 per cent to 13.4 per cent, indicating that the officer for this position will be serving a greater population than in the past. Every Full Time Officer (FTO) role was contested, with eight initial nominations for President, although this has now dropped. The only PTO position not initially contested was LGBTQ Officer, although *Nouse* has since been made aware that more positions are now uncontested. This huge increase in overall initial nominations is a boost from the 36 nominations in 2017, possibly due to not having to initially submit a manifesto this year.

YUSU President Alex Urquhart has been very pleased with this outcome, telling *Nouse*: "We set ourselves a target of increasing the number and diversity of candidates this year so we're happy with how the nomination period has gone. We believe the elections and YUSU will be strengthened by the range and diversity of voices, lived experiences and ideas of the candidates. This year we have targeted our communications more comprehensively - through departments, student networks, student groups, colleges and central University - to inspire students to put themselves forward. We have also developed brilliant new marketing aimed at getting across that Officer roles are political and not just about employability. Through our new tagline: 'The Union Belongs to You', we also wanted to get across a sense of community, proactive participation and ownership."

# YUSU Elections candidates announced as online campaigning commences

**Oscar Bentley**  
 DEPUTY EDITOR

CANDIDATES RUNNING for positions in this year's YUSU Elections have been revealed. An overall total of 67 candidates are listed to be running in YUSU's official final candidate list, although some of these are running as pairs, and *Nouse* has been informed by some candidates listed on the final total that they have actually dropped out.

President is the highest contested Sabbatical position, with seven nominations listed on the official list. Cameron Partridge, Connor Middleton, Politics with International Relations student Hector Macduff, former James College JCRC chair James Durcan, Mario Banados Cornejo, current International Officer Muhammad Hassan, and Oscar Jefferson are contesting.

Partridge appears to be running as an unserious candidate, given that his policies include opposing dabbing. Last year's Presidential race apparently featured five joke candidates, as they advertised an event at the now Vanbrugh Arms, with their middle names spelling "V - Bar, Week 9, Saturday,

8.30pm, Free Entry". In 2008, joke candidate Mad Cap'n Tom Scott won the position of President, leading to the highest voter turnout in a Students' Union in the UK ever.

Student Activities Officer is this year contested by three candidates, URY Assistant Head of Marketing Jack Rewcroft, former *Nouse* editor Finn Judge, and Vice-President and Treasurer of the University Darts Team Jack Worrall. Previous Activities Officers have come from prominent societies, with current Activities Officer Mikey Collinson a former PantSoc Chair, and his predecessor Alex Lusty being a former Editor of *The Lemon Press*.

Pairs contest the other Sabbatical roles. Current co-LGBTQ Officer Rowen Ellis and former James JCRC Community and Wellbeing Vice-Chair Steph (Effy) Hayle are going toe-to-toe for Community and Wellbeing Officer, while *Nouse* Comment Editor James Hare and PEP Department Rep Tomas Vieira Marques da Silva are the contenders for Academic Officer. Finally, York Sport Union treasurer Ryan Jago and tennis Vice-President Zaccariah Sheppard are in the race for York Sport President.

Online campaigning opened at 9AM on Monday, with hustings being held at 7PM Hendrix Hall. Physical campaigning opens 9AM

on Monday Week 7, later than last year, when physical campaigning opened immediately post hustings. A new rule this year also limits the amount of cardboard candidates can place around campus. Voting opens 9AM Monday Week 7, and closes 5PM on the Friday.

Community and Wellbeing Of-

ficer is the only Sabbatical position which has candidates who do not identify as cisgender men, meaning that next year's Sabbatical group is set to be comprised of four cisgender men. The current Sabbatical team is comprised of three males and two females, as was the previous year's.

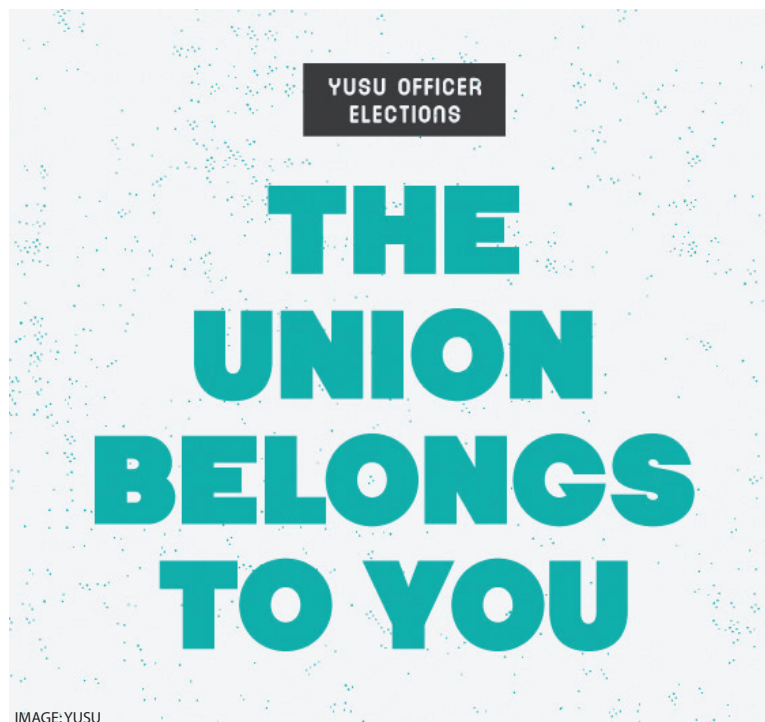


IMAGE: YUSU

# Club campaigning opt-out introduced

**Seren Hughes**  
 NEWS REPORTER

A NEW AMENDMENT to campaigning rules in this year's YUSU elections in clubs has been introduced. This policy means that candidates will be asked if they want to 'opt-out' of club night campaigning for all or certain club nights. If a candidate chooses to

'opt-out' of club campaigning, then all other candidates for the same position will not be allowed to campaign in clubs, or the specific club(s) the candidate has opted out of.

Community and Wellbeing Officer Mia Shantana Chaudhuri-Julyan told *Nouse*: "the opt out system has been introduced in direct response to student demand and in particular, calls to ensure that the elections are as accessible as possible."

The amendment is es-

pecially beneficial for disabled students, as all venues for official YUSU club nights except Revolution do not have wheelchair access. Furthermore, club campaigning is inaccessible to candidates with other disabilities: such as those which affect energy or pain levels, hearing or visual impairments, and any disability which could lead to sensory overload, such as autism. Before the change in policy, disabled candidates running in the elections who could not or preferred not to enter the clubs were at a disadvantage in comparison with their abled competitors.

The proposal for this policy was submitted by Disabled Students Officer Aisling Musson, who told *Nouse*: "I submitted the policy because disabled students are at a massive disadvantage in most parts of the election process. YUSU has been working on improving some parts of the process this year to moderate the amount of physical activity required of all candidates in campaigning, but the most inaccessible part of campaigning was the club campaigning - hardly anyone enjoyed doing it but most felt like they had to do it in case their opponents did it."

"It has a negative effect on candidates who are already campaigning all day, it involves a lot of environments that are extremely inaccessible to a lot of disabled students, and securing votes off drunk people is pretty questionable anyway. The policy is specifically worded so that if everyone in a certain race is ok with campaigning, they can still do it - but that if someone's going to have an unfair advantage over their peers, that will be redressed by the rules, which I think is only fair. I was really glad to hear through the policy feedback process that most people agree."

This policy change also seeks to address the wider welfare issues of club campaigning. Not all candidates, disabled or abled, want to or have the ability to campaign in clubs, so it ensures that candidates are not being forced to do something they do not wish to do, simply to gain votes. It also raises the disputed point, in terms of democracy and morality, of securing votes from drunk students, whose inhibitions might be impaired.

The policy states that breaking this amendment will lead to proportional penalties or sanctions. YUSU has also said that it will develop a set of rules to outline acceptable behaviour when campaigning in clubs towards those under the influence of alcohol.



IMAGE: URQUHART FOR PREZ



# N COMMENT



IMAGE: RUBEN GODWIN-SUTTIE

## Refugees deserve our respect as well as our help

The current situation in Calais is abhorrent and it is essential for the British government to resolve the crisis

**Ruben Godwin-Suttie**



It is commonly thought that the demolition of the Calais jungle brought an end to the 'migrant problem' there. This was not the case. For many the realisation that Calais is still significant in the refugee crisis came only recently, when on 1 February violence broke out between groups of refugees, leaving four Eritrean refugees shot, allegedly by a trafficker. The shooting and mass brawls that followed were the subject of much media attention. Similar to the news coverage that had come before it, from Aylan Kurdi, who washed up on a Turkish beach, to Omran Daqneesh, who sat tranced in the back of the ambulance, this recent media frenzy focused almost entirely on the gory details: the weapons, ethnic divides, and the repressive police response. It completely missed the point.

There are roughly 800 refugees in Calais, mostly from Eritrea, Afghanistan and Iraq. They are not allowed any permanent shelter, in-

cluding tents, and are subjected to constant police violence. The heavy police presence is designed to intimidate them, involving beatings, confiscating belongings, and even tasing. Sleeping bags and coats are routinely pepper sprayed to make them unusable. The refugees are completely reliant on local charities, and with temperatures regularly sub-zero it is unsurprising that illness is spreading. It is hard to imagine how conditions could be worse.

Considering the conditions it is unsurprising, even inevitable, that we're seeing this kind of violence. It comes as the new May-Macron deal on Calais takes effect. The deal sees Britain give an extra £44.5m to France to aid policing, as well as vague promises about increasing the speed of asylum applications. This brings the total British contribution to Calais security to approximately £150m in the last three years. If this kind of money was being invested in refugees' lives, instead of being used to crush them, we would not see this level of violence.

I first travelled to Calais in May of last year, and this month I returned for the fifth time. The group I went with, Oxfordshire Refugee Solidarity, began as only a couple

of friends. On our most recent trip we were 32 strong, with two minibuses and a van full of aid. We were concerned by recent events, unsure of how tense the situation would be and whether the increasing police presence would interrupt our work. We worked on preparing and sorting aid before heading out to distribute it. Although the majority of distributions are calm, refugees are suffering immensely with very little

Too often the debate around refugees is only an academic one ”

aid, so there is always the potential for the situation to develop. A typical distribution involves a van full of aid and about 10 volunteers making a funnel from the back of the van doors. Two more volunteers stand at the front of the queue with their backs to the van working out which items they need. The final volunteer stays in the van retrieving the correct items, and passing them on;

this was my job. In the end the distribution was one of the calmest I've been on, so when we were done we spent some time talking to the refugees, making them tea and listening to their stories.

This was the first chance I had to take in my surroundings: just off a roundabout, underneath a motorway. The refugees congregate here because it provides them with some shelter from the weather. The refugees here are mostly Eritrean, fleeing an oppressive state and indefinite military conscription. I met a young man called Nathanael with impeccable English, and as he described his story to me it dawned on me that he was who I would be, had I been born in Eritrea. He said he was 18 and wanted to study Political Science at university, that he had fled to avoid conscription, and that all he sought was peace and freedom. When I asked him why he didn't seek asylum in France he simply pointed to what was around him. From police violence, to resentment and aggression from some locals, he had a point: if this was my only view of a country I doubt I'd want to live there. He was friendly while we talked, but there was an inescapable sadness in his face and

exhaustion in his voice. To see this in someone younger than me was truly heartbreaking.

I think too often the debate surrounding the situation in Calais is only an academic one, with near complete disregard for human suffering. Arguments against helping refugees centre on the concept that they are not real refugees, but instead 'economic migrants'. Not only is this factually wrong, it presumes that they are leaving a country that is hospitable. Anyone who has actually seen their faces would know that no one deserves to live like they do in Calais, least of all those fleeing famine, oppression and wars; often wars that we are involved in.

In the end the solution to the refugee crisis will be foreign policy; stabilising peaceful democracies instead of generating power vacuums in which violence can spread, so that people don't have to leave their homes. What is most tragic about the refugee crisis is that the suffering - especially in Calais - is the result of a political decision not to help. The responsibility therefore is ours, to do whatever we can to make life bearable for the refugees suffering in Calais and throughout Europe.



# The franchise is not to be meddled with by kids

The idea of expanding the franchise to "children" is scandalous and would undermine confidence in British democracy

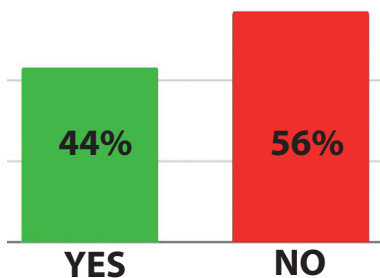
Joseph Silke



There is a great injustice in this realm of ours which has gone scarcely noticed and scandalously unmentioned. For too long the yoke of oppression has denied plethoras of our fine and responsible citizens their voice and agency in our public life. This four and a half million deserve the trust and respect from society afforded to the rest of us. I write, of course, to advance the case for the expansion of our sacred franchise for all those above the age of twelve years old.

12 year olds can get their ears pierced, be convicted of a criminal offence, and choose their religion. It is time for a change in the law which recognises that the franchise should reflect this maturity and give those

Should the voting age be lowered?



SOURCE: ISIDEWITH

above 12 a say in their own future. The decisions of politicians affect us all; there is no reason we shouldn't be looking to the next generation of voters. The Scottish referendum and the 2017 general election proved that young people are engaged and we must move forward with the times.

Yes, I am mocking. The votes for 16 year olds debate has been a farcical display deserving of mockery. The Labour Party believes that they have the youth vote entranced by their promise of the world, all paid for by somebody else, they'd have you believe. This is not the spirit in which we ought to conduct reform. We won't protect the integrity of our way of life if we use it as a party political weapon. With all of the upheaval generated by the Brexit vote, we need some continuity and calm more than ever in public life. The simple fact is that our democracy, and indeed all democracy, is in a fragile state. As we commemorate one hundred years since some women in the UK first received the democratic right to vote for their Member of Parliament, let us remember that this great experiment is still so very young. When the Cold War ended in 1991, it seemed to some that we had reached the "end of history" and the ultimate triumph of liberal democracy. Lately, however, we have witnessed a crisis in democratic confidence.

The Labour Party and others on the left have recently clamoured to expand the voting age to those of 16 years and above. Of course it would

be silly of me to suggest that this is a threat to our democracy, it isn't one. I am sceptical, however, whether the left would be pushing such an agenda were they not confident they could more easily seduce younger minds with fantasy economics. Such a cynical abuse of our democratic institutions could serve only to further undermine our way of life. The expansion of the franchise is a serious matter and it should not be rushed through simply out of short term politicking.

Perhaps you want the governance of our family of nations decided by Jimmy who hasn't taken his English Language GCSE yet; if you do then fair enough. Personally I'm not too confident about Jimmy. I understand the argument that if we get people voting young they will be more likely to vote in future, but do you remember what you thought of the world at 16?! Labour in Wales opened local elections to 16 year olds and maybe there is where a compromise lies if necessary.

Leaving the European Union is a watershed moment in our democracy. It is more crucial than ever that we approach our constitutional arrangements sensitively. The great democratic experiment is faltering around the world, spurred on by the economic miracle of the totalitarian Chinese who have proven to some that capitalist success doesn't require democratic institutions. Authority is, unfortunately, in fashion. To rush into reform for cynical reasons risks undermining our way of life at this crucial time.



IMAGE: UK PARLIAMENT

# A hearty snack: How about 'panic au chocolat'?

Life at university is highly stressful and panic eating can be seen as a solution, but does it become part of the problem?

Rudolf Barney-Seabra



The familiar taste hit me all at once. No, this isn't a Proustian trip down memory lane, nor a meditation on the good small things in life and the large meaning one can infer from them. I ate no madeleine, I ate Ben and Jerry's, and while, like Proust, I am a young man with (occasionally delusional) intellectual ambitions who writes mostly in his bed wearing pyjamas, unlike Proust I do not have a family heirloom - nor have I developed a talent for writing impressively long novels that many people claim to have read, but have never been seen doing so. My impressive feats thus far have been to consume not one, but four full tubs of different flavours of ice cream in the same day and waste an impressive amount of time watching random things on Netflix when I should be doing my essay. You relate, we know you do.

Food as a soother of stress and

occasionally as an aid to procrastination seems to be part and parcel of student life. Chicken nuggets, chips - we all love chips - chocolate, biscuits and takeaway are all part of our vocabulary (especially during a hangover), but when indulging becomes habit, is it not the time to consider whether the coping mechanism is becoming a stressor? There are studies (too many of them) that show that junk food will have a negative effect on energy and contentment levels, as well as a negative impact on the performance of cognitive functions. We know that eating your greens is better, yet kale does not make me (or any sensible person) instantly feel better, whereas Blondie Brownie Caramel Core really does.

What may be just as important, considering the feelings of guilt attached to stress eating. We live in a culture that promotes and normalises specific bodies as desirable or ideal, and achieving them generally involves staying away from Ben and Jerrys. The idea of gaining weight (fat) comes with very little positive reinforcement. Becoming less desirable, less attractive and less healthy

is what happens to us when we put on fat weight, or so the story goes. Meanwhile, when someone goes to a shop, they see magazines body-shaming famous people (generally women) telling women the way to lose weight, and telling men the way to get a six-pack or fuller chest, whilst right next to them will be an assortment of chocolates, sweets, crisps and pretty much anything an average person would not eat regularly were they to attain the ideals they are supposed to (and bloody Instagram and social media is also very unhelpful).

People obviously don't eat things because they are in front of them, or believe everything they read, but it is reasonable to think that people under psychological stress will be much more vulnerable to any form of substance or practice which provides them with comfort. We do have personal responsibility when it comes to what we choose to do (when we are making choices, naturally), but questioning why we make those choices, and being critical about why those are the choices available is just as meaningful and necessary.



IMAGE: STEVEPB



# It's time for everyone to start droning on

Drone warfare is systematic, indiscriminate and its proliferation in recent years demands an explanation for why it is just

Sarah Webster



Since the beginning of this century and the invention of drone technology, we have entered a new era of military affairs. One in which we have become increasingly desensitised to the oft-brutal consequences of military conflict. So much became obvious to me during a fairly recent YouTube binge of mine: I stumbled upon a drone strike montage synced to the song 'Sex on Fire' by Kings of Leon. Perhaps this was the result of some dodgy internet cookies or completely by chance. Regardless, this video shocked me and simultaneously made me laugh (albeit, I was seriously let down by the awful song choice). After reflection, I realised the seriousness of what I was actually watching. The digitalisation of warfare has created this danger of emotionally detaching us from the importance of war, and as we are watching these strikes behind visual interfaces we are being conditioned to dehumanise the enemy. Citizens are becoming exposed to the use of these UAV strikes in the wrong way, by being filmed and put on the internet. This has rewritten the public's relationship with war turning it into entertainment. We are spectators watching a game.

Then again, this disengagement perhaps runs even deeper. In a world where society's barriers against war are falling, drones are now bringing them crashing to the ground. With today's drone capabilities it is possi-

ble to reduce the likelihood of military personnel casualties to almost nothing; making it way too easy to wage war.

The danger is, once we remove the human from the cockpit we remove the conscience and responsibility from action. The further we get from the battlefield the less citizens seem to care about civilian casualties or seem to care that we are carrying out these operations at all. Robotic warfare has created a lack of sacrifice, and the lack of a direct stake and danger to personnel in military operations. This zero-cost mentality means we are no longer motivated to start mass protests, join boycotts, and lobby the government to prevent actions we would consider unethical. In previous centuries, going to war used to be a very serious long-winded decision-making process due to the high costs that war would inevitably incur. At present, there is no need for cautious and in-depth decision-making on whether to take action as there is zero risk to our own.

The weaponised drone club is growing not just at the unrefined end of the technological spectrum, but also at the sophisticated end as well, with over a dozen countries, as well as a couple of non-state actors such as Hamas and Hezbollah, being in possession of, and using, highly advanced armed unmanned military aircraft for drone strikes. Yet, the extent of this proliferation still largely manages 'to stay out of sight, out of mind': something we hear about but never really acknowledge. Air Wars, a not-for-profit project aimed at increasing the transparency of the international air war on

terror, documented that there have been 41 coalition air strikes in the Middle East since 2 February 2018 alone. Shockingly, figures suggest that, as of 9 February, out of 1272 days of air campaign, 29007 coalition air strikes and 105308 bombs/missiles dropped, there have been an estimated absolute minimum of 6047 civilian deaths both inside and outside officially declared zones of conflict.

While these statistics are a conglomeration of all air strikes by the coalition forces, it is undeniable that the UK has played a role in the omnipresent drone strike threat in the Middle East in the name of the War on Terror; the extent to which you may be unpleasantly surprised. These technological developments demand that we consider what is right and what is wrong in a way we haven't had to before. The public also have a right to be informed on the government's policy of lethal strikes in the name of our safety. In an effort to avoid the abuse of drone technology for an unnecessary amount of strikes, the government must set ethical norms for the use of UAVs. Despite this, there has been no push for increased transparency by the government. Such moral disengagement threatens to undermine democratic values, making it impossible to hold the government to account. The public have an obligation to get the government to admit to inconvenient truths and be more transparent in talking about the extent of the nation use of lethal strikes outside of conflict zones. We absolutely need to start droning on about drones.



# From our many differences, we can find unity

The talk by Holocaust survivor Iby Knill shows the value of respect for all faiths, ethnicities and racial groups on campus

Antonia Dante



Don't let differences determine how you treat people. This was one of many resonating messages Holocaust survivor Iby Knill delivered to her audience in York. Iby visited the University of York on 22 January for Holocaust Memorial Day. The importance of Iby's talk can not be understated; both in terms of its content and the milestone it marked for the University and city of York.

I found it both breath taking and heart warming that Iby's talk received the amount of interest and support that it did.

The auditorium, with a 350-seat capacity, was full to the brim with at least another 100 on the waiting list for the event. In a city that has a history of anti-Semitism and whose student and citizen Jewish population has remained dis-

tinctly low ever since, the turnout of the event filled me with hope and pride. The sheer enthusiasm of my peers to hear Iby's story, for me, represented a mark of optimism.

By listening to and engaging with Iby's story, we are actively honouring her promise to tell the world what happened during the Holo-

**The right to identify as Jewish is something that should never be contested**

ocaust. In turn, by carrying forward Iby's inspiring messages, we as the next generation are responsible for preventing atrocities and genocides like the Holocaust from being repeated.

The theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2018 is the power of

words. I was incredibly motivated by Iby's courage to utilise the power of her own words.

Her message was that "under the skin we are all the same": in essence, our perception of differences is at the core of this. Iby told her audience that by embracing our individual differences we can combat prejudice and subsequent discrimination. I have always prided myself on being 'different', not following the crowd or convention and instead establishing my own unique sense of style and self. However, one thing I have never sought to deviate from is my religion. My Jewish heritage and culture has shaped who I am and as such influenced many of my values.

The right to identify as Jewish (or anything else for that matter) is something that should never be contested. The fact that the very classification of being 'Jewish' or 'other' is what determined the fate

of millions of Holocaust victims is unfathomable because of the passion and love we feel so

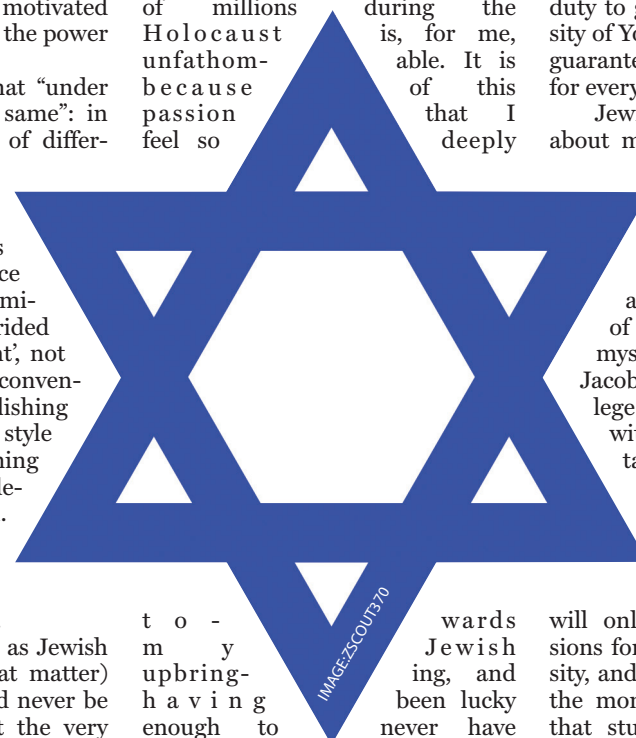
during the Holocaust is, for me, able. It is of this that I deeply

duty to get involved in the University of York Jewish Society and help guarantee that this remains the case for everybody.

Jewish Society, however, is about more than just standing in solidarity against hate; it is about coming together and cherishing what makes us different.

Due to adopting a more active role as Vice President of J-Soc this academic year, myself and the President Tom Jacobs had the honour and privilege of spending quality time with Iby Knill following her talk at the University.

The whole event was extremely moving and an experience I am very proud to have been a part of. I hope that this will only have positive repercussions for both the city and University, and also that it has given York the momentum needed to ensure that students and citizens of all faiths, ethnicities and racial groups are valued and respected.





# Action is essential to continue the march to equality

Despite increasing rights awareness over the spectrum of identification, efforts cannot be allowed to falter

Kit Taylor



February marks the annual LGBTQ+ rights month in the UK, where the community works to raise awareness of certain issues and make these more prominent to the public eye. From the outside looking in, the LGBTQ+ community can seem like a complex community, with an even more complex acronym, but the heart of the month still prevails as a group of people praising the fact that they can finally be accepted in society as themselves.

Realistically, it's 2018 and more and more countries are saying "YES!" to marriage equality, trans surgery procedures are becoming more accessible, and the entire stigma of heteronormativity is being challenged on a daily basis. But there's still an extra step to go, a few more moves to make. While popular opinion is that awareness is improving - as is equality - the LGBTQ+ community still face difficulties as a result of their identification. Transphobia and homophobia is devastatingly apparent, even in the 21st century, and there doesn't necessarily seem to be a "quick fix".

Within the community itself, biphobia, aggression towards or

disregarding bisexuality as a valid orientation, is a major issue. One of the talks which took place at National Student Pride on the weekend of the 10-11 February directly discussed biphobia.

So, if we are dedicating an entire month to raising awareness, then why are such hostile ideas relevant?

Having been part of this community for many years now, I am proud to identify as non-binary and pansexual, two terms which were

**Expanding the movement requires more than the current community - allies are vital** ”

barely known a decade or so ago. In my opinion, the LGBTQ+ activists and figureheads of the world, as well as every student group or society, are working wonders for supporting and raising the community into the limelight.

In most societies, whether they are within educational institutions, or in the "real world" so to speak, you will usually find an LGBTQ+ community.

Yet, I must admit from my experiences, and the experiences of those around me, that this community can sometimes be its own hinderance. While the community prides itself on celebrating equality, and the idea that people of all ages can freely identify across a spectrum of orientations, it can be the case that there is a lot of talk of equality and awareness, but not much in the way of action.

For example, the community live by the principle of embracing one's true self, but then there is the obvious issue of biphobia.

Another example: if a person identifies as transsexual, it is all too often that they will be all "not being trans enough". Lastly, the statistics for wellbeing illnesses are shockingly high for the LGBTQ+ community. So, what is going wrong?

To make a lasting physical impact on the country, and even the world, the community will need to band together. Moreover, why not

stamp out some other avoidances while we're at it, heterosexual allies? The LGBTQ+

ment' over straight and cis norms - just equality. I urge that if you empathise with this willingness for equality, then the community is not just for those at the opposite end of the spectrum to yourself.

With any issue demanding evolution, the power lies with the people. Expansion of the movement could require more than just the current community. Allies are vital in this process.

So as it's national LGBTQ+ month, let me encourage you to consider whether you want to help the fight for worldwide equality. Liberation groups are for those who are passionate, not only those who the group applies to. So please: let us make some real change!



IMAGE: BRAD PERKINS

community is not demanding 'special treat-

# Donald: The President who Trumps all others

The removal of advisor Steve Bannon will transform the Trump Presidency into the greatest the UK has ever had

Jack Edwards



Many of those around Donald Trump during his election campaign believed he could not, and probably should not, win. Up until August 2016, he had no real campaign infrastructure, campaign finance, and certainly no plan for government. The turning point came on the eve of 17 August with the arrival of Steve Bannon as Chief Executive of the campaign. Bannon was an attack dog that could focus a campaign message to rally the conservative ground troops, but more importantly he gave the campaign a tool with which to hone "Trumpism".

This is an ideology that seemingly only the former Breitbart editor had any knowledge of, but centred around opposing aggressive globalisation and advancing protectionist trade designed to appeal to rust belt workers. As Chief Strategist in the White House, he set the tone for the first eight months of the presidency, penning pieces like the

"America First" inauguration speech that was ripped straight from the Enoch Powell playbook.

It follows therefore, that the departure of such an influential figure from within the White House has created a seismic shift in the approach of the administration. Notably at the most recent World Economic Forum, Trump added "but not alone" to the once divisive rhetoric.

Trump has also shown enthusiasm for agreeing to a post-Brexit trade deal on a number of occasions, not least when he referred to Theresa May as "my Maggie", echoing the close friendship Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher shared in the 1980s. President Obama's "back of the queue" comments are distinct in their absence from the Trump lexicon.

His "Tax Cut and Jobs Act" flies in the face of "Trumpism", which saw itself as opposed to big business as winners of the globalisation project.

The boom in the economy that has happened on his watch is good for the whole world over, with soaring stocks and increased market confidence. As the world's largest economy this will mean more foreign investment for the whole of the United Kingdom. During the State of the Union he struck a far more conciliatory tone on the topic of im-

migration too, offering a pathway to citizenship over 12 years for so-called "Dreamers".

And yet President Trump's biggest triumph may so far be in his military reforms; the appointment of General Mattis as Defence Secretary and the repeal of many Obama era restrictions on doctrine has allowed the US to fight a total war against the so-called Islamic State, virtually eradicating all of their territorial holdings.

It cannot be understated how significant of an achievement this is. Plus by taking a no-holds-barred view on terror, Trump is making the United Kingdom unquestionably safer.

His renewed commitment to NATO is good for all member countries but particularly good for the United Kingdom, as he has continually stated he wants every state to pay their fair share of its budget. Currently just five of the 29 member states spend the mandated 2 per cent of their Gross Domestic Product on Defence, with the UK being one of them.

Perhaps most importantly of all, his business ties to the British Isles stand us in good stead for future trade negotiations with the

US, as Trump has huge dealings in Scotland. Additionally, he has familial ties to these islands, the Isle of Lewis being the birthplace of his late mother.

Donald Trump has a lot in common with his duck namesake. He's loud, he's abrasive, and it's a mira-

**By taking a no-holds-barred view on terror, Trump is making the UK unquestionably safer** ”

cle that after all these years he has so much hair left. But the power he wields means he is also our greatest chance of a prosperous United Kingdom outside of the European Union, as well as of a safer world free of the radical Islamic terror that unfortunately dominated the airwaves in the first half of 2017. Love him or loathe him: he's your president now.



IMAGE: MAX GOLDBERG





IMAGE: SURDUMIHAIL

# Is time up now for the #MeToo Movement?

Decrying offenders is not enough: focus on supporting victims

Emily Taylor



If you saw the name of a celebrity in a headline in 2016 you'd assumed they had died. If you have the name of a celebrity in a headline in 2017 it meant they had probably just been outed as a sex offender. Or maybe they're dead and a sex offender. In response the internet has collaborated to compile a black-list of celebrities who must vanish from the public eye. Unfortunately the plan to do this is to smear their name and picture all over the internet so we know definitely to ignore them. New websites like Rotten Apples will warn you if a film is associated with someone accused of sexual misconduct from the obvious targets of Weinstein and Kevin Spacey to the likes of Ben Affleck, Jeffrey Tambor, Ed Westwick, and most recently Aziz Ansari - in a very peculiar exposé - that has started a backlash questioning the legitimacy of the #MeToo movement.

The Ansari article also brought up the question of journalistic integrity in reporting these stories, as they do sell. But it also calls up wider questions about how useful creating this hit list of men is. Firstly, this attitude paints all these offenders with the same brush, when there's a vast gulf in crime between Weinstein's systematic abuse of power over decades and Aziz Ansari being a dick on a date. Secondly, it also hasn't worked in the past. These issues have surrounded Woody Allen and Roman Polanski for decades but they still continue to make

films. It takes more than just hurling abuse around the internet for something to happen.

Unfortunately there is also a decent chance now that some of these allegations are untrue, an argument already co-opted by misogynistic rhetoric to try and devalue the movement as a whole. However, false accusations - though rare - should be treated seriously and I doubt the internet mob have done their research. The mob mentality of the court of Twitter isn't where the fates of these men should be de-

Efforts shouldn't be focused on eradicating these men

”

cided. Unfortunately, it was the only place where these women and men could get their voices heard but very little beyond an initial reaction can be achieved there.

The focus of the #MeToo campaign has shifted from the voices that have been silenced onto the men who have committed these crimes. Furthermore, onto questions about how we consume media produced by, to put it mildly, dodgy individuals. But the question of separating the artist from the art has been going on for centuries with no actual answer. At the end of the day it's personal preference as to where the line is drawn, but again, the focus shouldn't be on this. We're not the victims because we might have to feel a bit bad while watching House of Cards or, god-forbid,

not watch it at all. Efforts shouldn't be focused on eradicating these men, but instead on building a platform and support network for those who have spoken out. Though, this route of long-term change is more difficult; so not as attractive to an internet mob where social movements can become akin to fashion accessories. The movement from #MeToo to #TimesUp is hopefully showing a move away from singular stories towards systematic change. The outpouring of voices of the #MeToo movement was important, but creating a list of anyone who has had allegations against them to be banished from Hollywood is only a band-aid solution. And when the list starts to dry up - as it already has - the campaign will begin to lose some momentum. If it takes more allegations to create more action then what would have been the point of it all?

As the Time's Up campaign itself argued, "Access to prompt and comprehensive legal and communications help will mean empowerment for these individuals and long term growth for our culture and communities as a whole." Maybe these men might go to an actual court for their crimes if the victims have legal advice, as opposed to just having to disappear from the public eye for their sins - perhaps only temporarily - with only millions of dollars to wipe away their tears.

The outcry of the general public is still focused on tearing down men as opposed to building up their female and male victims. The names seared in people's minds are still the names of the offenders; the people whose voices who are apparently being heard for the first time are being swiftly forgotten.

## EDITOR'S OPINION

### Hitting the Bullseye

James Hare



I was scrolling through Twitter when I stumbled upon a trip down memory lane. Bullseye, a favourite of mine in the 1980s TV show category, was mentioned by a nice gent by the name of David Hill. Hill's reason for recalling the show (and legendary host Jim Bowen) was due to the way it was an expression of working class identity, specifically the depiction of solidarity with those suffering from the horrors of unemployment (thanks, Thatcher). It made me think about what exactly there is for working class identity to coalesce around today.

Now before I travel down this rabbit hole, I should probably first set out the position of bias from which I approach this. I will freely admit that any claim to myself being working class is somewhat difficult to make, having lived in rural North Yorkshire for seven years and being relatively fortunate to find myself in the position that I am now in.

But on the other hand, I am well aware of how difficult it was, and still is, for my forebears. My grandmother has never had anything more than a minimum wage job, living in a council house her entire life, and I'm the first Hare in a thousand generations to reach university. Before I moved to the South (relative term) at the age of 11, the downtrodden backdrop of Teesside was all I had ever known. So while I cannot lay claim to being properly working class, I can make a better fist of empathising with someone in a jobcentre queue than a member of the liberal metropolitan elite - e.g. the current Labour leadership.

Returning to the original train of thought, the issue now is that working class identity has been systematically undermined by the

events of the last 40 years. The closure of traditional industries such as coal and steel has resulted in hollowed out communities, bereft of anything to unify themselves around - and therefore to use as pillars to support their cultural identity. Not only have many areas of the country been cleansed of productive economic activity, it feels at times as if they have been cleansed of their spirit as well.

For evidence of this, look no further than the backlash against immigration in many deprived areas since the turn of the century. Communities which had for generations grounded themselves in principles of equality and solidarity now seem to be turning inwards upon themselves, distrusting a group of people who are equally as marginalised as themselves. To the untrained eye, it can look simply like brazen prejudice and racism. But placed in the cultural context, it should not be so surprising.

In the turbulent economic times of the 1980s, these communities held themselves together against the savagery of the state through their collective identity and the beliefs inherent within it. The economic decline that followed sucked away the pride in that identity, and therefore when new arrivals came to these shores in the early 2000s following the EU's eastern enlargement, with much to - rightly be proud about, it shouldn't surprise anyone that a perceived threat provoked a visceral reaction.

Yet just as that did occur, it need not be that it continues to be that way. The challenge is finding a way to help working class communities restore their pride in where they live. That in itself is a whole, much longer article, but greater investment in deprived areas, more power for local people and better representation of working class people in key positions would all be good ways to start. After all, restoring lost pride would top even the best prize anyone could ever have won on Bullseye.



IMAGE: NULLFY

"Now before I travel down this rabbit hole..."





**Theresa May**  
@theresamay1956

literally can't be fucked with Brexit anymore tbh x 20 June 2017



**Dr Fern Riddell**  
@FernRiddell

They chose to put bombs on trains, burn down MP's houses, churches, carry out acid + chemical attacks, and they were bloody proud of doing so. Being pardoned for these actions would have been the last thing the Suffragettes would have wanted.

07 Feb 2018



**James Kurdziel**  
@cadebellaigue

Tom Brady walks off field without shaking hands: "fierce competitor, hates losing"

Cam Newton walks off field without shaking hands: "classless thug, doesn't get it"

5 Feb 2018



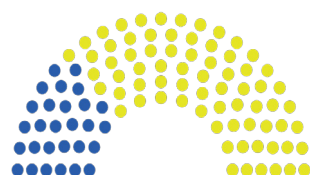
**Jon Stone**  
@jonstone

The Berlin Wall has now been down as long as it was up, 10316 days.

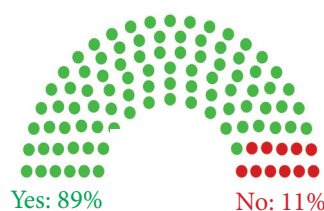
4 Feb 2018

## BY THE NUMBERS CAMPUS POLLS

Who does the best meal deals?



Should the University of York hold a Vice Chancellor's Question Time?



Source: Nouse

# CLASH OF COMMENTS

Should students support their striking lecturers?

YES.

**Ed Smith**



I recently watched *Made in Dagenham*. For those who are not familiar, it is a film centred on the causes, impacts, and success, of the 1968 sewing machinists' strike at the Ford factory in Dagenham. The strikers - who were predominantly female - ultimately achieved the equal pay and improved working conditions they sought through government policy, despite undergoing unjust pressure and angst from the male manufacturing workers and employers. The point I am getting at is that anyone on strike should be supported if they are facing unjust discrimination, which includes a sharp reduction in their pensions.

The issue of the upcoming lecturer strikes is highly contentious, which has led one university student to set up a petition seeking compensation from the strike action because of contact time lost. Nevertheless, regardless of claims for compensation, university lecturers should be supported for the strike indefinitely, for one key reason: the model that was used for stress testing the USS Pension Scheme is based on the false assumption that all university lecturers will retire effective immediately.

Obviously, this then leads to the question as to why Universities UK (UUK) would want to cut around £10000 per lecturer from the pension fund? I am unsure of the answer to this, but one can assume that it is an attempt to cut costs and save money, so it is good to know that austerity, in its most basic form, is still living and breathing. I am being sarcastic, obviously.

I personally think that what is particularly comical about the use of the flawed stress test model. Is the attempt to fool the very people they rely on to give expert advice. They are trying to fool the experts. I don't know about you, but this seems very futile, particularly as many of the lecturers who are having their pensions cut teach and conduct research about the various models that can be used to, for example, increase economic productivity. Thus, the attempt to deceive the experts is humiliating for the University, who are supporting the cuts to the pension fund. It shows that despite all the boasts or statistics about how incredible York is as an institution, they have the audacity to degrade their own staff and believe that they would take the results at face value and accept the massive cuts.

For that reason alone, it is worth supporting the lecturers. Furthermore, they should be supported because their world-leading academic status deserves the financial and economic backing that one would expect in a society that favours excellent academic qualifications.

Lastly, the lecturers' strike should be supported because they are incredibly and systematically undervalued by many areas of society who see them as lazy, docile individuals that have an easy life with very good job security, and who are perceived to be already overpaid. However, this does not reflect reality as lecturers have had one pay rise of one per cent in the past seven years, which is a wage cut of 15 per cent in real terms. On a personal level, they are the most helpful, resourceful people I have ever met. They are willing to support you as a student or graduate in any way they can, whether it be in changing seminar groups or securing an ideal job position, which will start your career down the path that you desire.

**Jatin Mapara**



University has changed. There was a time when university was a centre for pure academic learning, leftist thinking and political activism. But since the increase in tuition fees in 2012 this has all changed. A once free education that now costs us a pricey £9000 a year has led many, including myself, to see university as an investment as opposed to an experience. I am unapologetic about my desire to see the three years I will spend at university as a means to a well paying job.

So what does this have to do with the upcoming strike? I'm a third year who studies History. The upcoming strikes essentially cripple the last part of my studies as many key deadlines approach in third term. Strikes restrict my access to academic staff and as a result, to education that will be influential in my final push for a strong 2:1. With many of my friends needing to do well in their degrees for reasons varying from securing a graduate job or needing a minimum grade for postgraduate studies; there are real concerns that the student body will be heavily affected by this untimely strike.

The question many of you will probably be wondering is 'so what?' What right does this middle class humanities student have to throw a strop about a group of hard-working academics striking about their pensions?

Well, frankly, none. Pension schemes are a sore topic for many and something that needs to be fixed. It would be foolish for anyone to suggest that the pen-

sions scheme that academics have signed up for is perfect. The major provider of academic pensions, Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS), might be facing a deficit of £17.5bn which is likely to lead to increased working ages and smaller pension for many academics. This is a rather sore medicine for contributors to swallow and it is apparent that their concerns are entirely justified.

If this is all true, why shouldn't students support academic staff? The traditional strike will see a worker withhold their labour to affect the revenues of their employer. However, as we have already paid for our education, the University will not be suffering any loss in revenue. This means that by striking staff, they are doing nothing but affecting the ability of you and I to get the best grade possible, and as a result putting us at a disadvantage when it comes to, hopefully, graduating. This strike is equivalent to expressing your anger at your neighbour by punching your postman.

So while academics are completely justified in their aim for a proper pension, I believe they are protesting in the wrong way. Many of us will be servicing a debt from going to university for the next thirty years of our lives, meaning we can and should expect every possible chance to get the best degree possible.

A strike action now does nothing but hit students disproportionately and hinder our ability to be competitive in the job market following graduation. And so, if you're asking me whether I, as a student, should support academic staff in their strike which, while justified, affects myself as a student but no one else, I believe the answer is very simple. No, we should not.

## #minstergram

Nouse takes a look at what you've been Instagramming recently in York



@edsmoth Don't be fooled it's still -10°C



@bisonyork It's not every day you get a celebrity popping in! Remember us when you're rich and famous Alfie!



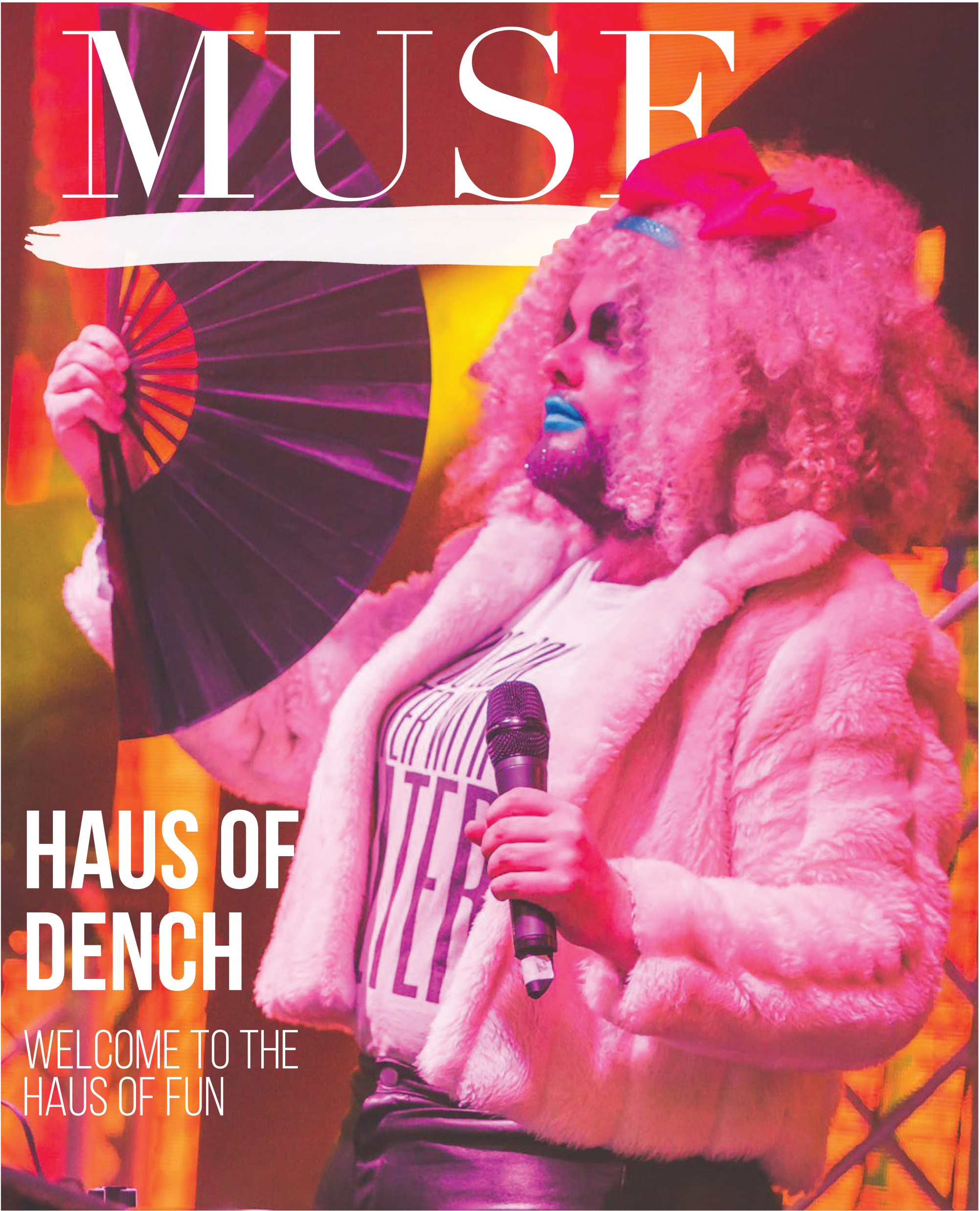
@chloe.dickinson #throwback to my favourite view of York, on the river Foss... hope to go back soon



# MUSE

## HAUS OF DENCH

WELCOME TO THE  
HAUS OF FUN





## FASHION

9

## M9

Fran Carruthers discusses her experiences with Minimalist fashion, while Peter Jacobs and Janan Jama debate "Eco-Fashion"

**M10-11** In collaboration with Everyman Cinema, our shoot editors venture back to the 1920s

## ARTS

**M6** Richard Sleight celebrates the legacy of Ursula K. Le Guin; meanwhile, Charles Ralph argues for bolder creative decisions in theatres

**M7** Stella Newing reflects on the censorship of 'Hylas and the Nymphs' in the Manchester Art Gallery and its implications for our relationship with "unacceptable" art



## FEATURES

**M4** Imogen Bellamy explores the creative and liberating drag scene of York and popular club night hosted by Haus of Dench

**M8** Oscar Bentley interviews the producer of the BAFTA nominated *God's Own Country*

**M16** Seren Hughes discusses the work of human rights defenders and the University's fellowship program supporting them



## FOOD &amp; DRINK

19

## M19

Looking for Valentine's Day or general date ideas? Becky Bowe advises on York's romantic hotspots

Rudolf Barney-Seabra reviews ISA's Food Fiesta and the many tasty offerings of the International societies

## MUSIC

12

## M12

Andy Tallon explores the lack of recognition for female artists at the Grammy's.

Sam Bright makes a case for the continuing importance of radio in the music lover's life

## FILM &amp; TV

**M14** Andrew Young and Emily Taylor survey the career of acting legend Daniel Day-Lewis

**M15** Chay Quinn reflects on the latest rumours of Amazon acquiring the rights to sports streaming. *Muse* attempts to predict the Oscars, drink everytime we get one wrong



## GAMING

17

## M17

Patrick Walker explores the gender divisions in competitive gaming, but suggests it is rapidly improving

Rebecca Cowie considers the effects of "power-ups" in games on real life substance abuse and attitudes to drugs

## TRAVEL

## M18

Sarah Clewes highlights the beauty of Zimbabwe's National Parks

Seren Hughes proves that culturally rich Paris doesn't need to break the bank





*“beating up a tree with its own arms...  
you know you’re not in the best state of  
mind”*



## GABRIEL STEWART ON HIS UNCONVENTIONAL GAP YEAR: WALKING AND EXPLORING 1000 MILES OF THE UK

### What made you want to walk 1000 miles around the UK?

This sounds quite pretentious, but when I was 16, I was sitting on a train looking at the countryside speeding alongside me and just thought ‘I’d like to be out there’. Just walking around. Having a stroll. Then came two years of telling many people about this vague commitment of walking around the UK which led to the realisation that I actually had to do it. So, in short: I looked out of a train window.

### Why did you choose to travel in the UK, rather than abroad (as many gap year students choose to do)?

I wanted to explore the British countryside, I thought I’d have more weird, quirky and interesting experiences when wandering into random village pubs than I would lying on a beach in Bali. I thought Johnno from 22 Woodland Street might have more interesting tales to tell than your fellow white middle class European ‘searching their soul’ for some meaning to their lives.

### What made you decide to write a book about your experiences?

Bill Bryson. That’s all. No, there is more: I was reading *A Walk in the Woods* while I was plodding along and in a way it made me think about writing about my experiences in my own sarcastic and self-deprecating way like he had. At that point, it was just for my own amusement, but then people seemed to like it, so I thought maybe it would be good if others had a read of it too.

### What was the most beautiful place you saw on your travels?

The edge of the South Downs might have to take it: endless plains of Suffolk countryside to the one side, or rolling hills gently flowing to the other, with a kind of smoothness that didn’t seem real. Looking either way, you would be amazed by the beauty surrounding you.

### ... And what was the ugliest (dare I ask)?

I wouldn’t say ugliest because I kind of warm to industrial landscapes decorated by overgrown vegetation. But the suburbs of Ipswich were probably the worst. Seeing horses chained to the floor definitely didn’t fill me with joy. Although, the classic ‘F\*\*k ur mum 2k17’ spray painted on to an underpass almost made up for it. No offence to any suburbanians of Ipswich by the way.

### What was the biggest mistake you made during the trip?

Deciding to do the trip. I joke (kind of). Probably the fact that I didn’t stop even when I knew my feet were pretty buggered. Walking 26 miles with little food is also up there, when you end up beating a tree with its own arms (sticks) you know you’re not in the best state of mind.

### Would you recommend UK travel to students as opposed to going abroad?

Definitely. There’s a lot to see in the UK, stuff you wouldn’t even think existed within our borders. Abroad is expensive and over-

rated, just jump on a bus to somewhere random and have a little pootle.

### What were the worst weather conditions you encountered during your travels, and how did you deal with them?

Rain and wind. Whenever they came along together it wasn’t a very nice experience. Trying to sleep through a storm in the back of a village pub’s car park was probably the hardest; partially broken tarps are not the best protection in such conditions... Waking up to the same joyful conditions and trudging through them for the whole day wasn’t great either. As you can tell, I didn’t really deal with it, I just carried on and hoped it would stop.

### What did you learn from your trip?

Quite a lot. It’s hard to narrow it down to one thing. The importance of eating food and packing light are two essential learning points; walking 20 miles a day with the weight of a donkey attached to your back takes a fair bit out of you. Those are both probably pretty obvious ones but you’d be surprised how hard it is to continuously eat double the amount of calories you usually do to replace the amount you burn. Moaning about having to eat a load of food sounds pathetic, but try eating 5000 calories while walking all day without getting indigestion. It’s surprisingly difficult.

Find out more about *I Went on a Walk* <https://unbound.com/books/i-went-for-a-walk/>

Interview by Fran Carruthers

## EDITOR'S NOTE



### MUSE DEPUTY IZZY MOORE VERSUS VALENTINE'S DAY

It’s that time of year again. Another Valentine’s Day... another Hallmark holiday... another year of your friends excessively posting on Facebook about how lucky they are to have found “Mr/Mrs Right”. Luckily, I, your dedicated deputy, have produced a simple guide to surviving the romantic season:

Ignore it.

Surprise! This column has been commandeered by a force much more potent and useful than having a Snapchat worthy date. *Self-acceptance*. Admittedly, not the easiest to just “acquire.” However, I’d advocate at least trying to accept yourself, flaws and all. In short, stop worrying. Fuck it. We’re floating on a rock in space. Stop scrolling down Instagram and wishing for a better Valentine’s Day. What does “better” even look like? Probably not worth the hype you’re giving it.

Of course I’m just one voice among the growing rabble of ‘self-help’ gurus, each promoting a different sponsored path to happiness. Truth is, these people have no idea what they’re talking about when it comes to you. In fact, let’s settle the debate now and establish that no one has any insight into anyone else except themselves. Sound pessimistic? Or downright wrong? Good! That’s the kind of critical approach you need when you’re scrolling through V-day posts and making comparisons.

Obviously some people are more informed, or healthy, or aspirational than others, so I’m not boldly claiming you should reject everything. In fact, feel free to consider anything you see or read on the internet. Free yourself from the shackles of outright trusting or disregarding. And most importantly doubt, but also consider, your own thoughts. Sound contradictory? Not every small whim and desire you have is going to be good for you. But being a bit kinder towards yourself, lowering your expectations if necessary, accepting you’ll have good days and bad days - it helps.

We’re all different, after all. Not everyone can do yoga everyday. Or whizz off to Paris. You don’t need expensive presents bought for you to be in love. You don’t need to fit a certain mould. Your life doesn’t need to look a certain way. Especially 14 February of all days.

This isn’t to say that if you’re unhappy with yourself you can’t reach that state of “better”. Change is great. But we’re all different and there’s no way to approach happiness, or even love, other than finding your own path.

Be selfish. Be like me and take up your entire column with ramblings instead of *Muse*.

### IMAGE CREDITS

Cover: Baluga Photography  
Opposite, from top: Wikimedia Commons,  
House of Dench, Fox Searchlight,  
Sarah Clews  
Q&A: Gabriel Stewart



# ANYTHING BUT A DRAG

IMOGEN BELLAMY SPEAKS TO THE FACE OF YORK'S OWN DRAG HOUSE - THE HAUS OF DENCH

Crudi Dench has always had an amazing stage presence. She looms over the crowd from the Fibbers stage, helped by impossibly high heels, and works them into a frenzy. Lewd and rude, she sets the mood; the perfect compere and host of York's Lip Sync Lollapalooza. Crudi Dench is the



queen of stopping a night out being a drag.

As the head of York's very own drag house, Haus of Dench, Crudi Dench is the face of the group. With an inclusive mix of drag queens, drag kings, and bio queens, it's easy to see why they have swiftly risen to popularity and prominence. They're at drag races and Pride festivals all over the city and beyond, but their notoriety stems from a club night that's the invention of a former University of York student - Lip Sync Lollapalooza.

While Matt Stallworthy, or Stalls as he is known by his friends, sits across the table from me in Courtyard, it's difficult to see the physical similarities. Unassuming in appearance once the wigs are off and the beard is glitter free, it's hard to believe his alter ego is the head of York's very own drag house. However, as soon as he starts talking, it's obvious from his voice that Stalls and Crudi are the same person.

"I'd always known drag queens were a thing, but I didn't really get into drag until I was 21.

It was a rainy Saturday in February 2015. My housemate at the time, Harriet, and I

“ Depending on the look it can take anywhere between two and four hours to get into full drag

were bored. She suggested that we watch RuPaul's Drag Race. I didn't have any particular interest in it - it was reality TV, which I'm not normally a fan of - but we started watching Season 3, and I was absolutely hooked!

"It wasn't until probably a year and a half later that I started doing drag myself. Haus of Dench originally started in September 2015 as a set of people who wanted to go and see live drag shows in other cities. James Gam-

blin, Molly Parker and I set it up after seeing Latrice Royale in Leeds. It was just a group of friends. We'd chat about drag and what we did and didn't like."

Lip Sync Lollapalooza had initially grown independently of Haus of Dench. Created as part of a ComedySoc event, 24 Hours of Comedy, it was first held in 2015, on-campus and in a Vanbrugh lecture hall. As it grew, the decision was made by Stalls to turn it into a club night. It moved into Bierkeller in April 2016, then went on to take over the main room of Fibbers a year later, where it has stayed ever since.

"It wasn't until we took Lip Sync Lollapalooza into town that Haus of Dench started becoming more of an identity and more of a name - more of a drag group. I didn't have a drag name until a year after it was established, really. Kate Butch and Fanny Snatcher were the first drag queens to grace the Lip Sync Lollapalooza stage and were the first to actually perform. From there, the other members of the group started to get involved too.

"My drag identity was almost inspired by necessity. I'd come up with the name Haus of Dench before I'd thought of Crudi Dench as a name. A lot of American drag houses are named after the 'house mother', or person in charge. I thought, 'Right, well I'm going to have to think of some sort of name relating to Dench.' A couple of our other queens have names that are puns on famous theatrical women, so I wanted something similar with Judi Dench.

"I was known as Miss Dench for a while. Initially, I came up with 'Prudi Dench', but my drag's not that crude - my drag's a lot more crude - so I eventually decided on Crudi Dench.

The best drag names do two things: they're a pun and they really define the queen that you're going to see. With Crudi Dench, it gives off the vibe of her being a little bit messy, a little bit funny, a little bit naughty. It really does match my drag personality."

Haus of Dench is a rarity within British drag culture. Their willingness to perform together follows the American drag house format, rather than the stereotypical British way of operating alone. "We've found that having a house of drag queens is incredibly supportive. We couldn't really do this on our own, and having a group of people to turn to, to ask if something's alright, or if a dress looks good - someone for reassurance that an idea, or a lip sync routine is funny - it's just so nice.

"Depending on the look, it can take anywhere between two and four hours to get into full drag. Then you have to include weeks of researching different makeup and outfits, especially if you're using prosthetics.

In terms of the night we put on, Lip Sync Lollapalooza, it's normally a month of work. We have to design posters and event materials, edit background videos and music, compile DJ sets, and encourage con-



testants to apply. It's a lot of work, much of which I do myself, but I have a very supportive house of drag queens, and my friends, to help me out."

I take a moment to ask Stalls about his personal drag icons, and his enthusiasm is in-

“ It's an inclusive environment; whether you've done drag for years or you're doing it for the first time

fectious. He talks about being inspired by the comedy of Trixie Mattel and Katya Zamolodchikova, who embody the comedic aspect of drag he really enjoys. "The Haus were all comedians before we were drag queens. A lot of drag humour can be very crass and sexual and sometimes inappropriate, whereas we know how to make people laugh and can do so without being offensive."

He also mentioned more local influences for his act: "On a looks level, I'm very much inspired by the drag queens in Manchester. In particular, Cheddar Gorgeous and Anna Phylactic are fabulous queens that I've met at other shows - in fact, Cheddar Gorgeous was the first drag queen that I ever met in person! They were so lovely and they have very club kid inspired looks. They're much more arty than fishy, visually, and that's what I really enjoy. I never go onstage wanting to look like a woman. I want to go onstage looking like a pop star, you know? Something completely out of this world. A lot of the time, I'll call my drag sort of space sci-fi kind of drag, or I will call myself a drag empress just to differentiate myself from the norm."

For Matt Stallworthy, drag is a combination of all of his interests. The comedy is compatible with the improv he does on the side, and the extravagant costumes are reminiscent of when he was a member of PantSoc. His artistic pursuits are also fulfilled, a love of pop art and makeup being intertwined with

IMAGE: JACK RICHARDSON



Crudi Dench's look. Stalls' love of lip syncing also predates drag – “whenever I’ve been out in clubs or anything I’m always lip syncing to the track. It’s something that’s just always been with me.

“Drag hadn’t really entered my life until I was in my twenties, but it’s naturally come about and I couldn’t be happier for it. It’s the perfect culmination of what appeals to me: events, comedy, looking fancy... I think a lot of queen’s drag personas are an elevation of their own personality.

“Crudi Dench is a louder, brasher, completely outrageous version of myself that is just a joy to play. She’s very much a character. It’s not me, Matt Stallworthy, in a wig. It is Crudi Dench. It’s somebody else. And I think in a lot of ways it’s quite nice to have that distinction

Drag is a form of escapism. You can go and watch a drag show, and completely escape

”

between personalities because if I was Crudi Dench all the time I’d be exhausted! Drag is just another avenue of performance, but also possibly my favourite avenue of performance.”

While Stalls has never personally faced social stigma for his drag, there are some drawbacks. The main issue is actually sexual harassment, contrary to my assumption that it would be homophobic abuse. “If we’re in a club or a party, because we are not ‘real women’, occasionally people will think that it’s all right to grab certain parts of us.

“That is not okay. Drag queens, a lot of the time, are quite intimidating presences – you would think we wouldn’t get a lot of that sort of behaviour – but as quick as you’re walking past someone, they can grab you.

“A lot of the time, a drag queen will come back with a quick remark. But sometimes you don’t have the opportunity to do that. Fortunately, in regards to incidents that have happened with me or any of the other Haus of Dench queens, we’ve been able to get security on it immediately. The staff and security have



IMAGE: ELEANOR MASON

been more than helpful at all the venues that we’ve worked at in York, and across the country, whether they’ve been LGBTQ venues or not.”

Although this isn’t ideal, Stalls doesn’t let it bother him, and considers it separate from the political side of drag. “A number of drag queens have said ‘drag is inherently political’. You get a man, or a woman, you put them in opposite gendered clothing, and you’ve made a statement already. You’ve gone against the status quo. It’s already political as soon as a drag king or queen walks onstage. Drag artists can, and have, helped sway certain political movements and campaigns.

“But drag is also a form of escapism. You can go and watch a drag show, and completely escape the horrible outside 21<sup>st</sup> century world for a couple of hours and just have a nice time.” He also had words of advice for anybody wanting to get involved in drag, but who are nervous about it. “Do it! I’m not going to lie – it’s not easy. But you get a lot of satisfaction out of it. It takes practice, but if it’s something you’re interested in, go for it while you can! Go for it while you’re young.

“We’ve recently set up a Facebook group called ‘Yorkshire Drag Performers Network’. We want to spread this page, which anybody can join if they’re interested, and perhaps even start some workshops in York to encourage more people to try drag, because it’s such an amazing form of self-expression and it’s also a massive confidence booster.

“If you contact a drag queen they’re not going to say ‘I’m too busy’, they’ll rarely ignore you. I have a set of drag starter tips that I send out to people interested in drag, and it just helps get them rolling. If you are interested in drag, the best place to try it in York is Lip

Sync Lollapalooza. It’s such an open, inclusive environment; whether you’ve done drag for years or you’re doing it for the first time, you’re very much welcome to perform or to just chill out on the night.”

While Lip Sync Lollapalooza is a big focus for Haus of Dench, it’s not the only thing on their calendar. After performing in shows alongside the most recent RuPaul’s drag race winner, Sasha Velour, they have plans to take their drag acts on tours and to create an Edinburgh Fringe show. In the nearer future, on 18 February they have another Lip Sync Lollapalooza, and then on 7 April have their first wedding. They’re already booked for 9 June, for York’s Pride event.

“We established Haus of Dench a year af-

I never go onstage wanting to look like a woman, I want to go onstage looking like a pop star

”

ter beginning Lip Sync, and from there we’ve done art exhibitions, Pride festivals and music festivals. It’s mad, it’s grown at an insanely fast pace since we founded it.” There’s even international interest – there have been enquiries from Switzerland about drag queens



IMAGE: ELEANOR MASON

who can ski. Stalls laughed, saying, “It will be interesting to see if that happens.

“I can’t really believe this has happened. It’s a strange direction, but a very happy one. I have unending love for my friends and family for their support and getting involved. Drag came at a point where I wasn’t sure what I was doing; in my life, a string of unhappy experiences had left me incredibly low, but Crudi came into my life and brightened up my world and gave me new purpose.”

It is undeniable that Matt Stalls really care about Crudi Dench, his fellow Haus drag queens, and the people who come to their events. And personally, I couldn’t wait for their next one. The club nights, reminiscent of Willow, have wormed their way into students’ hearts and grow every time. Inclusive and fun for everyone, Stalls has created the queen of club nights and changed the face of York’s queer scene in the process. **M**



IMAGE: KATE STEPHENSON



# ON THE PASSING OF A MAGICIAN

RICHARD SLEIGHT REFLECTS ON THE LEGACY OF LEGENDARY FANTASY AUTHOR URSULA K. LE GUIN

Just a day before the release of the previous issue of *Nouse*, one of the modern era's greatest and best-loved writers, Ursula Le Guin, sadly died. Following this, the world has been left a rather less witty, less wise, and altogether less magical place. For my part, as a lover of fantasy and indeed of stories, I am ashamed to say that I have only scratched the surface of Le Guin's work. Yet it is surely a testament to her power and brilliance as a writer that one need only read a few pages of her classic novel *A Wizard of Earthsea* to be assured that her esteemed place in modern literature is fully justified.

The reason why I, in my rather unqualified way, feel right in producing this article at all is because I believe this is someone of whom you cannot really say enough. She was a writer from whom perceptiveness just seemed to emanate; someone with a clear grasp of the things that matter. Even when the distinguished voices of the likes of Margaret Atwood, Neil Gaiman, Stephen Fry and many more have already recognised her life and talent and thus there is little for me to add, I nevertheless feel that one more voice raised in the crowd is no bad thing.

The name of Ursula Le Guin is a halcyon one in the halls of fantasy fiction, sitting easily beside the likes of J.R.R. Tolkien as a modern mythmaker, and as a weaver of magical tales who has influenced countless writers and inspired countless readers. It is in *Earthsea* that we were first captivated by the notion of a school of wizardry; a concept which, as we know, has tremendous power over the hearts and imaginations of children and adults the

world over. In the intrepid company of science fiction writers, her name is held in equally high esteem as a deeply intelligent feminist voice that could transport you, in her Hugo and Nebula award-winning *The Left Hand of Darkness*, to a world where gender as you might have understood it is left behind. But beyond the somewhat uncomfortable confines of genre, she was simply an immensely gifted literary presence, someone who understood the shape and power of words, how to let them breathe and how to conjure worlds into absolute being at their call.

I think one of the things the reader is first struck by as they read *A Wizard of Earthsea* is the easy reality of her worldbuilding. *Earthsea* simply *is*, and you desire to know more. You are immediately present within its geography and its wonders. That is not something easily done and that the novel achieves it so perfectly is truly beautiful. I garnered a great respect for Le Guin on that alone and it endures. When I first bought a copy of T.H. White's novel *The Once and Future King* and saw Le Guin telling me on the front about her lifelong love for it, how she had laughed and cried over it, I wanted to read it all the more. I very literally judged it by its cover. 'Well', I thought, 'If Ursula Le Guin thinks so highly of it then it must be pretty good.' It was.

One of the things I respect most about Le Guin's writing is her sense of the knowledge to be found in the fantastical, of the idealism inherent within it and her empathy for why someone might wish to see the world through the prism of magic or be led to worlds where the rules are not the same. As

she put it: "The direction of escape is toward freedom. So what is 'escapism' an accusation of?"

Of course, this is not to say that there is anything inherently wrong with realism and Le Guin herself was greatly influenced by the likes of Leo Tolstoy. Yet realism, she knew and indeed proved, was only one way into truth. You might call it the front door. Le Guin, meanwhile, discovered the arcane word that opened the secret passageway behind the bookshelf.

In writing this article, desiring to at least a little better inform myself, I went and wandered among the videos of YouTube to listen to some videos of Le Guin giving readings of her poetry. I was completely unfamiliar with any of her poems before this but I was certainly struck by the starkness of their tone, and the sharp tongue of her human sympathy as it comes across in a poem called 'Soldiers', where she laments the nature of sending loved ones to war as she has seen it across the generations.

It was a different experience to watching another video in which she gave a reading of *A Wizard of Earthsea* at the Washington Centre for Performing Arts in 2008. Yet in hearing both spoken by the writer, the same sensibilities, the same compassionate wisdom, clearly came across. It is on the subject of this reading that I find a good point on which to end. "Thank you all for being readers", Ursula Le Guin addressed the audience, "writers do like readers." I shall take these words as an invitation to return to the magic of her writing and I advise everyone else to journey with me.

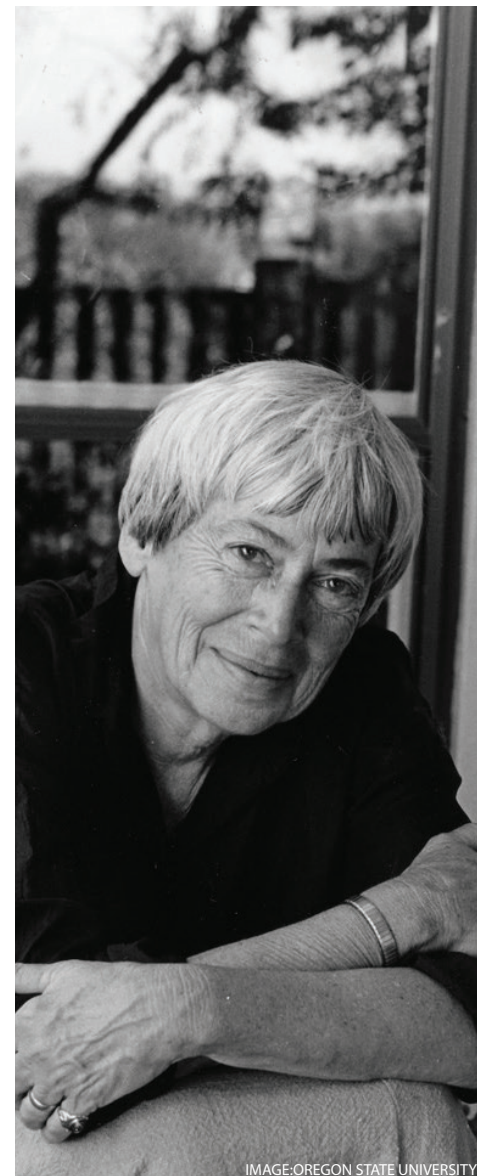


IMAGE: OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

# EMBRACING THE UNORTHODOX AND THE UNKNOWN

CHARLIE RALPH LAMENTS THE UNWILLINGNESS TO BRING UNUSUAL ART TO THE WORLD OUTSIDE OF CENTRAL LONDON

At Sadler's Wells later this year, world-renowned sculptor Antony Gormley will debut a new dance piece in which performers will create, reshape and destroy more than three tonnes of clay. Though this work has yet to be seen by the general public, its presence has already caused a ripple of excitement simply due to the bizarre nature of its fusion of dance and sculpture. There is no doubt that this production would not have the widespread appeal of, for example, the touring production of *Cabaret* starring Will Young - which, it should be noted, was of an extremely high quality when it toured Britain's provinces last year. However, to deny any place at all for these other kinds of art, either through a lack of funding or general willing-

ness to take risks on behalf of touring companies, is to deny those who lie outside of a few small metropolitan bubbles access to a rich vein of unusual art.

The appeal of the absurd has been shown to stretch further than ever among the younger generation. Musician Bill Wurtz has over 2.2 million subscribers on YouTube for his short, absurdist jingles about soap and existential crises. Likewise, hugely popular content creators like Alan Resnick and Felix Colgrave are creating viral sensations out of bizarre horror shorts catching fire on social media. Now is the time more than ever when arts companies should be willing to diversify their roster and take a chance on the unusual; yet for the most part even the smaller studios in large regional

venues are reserved for bare bones, one-man-shows and traditional children's productions. This is not to say that these venues and some companies do not take chances: York Theatre Royal played host to Frantic Assembly's *Things I Know To Be True* last year, and alt-comedy cult stars like John Kearns and Rob Auton are finding their footing in clubs up and down the country. But there is still more to be done if the roster of local theatre shows is to reflect the diverse tastes of the nation.

It has become the natural assumption that young people simply don't want to go to the theatre. It is assumed that the plush seats are reserved for elderly couples going to see their 13<sup>th</sup> production of *Much Ado About Nothing*. In accordance with that, young the-

atre companies are encouraged to iron out their attractive creases in order to appeal to this assumed mature audience instead. But the audience is out there for the weird and wonderful, and forcing people to trek down to London or up to the Edinburgh Fringe to find that sweet surreal spot is unfair to a nation of burgeoning artists.

Arts Council funding, as well as other grants, should ideally be used not to rest money on safe bets but to encourage the unusual. These productions are of varying quality - some very high - but in order to provide something for everyone it is the duty of these theatres and arts companies to get in touch with their wild side and try dancing around with some clay for a change.



IMAGE: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



# WATERSHED FOR WATERHOUSE

STELLA NEWING WONDERES IF WE'RE APPROACHING AN AGE OF ART CENSORSHIP



In recent weeks, the #MeToo debate has made its way from the world of film to the world of art, with Manchester Art Gallery's controversial decision to take down JW Waterhouse's 'Hylas and the Nymphs'. The painting has since been returned to its original display, following the criticism that its removal provoked. However, its absence created a disconcerting feeling that the boundaries of artistic expression are tightening. Just how beneficial is it to apply modern day concerns to cherished items of historical culture?

The piece, originally painted by John William Waterhouse in 1896 and showing a mythical scene of naked nymphs luring Hylas to his death, was removed to "prompt conversation about how we display and interpret art-work". The gallery said that the decision was inspired by the #MeToo debate and was an attempt to "challenge this Victorian fantasy of the female body as either a passive decorative form or a femme fatale". It was also intended as part of an upcoming exhibition by artist Sonia Boyce, who is renowned for work involving the concept of 'removing'. Interestingly, Sonia Boyce had not commented on the story at the time of writing, despite the huge media attention the exhibition has garnered.

In place of the painting, the gallery left a space where visitors could write post-it notes

Just how beneficial is it to apply modern day concerns to historical culture?

detailing their thoughts and reactions, many of which were highly critical and dismissive of the act. Outrage at the stunt was echoed online, with one tweet from @AliRadicali reading, "If removing art to appease establishment

mores is 'art' then I guess the Nazis were pioneers in the field".

So, a clever publicity stunt or the prising open of a worrying can of worms? There's no doubt that Manchester Art Gallery's aim to invite debate has succeeded. Its subsequent hasty replacement of the painting would indicate that the removal was a genuine artistic decision, rather than a media-grabbing ploy. Generally speaking, technical staff responsible would not work on a weekend, when the Waterhouse was replaced. It would seem that the gallery could not even wait until Monday to placate the overwhelmingly negative public response. What critics have voiced, however, is the idea that the original act adds nothing constructive to the issue posed and even questioned whether it really has any relevance at all.

Dr Liz Prettejohn, Professor of Art History here at the University of York has previously curated an exhibition of JW Waterhouse's work, which was shown in the Netherlands, London and Montreal, and which included the now infamous 'Hylas and the Nymphs'. She told *Muse*, "At the University of York, what we're interested in doing is having real discussions around art objects and looking very closely at the work. We would never think you could have a debate without actually being able to engage closely with actual work. You can't talk about the issues unless you're actually looking at the art. The visual ways in which the content is represented are part of the content." She went on to say, "I find it interesting that the Victorians are always being accused of being too moralistic. Well, who's too moralistic here?"

It certainly seems counter-intuitive to a culture of open discussion and opinion. Indeed, the absence of the painting would imply that there is only one correct answer- yes, it is morally condemnable in its depiction of women. Dr Prettejohn highlighted the fact that not only had the painting been removed from the gallery, but also the postcards. "That seems like censorship more than an attempt to start a debate."

Surely a viewer of the painting would

be capable of understanding it alongside its original context, in order to achieve a more holistic appreciation of the work. If this is not the case, then we begin to rewrite history, carefully removing the aspects which no longer sit comfortably with us. Waterhouse was a Romantic painter, taking inspiration from the legend of 'Jason and the Argonauts', in which the warrior, Hylas, was ensnared by the beau-

Is it possible that we are approaching an age of cultural hysteria?

tiful water nymphs on an island, resulting in his ship being forced to leave without him. Artistic interpretations of Greek mythology and the Romantic interest in the female nude are both being edited to suit Manchester Art Gallery's political stance.

It must be considered that, in its own right, Waterhouse's work was a vital aspect of the depiction of women in it. His paintings often reflect a fascination with sensual and powerful women. Certainly, they do not resonate with our modern-day ideals of female independence, but neither do many episodes of the hit TV series *Friends*! Progress cannot be made without first understanding what came before it. A comprehensive knowledge of art history; the highs, the lows, the successes, and the controversies, is crucial, particularly when it comes to a topic such as #MeToo, to appreciate the full picture (pun not intended). How can one begin to form opinions on the issue without assessing the spectrum of ways that women have been portrayed throughout history?

The work of Waterhouse and his contemporaries would likely have been used by the Hollywood designers and directors who prompted the #MeToo debate as visual aids

and inspiration over the decades.

What the gallery has done is invite a whole new question: is the preservation of art that depicts morally reprehensible views no longer acceptable? 'Hylas and the Nymphs' is an undeniably beautiful and historically loved painting: does its portrayal of females that use their sexuality to tempt men to their untimely fate really annul that? If so, then how many other culturally celebrated artefacts would meet the same fate? *Lolita*, with its paedophilic protagonist, would presumably be consigned to the intellectual store room in order to avoid any suggestion that Penguin Books condoned a sexual proclivity for children.

This is not the first attempt to censor an artistic display in recent years. In December, an online petition was started, demanding that New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art remove Balthus' 1938 painting 'Therese Dreaming', on the grounds that it romanticised the sexualisation of children. The campaign gained over 6000 signatures in support before the Met refused to comply with the request. As the *Guardian's* Jonathan Jones argued, throughout history people have consistently found reasons to moderate and censor art, from Nazi Germany to the Reformation. In an article discussing the Balthus scandal, he asked, "Do we really want modern liberalism to ape such illiberal precedents?" Interrogation of art that we find morally contentious is essential. But to wipe it from existence altogether, as increasingly seems to be the preference, raises serious concerns about the state of artistic development.

Is it possible that we are approaching an age of cultural hysteria, where fears about breaking laws on social appropriateness are stifling artistic expression? When asked what other artists would have to be removed from the public gaze, if the logic of the Manchester Art Gallery were applied elsewhere, Dr Prettejohn looked alarmed. "We'd have to get rid of Titian, half of the Parthenon sculptures, most of the figures from Ancient Art, Rubens, and a lot of contemporary artists like Sarah Lucas, the Chapman brothers. We'd have to get rid of the lot!" **M**



# 'HOW CAN A FILM BE GAY?'

OSCAR BENTLEY TALKS TO THE PRODUCER OF BAFTA NOMINATED *GOD'S OWN COUNTRY* ABOUT LGBT FILM, BREXIT, AND YORKSHIRE



Jack Tarling is an example that anyone can make it in the film industry. Deciding that he wanted to make films from aged 16 (initially as a director, but due to his own admission, just because he didn't really know what roles there were in filmmaking), he studied Film Production at Northumbria University and within a few weeks of graduating managed to get a £1000 commission for a one minute film. Fast forward ten years and he's the producer of the critically acclaimed, BAFTA nominated film *God's Own Country*.

*God's Own Country* follows Yorkshire sheep farmer Johnny Saxby, played by BAFTA EE Rising Star nominee Josh O'Connor, whose boring life is changed forever when Romanian worker Gheorghe (Alec Secareanu) is employed to help out during lambing season. It's a tender, slow burn film.

*God's Own Country* began life at a networking event four years ago, where Jack met writer/director Francis Lee and fellow producer Manon Ardisson. It's an event where Jack must have heard over a hundred ten minute pitches, so I asked Jack why it was this project that caught his eye: "I'd actually gone thinking I was looking for a certain type of project: I was looking for contained, genre films, and [*God's Own Country*] isn't that, obviously. But Francis was very clear with the story he wanted to tell, and in the ten minute pitch that he gave me, he outlined that, and it had a clear beginning, middle, and end. I knew what he wanted to say and I knew he'd be able to tell that in a very unique way."

Since its premiere at Sundance a year ago, where it picked up the gong for World Cinema Directing, *God's Own Country* has proved to be the critical darling, picking up another prize at the Berlin International Film Festival, a sweep at the British Independent Film Awards including Best British Independent Film, and is in contention for Outstanding British Film at this weekend's BAFTAs. Why is it then that audiences have connected so strongly to this story? "It's an authentic story", Jack postulates. "Francis was very true to himself, and the characters and story he wanted to tell, and avoided being pushed and pulled in different directions that would have made for a more confusing, less well-rounded film. But I think it's a film that has struck a bit of a zeitgeist at the moment. A lot of people have talked about it being the first post-Brexit film, which was a coincidence as we'd already

shot the film before we even knew there was gonna be a vote."

Jack's Brexit point intrigued me, as *God's Own Country* certainly plays off the cultural dynamics which inevitably led to the vote. At the start of the film, Johnny is antagonistic towards Gheorghe when he arrives. It's really to do with his frustrations with his life and how his father dictates how to run the farm, but it comes out as brash xenophobia; Johnny labels Gheorghe 'Gypo' repeatedly until Gheo-

“

It's a love story,  
which just happens  
to be between  
two men

rghe finally has had enough and fights back. Does the film investigate British society's antagonism towards immigrants? "I think there's some hostility towards the character of Gheorghe in the film", Jack agrees. "Francis had a friend that was from Eastern Europe who he worked with and heard those kinds of stories, and so he wanted to talk about that feeling of coming over and finding you're met with suspicion and being undermined by people around you through something which is totally beyond your control. There's a sense that, whether or not Brexit was going to happen from parts of the country that [an anti-immigrant] sentiment exists."

With films like *God's Own Country* in the UK and the Oscar hot ticket *Call Me by Your Name* in the US finally achieving mainstream success and admiration, I put it to Jack that perhaps 2017 was the year of LGBT cinema. And while he agrees that LGBT cinema has finally captured the zeitgeist, Jack is clear that *God's Own Country* was not developed as a 'gay film'. "An interesting point about when we were developing this film is that this isn't a gay film, because 'how can a film be gay?' was a joke that we used to have. It's a love story, which just happens to be between two men."

Jack also believes that while the LGBT community provided a core audience for the

film, for it to be successful they had to break out to a wider audience. "This film was never gonna play at the massive multiplex Odeon, it's not that kind of film. It was always going to be at the more independent cinemas. Those kinds of audiences are generally quite liberal so we didn't feel they would have a problem with the fact that the relationship is between two men. So if you imagine that's what those audiences go and see at those kind of cinemas, so we felt that if we made the film well and it got the four or five star reviews we would get that audience regardless of what the relationship was, but we would have this additional core of this LGBT audience, who have been amazingly supportive of the film. Had this film featured a straight couple, we might have only had that one audience."

*God's Own Country* is an incredibly raw story. It's dominated by handheld camera work, a bleak colour palette, and a lack of music and dialogue. Even the beautiful views of the Yorkshire countryside aren't seen until Johnny opens up; he's spent his life growing up here, they're not that exciting to him. It's when Gheorghe arrives that the frame opens up and the landscapes are in view. "I think the key thing for us was that we didn't want anything to distract from the journey the characters were on, everything was led by them and the aim was to create intimacy with them. You don't want flashy camera moves or songs whacked on which tell people how to feel because actually you're getting your emotional connection from what you're witnessing. It's a case of stripping everything back and making sure that every single element had to justify its place."

Jack's next film almost couldn't be further from the small character drama of *God's Own Country*. *Await Further Instructions* is a horror film, where the dysfunctional Milgram family awake on Christmas day to find a black substance covering their house and the words 'Stay Indoors and Await Further Instructions' blazing on the TV. It's a film Jack's been involved with for nine years. It was actually shot before *God's Own Country*, and was intended to be his feature film debut, but has taken much longer in

post production – some of which was done at the University's Department of Theatre, Film and Television – leading to *God's Own Country* being released first. "[*Await Further Instructions*] was privately financed," Jack explains, "so it's not a film that's come through the public system that exists with iFeatures, BFI, or Creative England, but that is not uncommon for something that's more of a genre film, as they're seen as being more commercial."

So, Jack's the producer on one of this year's BAFTA Outstanding British Film nominees. Has he found himself receiving offers left, right, and centre? Not quite. "As a producer the onus is usually on you to generate momentum so it's usually really down to me to call people up to have a meeting." That's not to say it hasn't opened up his career though: "You still get asked all the same questions [by film financiers], but I can more or less get meetings with whomever I want now which is really helpful." M





# A MAXIMALIST'S GUIDE TO MINIMALISM

FRAN CARRUTHERS MAKES A TENTATIVE FORAY INTO THE GROWING TREND OF MINIMALIST FASHION AND LIFESTYLE

**D**isclosure: I am hardly the ideal advocate for minimalist fashion. I like my prints bold, my colours bright and my fabrics impractically ostentatious, and in spite of my best efforts, I still have to force my (admittedly tiny) drawers shut as they bulge with clothing. So no-one was more shocked than I was when I became drawn towards minimalism.

Minimalism is a lifestyle based upon the premise of living with only what we need; valuing every item we have, rather than surrounding ourselves with unnecessary stuff. My first insight into minimalism came from watching the documentary *Minimalism: A Documentary about the Important Things* (2015). Created by friends Joshua Fields Millburn and Ryan Nicodemus, the pair bonded when they decided to eschew the traditional American Dream, in favour of drastically downsizing their material possessions and touring the US to share their less-is-more philosophy.

While the film is unbearably cliché at points, it delivers a profound message about the impact of advertising on our lives. Watch-

ing a montage of shoppers pushing each other aside to grab bargains on Black Friday, I realised two things. Number one: I am not that bad. Number two: as much as I would like to deny it, I too am within the same spectrum of being brainwashed by advertising to fill my life with unnecessary stuff.

True, I may not be willing to injure a fellow shopper for a flat screen TV, but I have certainly bought items in the belief that they would make my life better.

The reason why our demand for clothing has increased is arguably due to fast fashion. Back in the fifties, designers used to release new collections four times a year, while nowadays new clothing is released into shops every single week.

This system is designed to make us feel constantly out of fashion, so that we scurry out and purchase yet another garment – but as a result, fabrics have declined in quality and prices have dropped, as retailers compete to sell the cheapest clothing.

This brings us to a further issue with fast fashion: labourers have to pay the cost. In the documentary *The True Cost* (2015), it was reported that 97 per cent of the clothing

sold in the US is produced elsewhere, largely in developing countries. Wages are appallingly low, hours are long and conditions are unsafe for workers. The charity War on Want reports that, “the majority of garment workers in Bangladesh earn little more than the minimum wage, set at 3000 taka a month (approximately £25), far below what is considered a living wage”.

It is not possible to fully express the detrimental impact of fast fashion within the space of a single article; nor is it any easier to suggest how to unlearn this cultural drive to buy and accumulate more stuff. But through minimalism, I hope to provide an outline for what a more purposeful, simplistic approach to dressing could look like.

The first step towards creating a minimalist wardrobe is decluttering. Take each item from your wardrobe and ask yourself – do I truly love this garment? Have I worn it in the last six months? Does it fit me properly? If not, donate or sell it. Secondly, focus on building a wardrobe around items that are marked out by timeless appeal. For some, this might mean making a capsule wardrobe consisting of very few pieces. Just look to websites such as Project 333, a minimalist challenge that requires participants to wear no more than 33 items of clothing, footwear, and accessories for three months.

One of my biggest qualms with minimalism was that my wardrobe would descend into the realms of the bland and boring, be-

cause when you own fewer clothes they have to coordinate, which is usually associated with a neutral colour palette and practical fabrics. I like plain clothes, but usually only when paired with bolder, more outlandish items. Surely I am not the only aspiring minimalist struggling with my inner maximalist?

Personally, I have found a happy medium from maintaining a relatively small wardrobe, decluttering every few months, selling unwanted items and buying second-hand. I cannot claim to be an expert, and know that as much as I attempt to minimise I will always be in conflict with the 'more is more' voice in my head. But it is a start. Ultimately, the fashion world will be forced to embrace minimalism, as the real threats of climate change and depleting natural resources will necessitate reduced consumption. Until then, we might as well get some practice in.



IMAGE: CREATIVE COMMONS

# FASHION FIGHT: IS ECO-FASHION THE WAY FORWARD?

PETER JACOBS AND JANAN JAMA ARGUE ABOUT WHERE ECO-FASHION BELONGS IN THE FUTURE OF THE FASHION SCENE

**Yes** Oh for more space to wax lyrical about eco-fashion; I'd give a lot. Eco-fashion is, for many reasons, the way forward. If fashion wants to remain the dynamic force that it has always been then it needs to welcome this movement, not join with the dinosaurs of our world who vehemently deny any evidence of global warming.

Children are suffering. In countries like Benin, Uzbekistan and India, regulatory states are so underdeveloped that they cannot regulate to prevent child labour from producing our cut-price clothes. This means that children are not only being forced to stunt their development to cater to our desire for cheap hoodies but are suffering or even dying because of awful workplace conditions. The eco-fashion movement is as much about these

kids as it is about helping the planet.

Consider the planet. One cotton t-shirt requires at least 357 gallons of water to make. That's the equivalent of seven bathtubs of water. The Institute of Sustainable Communication ranked the clothing industry as the second highest polluter of clean water. Over 150 billion pieces of clothing are produced each year and this creates pollution in areas of attainment of product, manufacture, and distribution to name but a few. This has led Forbes to credit the apparel industry as responsible for 10 per cent of carbon emissions globally.

Thus, the movement against global warming cannot be confined to the cars we drive or the food we eat. Clothing is everyday and we must be brave in welcoming the eco-fashion movement. *PJ*

**No** The ultimate argument regarding eco-fashion is whether fashion can ever be absolutely sustainable and ethical. Does the use and manufacturing consider broader environmental/socio-economic aspects and does the process truly honour the people, skills, time and elements involved in the process? Well, let's be realistic...

If you want to be a morally principled consumer, I agree, you must acknowledge the manpower behind your maxi dress and the labour behind your leather jacket. But we must recognise that the gradual rollout of eco-fashion is a micro approach in a goliath industry. The intention itself is of course well-meaning: to simply not contribute to harm. However, in the fashion industry, it's important to consider how this interferes with individual con-

sumers and personal aesthetics. The beauty of fashion is that it is the most basic form of expression. Placing a specific framework of sustainable consumption on this very concept counters that ideal entirely and stomps on the aforementioned freedom of self-expression.

Asserting a realist perception of whether true sustainability in fashion can ever be achieved demonstrates the unattainability of it. Fast fashion solely relies on accelerated consumption, which results in bad quality and then inevitably, waste. We also need to recognise that ethics interferes with individual aesthetics and perhaps going green isn't for everyone. And although conscious branding is a well-meaning sentiment, a small-scale method is not the most effective way to mend the morality in fashion. *JJ*

## FASHION IN FILM ROBYN BALL EXPLORES SOME OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL FASHION MOMENTS IN FILM HISTORY



IMAGE: JUROW-SHEPHERD

Breakfast at Tiffany's (1961) Where would we be without Audrey Hepburn's Givenchy Little Black Dress? Breakfast at Tiffany's earned its icon status for the opening sequence. Hepburn's timeless dress spawned a resurgence of little black dresses among women and countless replicas.

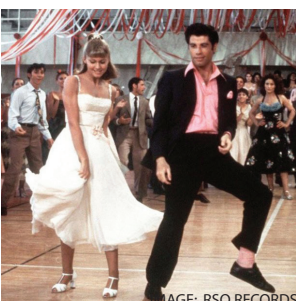


IMAGE: RSO RECORDS

Grease (1978) So much can be said about the costume design that it can be quite hard to know where to begin. From slick quiffs, leather jackets, pink bomber jackets and Sandy's transformation from wholesome and naive student to Pink Lady; the costume design transforms Grease from high-school drama to cult level.

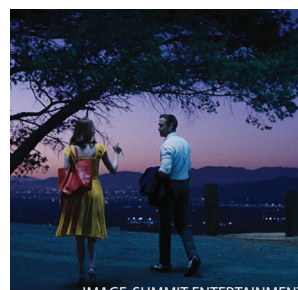


IMAGE: SUMMIT ENTERTAINMENT

La La Land (2016) With all the drama surrounding the Oscar for Best Picture, it is easy to forget the effervescent beauty that is its costume. The sheer range of colours and textures used to create the array of costumes marks it as something truly special. As the film is fairly recent, only the test of time will examine its fashion longevity.



Shoot Editors: Daisy Wallis and Lily Abel





# THE ROARING TWENTIES

WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO EVERYMAN CINEMA YORK FOR  
PROVIDING THE PERFECT BACKDROP TO CELEBRATE THE  
GLITZ AND GLAMOUR OF  
1920S HOLLYWOOD





# DO WOMEN IN MUSIC NEED TO 'STEP-UP'?

ANDY TALLON LOOKS AT THE GRAMMY AWARDS, AND THE ONGOING ISSUE OF RECOGNITION FACED BY FEMALE ARTISTS

Who runs the world? If this year's Grammy Awards were anything to go by, the answer would be very depressing indeed. 24 of the 25 major awards from the broadcast went to male nominees, with only Alessia Cara prevailing, as Best New Artist. A backlash subsequently ensued, and in response, the President of the Grammys, Neil Portnow, issued a now infamous statement. He acknowledged that women in the industry face great obstacles, and yet he in-

“ Less than 20 per cent of entries into the Hot 100 were by women in 2017

sisted that in order to deserve awards, female musicians needed to “step up”. He implied that if women were sufficiently creative and passionate, there would be no reason for the Recording Academy not to recognise it. It was an undoubtedly tone-deaf response, and it set the internet alight. One of the ceremony's performers, Pink, wrote on Twitter that “when we celebrate and honour the talent and accomplishments of women, and how much women step up every year, against all odds, we show the next generation of women and girls and boys and men what it means to be equal, and

what it looks like to be fair”. The message has since been retweeted 32000 times. In addition to that, 20 female artists and executives have penned a letter calling for Portnow to resign, feeling he is incapable of fairly representing the accomplishments of women in music.

Undoubtedly, there were women who ‘stepped up’ this year and were rightfully nominated. Pink's *Beautiful Trauma* broke records and saw her deliver powerful vocal performances on Grammy-nominated ‘What About Us’ and her titular single. Lorde's *Melodrama* topped countless year-end lists by critics from the *Guardian*, *NME*, *Popjustice* and various other publications, and garnered a nomination for Album of the Year. Lady Gaga's *Joanne* was a heartfelt declaration to her late aunt, released just a few months before a widely-acclaimed Super Bowl performance. And in the most controversial case, Kesha lost out twice at this year's Grammys for Best Pop Vocal Album for *Rainbow* in addition to Best Pop Solo Performance for ‘Praying’. She performed the latter at the ceremony, in an incredibly moving performance and a powerful ode to the #MeToo movement currently sweeping the entertainment industry. Kesha accomplished something bigger than a hit song this year – she made her voice heard when she spoke out as a victim of sexual violence. It was disappointing that the Academy felt this wasn't worthy of accreditation.

But perhaps this is reflective of the industry more widely this year. It's indisputable that in the last few months, a number of new female artists have been more than making their mark. Dua Lipa and Camila Cabello con-

quered the pop charts, SZA's *Ctrl* was widely considered to be one of the best R&B albums of the year, and Cardi B took the world by storm with a combination of an infectious wit and a barnstorming hit in the shape of ‘Bodak Yellow’. But outside of these notable cases, 2017 marked a low for women in the charts – less than 20 per cent of entries into the Billboard Hot 100 were by women in 2017. Admittedly, some of the big female names in music like Adele, Rihanna and Beyoncé took a year off, and Katy Perry surprisingly decided to release a shit album. But even at last year's Grammy Awards, when Beyoncé and Adele took home awards, less than half of the major awards were won by women. This was in a year

where they might be expected to dominate.

This is not to knock the male winners at this year's Grammys. Bruno Mars' *24K Magic* was an infectious display of retro soul, Ed Sheeran's ÷ secured un-

precedented domination of the charts, and Kendrick Lamar's *DAMN.* is widely-recognised as a piece of art. But were Lorde's *Melodrama* and SZA's *Ctrl* not equally creative? Women in music killed it in 2017 – let's hope they're properly recognised for it in 2018.



# STREAMING KILLED THE RADIO STAR

SAM BRIGHT DEFENDS THE IMPORTANCE OF LISTENING TO MUSIC ON THE RADIO IN A RADICALLY CHANGING MUSIC SCENE

We all know the story: in order to make it in the music business you need a combination of talent, drive and sheer dumb luck. For every #1, there are hundreds of songs with 4 plays on Soundcloud. The life of a new artist is a tough one – you've got to run headfirst into an already saturated market with your own sound, and make it through in one piece, hopefully with a few new fans on the other side. It's certainly not a path I'd choose for myself, but I'm thankful for everybody who's picked up a guitar and thought, “Y'know what? I reckon people should listen to what I've got.” Unfortunately, it's an unwelcome truth that the music business is notoriously subject to the whims of big labels. If Sony Music

or EMI want us to hear something, chances are we're gonna hear it constantly. So where does that leave someone without a big label? More importantly, where does that leave you and me? Fresh blood is a necessity to the industry.

Traditionally, radio was the way forward for an artist, and a great way to hear some unheard talent. Get on the airwaves, get heard, sell records. A simple enough formula to follow, and one that has been tried and tested. Radio's great! BBC 6 Music is a favourite of mine, playing a wide variety of tracks. Sticking it on in the background while procrastinating is a great way to discover through osmosis, and the official website makes it easy to find out the track you missed the name of. The BBC even have a project dedicated solely to the propagation of new talent: BBC Music Introducing. According to their website, the artists they've “introduced” have gone on to release 14 UK #1 singles, 68 UK Top 10 singles, 28 UK #1 albums and 54 UK Top 10 albums. Not bad for 11 years on the airwaves, right? Their hit list includes the likes of Slaves

and Jack Garratt. Other independent specialised stations are common, too. I was a heavy Kerrang! listener in my youth, and they did a great job of forming my early taste in music. There's plenty available, but the choice really does depend on your tastes. There's even some on-campus options – University Radio York has nightly specialist music programmes that showcase tunes from a variety of genres, and their URY Music: The New Music Show on a Saturday night curates the top 10 tracks of the week, and takes a look at up-and-coming records.

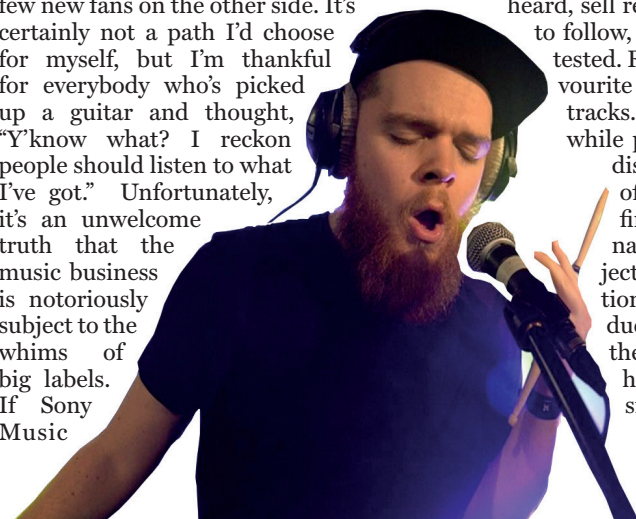
So, what's the problem? Kind of a big one, actually. In late 2017 Digital Music News published an article prophecising the death of radio. Citing a study by Musonomics, it revealed that Generation Z (kids born after 2000) don't bother with the radio anymore. According to the study, the charts are increasingly defined by digital services, rather than the radio, and streaming has become a bigger source of revenue for artists. In a nutshell, radio listeners have dropped in favour of Spotify, Youtube and other streaming services. People are relying on their own initiative to refine their tastes and discover new artists. In theory: great! In practice? I'm not sure I have enough faith in my 14 year old brother to de-

cide what should be popular.

Let's face it, it's easy to fall into a rut and stick on the same playlist every day. It's a guilty

“ Radio is a wonderful medium, we need to make sure it doesn't die

pleasure, but a habit that needs to be kicked to the curb. The feeling of discovering a new artist and falling in love with music all over again is unparalleled. Sometimes, it takes somebody else to show us something amazing. Radio is a wonderful medium and we need to make sure it doesn't die an agonising death. We'll miss it when it goes, I promise you. Rally behind it, and make sure you support it however you can. Put down your phone and tune in – who knows, someone else's tastes might be better than yours.





FOLLOW US ON SPOTIFY: NOUSEMUSEMUSIC

# RECENT RELEASES

THE MUSE TEAM TAKE A LOOK AT A VARIETY OF UPCOMING AND RECENTLY RELEASED ALBUMS

## FIRST AID KIT

### RUINS

ANDY YOUNG

8/10

After a three-and-a-half year break, Swedish sisters Klara and Johanna Söderberg have returned, with a record that showcases strong songwriting and enough musical variation to keep the album interesting. *Ruins* is an album that perhaps does not contain any 'hits' as such, rather it is a series of songs revolving around a central theme and the same indie-folk style.

Lyricaly, the album turns on love and loss, a less-than-groundbreaking pair it must be admitted. Yet what is clever about the Söderbergs' songwriting is their persistence on this theme and their subtly-shifting

perspectives on it. Broadly, the songs are all about someone who has been in love and left behind, while their partner moves on to adventures new. The songs' views on this vary somewhat. For all the solemn loss on 'Ruins' and palpable sense of pain on 'Nothing Has to Be True', there is a yearning for dreams and independence on 'To Live a Life' and 'Postcard'. The album plays almost like a conversation the singer is having with themselves, oscillating between melancholy and a rousing love of freedom and adventures. There is therefore a consistent knowledge that broken relationships have many facets and many sides. The repeated focus on one concept is kept fresh through a witty self-awareness. The beginning of 'Hem of Her Dress' contains the words 'here we go again', while 'Distant Star' also acknowledges the continued shifting views of one event with the lines: "Well, a goodbye never seems finished/Just like these songs that I write".

The deceptively interesting lyrics are wrapped up in music that doesn't flirt with

any boundaries, but doesn't become stale either. For over half of the album, the band's delicate acoustic strumming is married with sweet harmonies and enough percussion to give them a more dramatic and expansive sound that steers them away from easy Laura Marling comparisons. This is for a while not varied greatly and another weakness perhaps comes in the vocals. Klara has a great, sweet voice that is reminiscent of Joan Baez, but this 'pretty' quality lacks a slight rough edge that it could sometimes do with. When she sings the refrain on 'My Wild Sweet Love', it is the 'Wild' that feels missing.

These minor quibbles are overturned somewhat in the album's closing trio of songs, as if the sisters knew exactly when they were starting to do their formula to death. The title track is darker and moodier than before, while 'Hem of Her Dress' is a welcome surprise, punctuating its stripped-back sound with a sudden animalistic snarl. 'Nothing Has to Be True' is then a fittingly grandiose and passionately-sung ending with an unexpected

close. *Ruins* is an impressive, lyrically interesting record that deftly avoids the pitfalls one might expect of it. Its hummable tunes are underpinned by a heartfelt emotional centre that makes the album a success.



## CAMILA CABELLO

### CAMILA

ANDY TALLON

9/10

Back in December 2016, when Camila Cabello announced that she was leaving Fifth Harmony after the group's most successful year yet, no one expected much from her. Twitter was flooded with 'Beyoncé?!' memes tossing metaphorical eggs at Cabello's stated ambitions to go solo. But fast forward a year and 'Havana' – originally a promotional single – topped the charts in 17 countries, including 5 weeks at #1 in the UK. After chucking out a few songs and changing the title,

Camila's debut album is finally upon us.

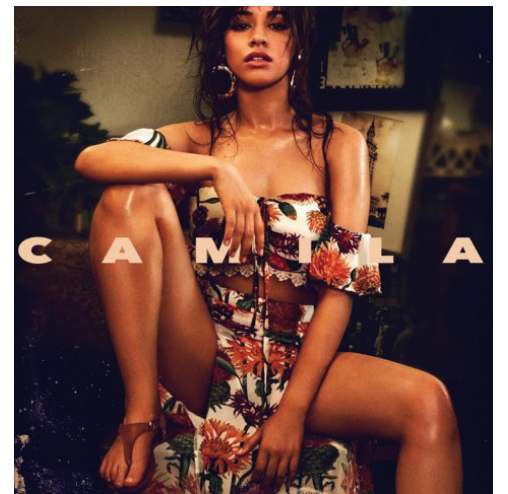
But does it hold up to the hype generated by the colossal success of 'Havana'? In short, abso-bloody-lutely. Given the ubiquity of 'Havana' this autumn, you'd be forgiven for thinking Camila would be laden with Latin-inflected numbers. Although a number of the songs are influenced by Latin music, there are thankfully only flashes of reggaeton. 'She Loves Control', a fiery-yet-elegant reggaeton number and the summery 'Inside Out' feel like obvious choices for the next single, simply for the pure sense of bliss they create.

Throughout the record's more downbeat moments, there's an admirable amount of restraint shown. In the record's two acoustic numbers, 'All These Years' and 'Real Friends', production is so sparse that Camila's distinctive tone is brought sharply to the forefront. The album's closing track, 'Into It' was co-written with some impressive names in pop

– OneRepublic's Ryan Tedder, who's worked with everyone from Beyoncé to Kelly Clarkson, and Justin Tranter, the writer behind quite a number of Justin Bieber's recent hits. And yet in spite of this, 'Into It' is the weakest song on the album. It's catchy, but it feels surprisingly compulsory – as if, at the last minute, Camila suddenly felt the need to replicate what everyone else was doing.

But this minor misstep is more than made up for with the two strongest moments on the album: the sultry 'In the Dark' and her latest single 'Never Be the Same'. The latter was recently performed quite incredibly on *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*, and although some of you might dismiss it for its piercing falsetto on the pre-chorus, this is an absolutely epic song. If she were ever closing an arena show, this would be the song to do it with. Maybe she's not quite on Beyoncé's level quite yet, but with a debut album of such

a high standard, Camila Cabello is well on her way.



## STABLES

### REVERIE

BETH COLQUHOUN

7/10

On the final day of completing the last edition, I received a parcel in the post. inscribed on the lid was my address, as well as the word 'Reverie' followed by its definition. From a small letter inside, I soon discovered that this little parcel was from the band 'Stables'. I give all new music that comes my way a chance, and so I gave it a listen...

The duo formed in the first month of 2016 by Matthew Lowe and Daniel Trenholme, releasing their debut album four months after

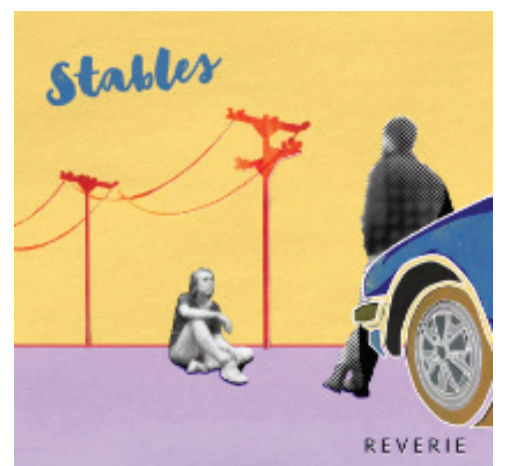
going public with the band. It is undoubtable that the energy and vibrancy produced by their music has escalated their activity. Their angelic harmonies and simple stripped back melodies create intimacy between the song and the listener. It is this that allows Stables to perfectly simulate the soundtrack to any daydream. Before finishing the first half of the album, I fully understood and fully appreciated the title of this album.

Their music consists of lively drum beats, simple and light guitar chords, symbols, and even brass instruments. The band has the aura of The Lumineers, Beirut, and undoubtedly hold some similarities with Lowe's previous band Keston Cobblers Club (who also brought out the album *Home* last year). Despite this being Lowe's side project, and a product of late night drinks with Trenholme, the duo couldn't be more in sync on stage. The energy brought to their live performances

is spectacular, although their music touches intimate subjects. Stables switch instruments throughout their set to produce, they say, "the sound of a full band, with big harmonies and varied styles." This is an idea that must be paying off, as the band has enjoyed many UK tour dates, including festivals such as Glastonbury.

Yet, the album possesses undertones of heartbreak. The chord progressions sometimes do not coincide with the jolly sound that folk music can sometimes portray when accompanied with light melodies. The fifth song, which also shares its name with the album, *Reverie*, sings of outcasts and break-ups. The a capella vocals beginning the song have an almost haunting feel, embodying the feeling of a previous unrequited relationship. Folk music enjoys a solid fan base; and I suspect that Stables will be well loved by fans of the genre. However, with Stables previously featuring on Radio 6 Recommends and just

completing their European headline tour, I believe their second album is one to look out for.



# SHIT MUSICIANS

*Cher proves she's a Diva from her head to her feet.*

*"ipad is freezing up! Maybe its overwhelmed, because it just realised A Fabulous DIVA Was toughing it! Cant really Blame it, SNAP OUT OF IT"*



# THE METHOD BEHIND THE MADNESS

ANDREW YOUNG AND EMILY TAYLOR EXAMINE THE CAREER OF THE RETIRING LEGEND OF THE SILVER SCREEN



Alas, the time has come to bid farewell to a giant of cinema. After just 20 films in the last 36 years, and a mere six this century, Daniel Day-Lewis is off. Perhaps he's tired of the film industry; perhaps his heavy dedication to his roles has begun to take its toll; perhaps he's going to turn his hand to another art form. We'll never know, but for one reason or another, Daniel Day-Lewis is riding off into the sunset, taking three Oscars and a whole heap of praise with him.

Throughout his career, Day-Lewis has played an array of characters of varying degrees of obsession and, perhaps, madness. From the outrageous greed of Daniel Plainview to the artistic exactness of his latest creation, Reynolds Woodcock, his characters are so often driven by a desire to achieve, and may trample others in the pursuit of their goal. Despite this trend, these characters are wildly different, ranging from monstrous to inspirational in their journeys. It is a testament to Day-Lewis' continued skill as an actor that he has been able to inhabit such a variety of people with astonishing authenticity.

This is no accident, of course. One of the few actors in the current era known for method acting, Day-Lewis' (in)famous preparation for his roles must be viewed as a large part of his success. He is said to never break character on set or indeed off it, with two-time collaborator Paul Thomas Anderson having said that he will sometimes stay in character for months. This approach allows Day-Lewis to fully *become* his subject for a period of time. Such an intense, demanding acting style may explain why Day-Lewis is so selective with his roles. Yet it has brought magnificent results, each decidedly individual character as well-drawn as the last.

He started out with a small role in Richard Attenborough's biographical epic *Gandhi*, before drawing attention in a starring role in the Stephen Frears-directed *My Beautiful Laundrette*, which offers a glimpse into where Day-Lewis' career might have gone - that of a romantic lead. Although even as a romantic lead he was willing to challenge conventions with a very understated performance as a gay, working-class, ex-skinhead who falls in love with a young Pakistani upstart. The film follows the couple as they set up a laundrette together, and showcases Day-Lewis' charisma as a performer. Unlike his future Oscar-win-

ning roles which allow him to show off the full extent of his abilities, his performance here is not the centre of attention; he simply gives his character a depth and nuance that a lesser performer may have reduced to caricature. However, the route of romantic lead was not where his career would take him. In the same year he also had a supporting role in James Ivory's *A Room with a View* playing a posh dandy in complete contrast to *My Beautiful Laundrette*, demonstrating his range as an actor.

Then came his first big success. Jim Sheridan's 1989 film *My Left Foot* told the true story of Christy Brown, an Irishman born with cerebral palsy who learnt to paint and write using the only part of his body he had physical control over - his left foot. For his performance here, Day-Lewis grabbed his first Oscar by showcasing a complete transformation into the heroic and courageous Christy. From the first moments of the film, Day-Lewis' heavy breathing - conveying determination, frustration and great effort all in the simplest of sounds, shows us just what life is like for Christy. He is a man who is determined to succeed to prove a point; and almost never seems satisfied with what he has. Assumed to be mentally, as well as physically, disabled from a young age, Day-Lewis is superb at showing a man embittered by this injustice, but warm enough to connect with the large family around him.

Perhaps because of his far-reaching abilities, the more basic skill of accents could perhaps be a forgotten part of Day-Lewis' filmography. Yet throughout his career he shows off a range of accents, helping him to fully embody his role. This is perhaps most impressive in *My Left Foot*, as Day-Lewis had to master the guttural sounds of Christy's voice, and overlay it with a Dublin accent. It is in all respects an



impressive work and can be seen as the earliest marker of Day-Lewis' ability. It is a performance with some tour-de-force moments that crucially never allows Christy's disability to define his character.

Day-Lewis would go on to work twice more with Jim Sheridan, more than any other director. His low number of film roles means that Day-Lewis has worked with remarkably few directors, but he did find time to work with the alright Martin Scorsese, collaborating with him on both *The Age of Innocence* and *Gangs of New York* and acting opposite a Leonardo DiCaprio in Leo's first collaboration with Marty. Unfortunately he's out-acted at every opportunity by Daniel Day-Lewis' moustache, in one of his many fantastic displays of facial hair. Day-Lewis seems to be having a lot of fun as a larger-than-life Dickensian style villain, who wields butchers knives as his weapon of choice. He commands the audience's attention just as his character runs the Five-Points area of New York. Though his performance arguably strays occasionally into 'chewing the scenery' territory, the over-the-top style of performance perfectly suits the character and helps elevate one of Scorsese's weaker pictures. Tales of his method acting style also surrounded this performance, including getting his nose broken by DiCaprio during a fight scene and carrying on despite this, as well as learning to tap his prosthetic eye lens with the tip of a knife.

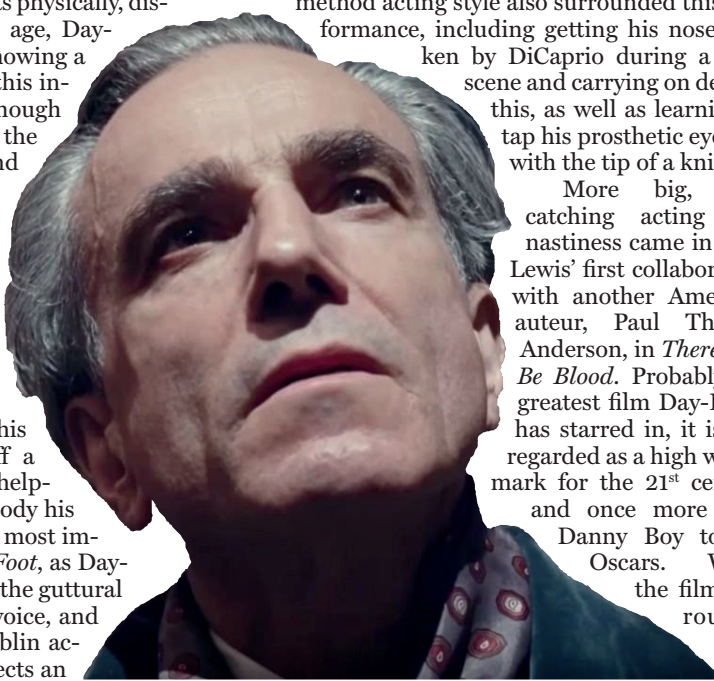
More big, eye-catching acting and nastiness came in Day-Lewis' first collaboration with another American auteur, Paul Thomas Anderson, in *There Will Be Blood*. Probably the greatest film Day-Lewis has starred in, it is still regarded as a high watermark for the 21<sup>st</sup> century and once more took Danny Boy to the Oscars. While the film was roundly beaten

by the Coen brothers' masterpiece *No Country for Old Men*, the Academy could not ignore Day-Lewis' blistering turn as a late 19<sup>th</sup> century oil man. Consumed by ambition and greed, Daniel Plainview is by most measures a horrible man, but in Day-Lewis' hands there is enough humanity to keep him engaging.

Perhaps what is so great about him as an actor is that despite the differing nature of his characters, he brings a wit and charm to all of them. Daniel Day-Lewis is seen as a very serious man, who plays serious people in serious films, but there is a glint in the eye that brings the necessary levity to his incarnations. It helps him pull the audience in and take us with him wherever he chooses to go.

This characteristic wit was also lent to the historical behemoth that is Abraham Lincoln. Working with another heavyweight director in Steven Spielberg, Day-Lewis was as convincing as ever in *Lincoln*. Excellent hair and make-up work helped, but Day-Lewis' embodiment of the iconic president owed a lot to his physical transformation. Much more subtle than his work on *My Left Foot*, here Day-Lewis arched his back and gave the impression of a wiry, wise man who could still become physically imposing when needed. The most impressive part of his performance (which of course won him another Oscar) was simply in his line delivery, however. A superb historical drama that is deeply interested in the workings of 19<sup>th</sup> century politics, *Lincoln* could so easily have become a dry chore of a film, but yet again, there's that glint in the eye, a wry smile and a charm to Daniel Day-Lewis that keeps us hooked. When reciting anecdotes and parables to his associates, Day-Lewis makes the President a raconteur of the highest order.

All of these films show an actor in complete control of his craft, ranging from subtle emotion beneath a cold surface in *Lincoln*, to the theatrical fireworks of *There Will Be Blood*. In his final film, Paul Thomas Anderson's *Phantom Thread*, he is in more restrained mood. Bringing together obsession, charisma and below-the-surface emotion as he has done his whole career, Day-Lewis delivers a performance of simultaneous strength and vulnerability. It is a large part of an exquisite film that is a fitting end to a magnificent career. Goodbye Daniel, you will be sorely missed. M





# STREAMING SPORTS: AMAZON SCORES NEW DEAL?

AS AMAZON LOOK TO THE PREMIER LEAGUE, CHAY QUINN ARGUES THAT STREAMING SERVICES COULD GALVANISE SPORTS COVERAGE

Rumours have amassed recently of Amazon Prime and other streaming services of their ilk (namely Netflix) preparing to bid for the right to broadcast Premier League matches through their services. This is a rumour that, if true, would result in the most significant shake-up in broadcasting football in Britain since the rise of Sky Sports in the early 90s, a move that coincided with the foundation of the new top-tier league system.

The move indicates a shift towards a traditional wide-ranging broadcasting oeuvre for the streaming giants with both Amazon and Netflix moving from their focus on creating original programmes that are exclusive to their service back towards the acquisition of already established events that will bring with them a loyal band of followers.

Sports rights have seen very little change in the last twenty years with Sky remaining more-or-less the same in their broadcasting of England's top-flight since the Premier League's inception. Therein lies the promise of Amazon and Netflix for the average sports fan. They have both drastically changed the way we consume drama and films. Thus, they could break the stagnation in development and the borderline complacency that Sky's monopoly (and BT's seemingly endless need

to recreate Sky's platform at any cost) fosters. The illiterate ex-player pundits, the anaemic graphics and faux gravitas created with matches that don't deserve it (Watford versus Chelsea is not a match that needs a minute and a half long intro) have been there since the dawn of time and the advent of advanced statistics and social media have not been properly utilised.



With their innovative streak, the streaming giants could bring a touch of something new to a live event which had its last large-scale change when Meat Loaf's 'I'd Do Anything for Love' was topping charts. Let's face it, it's ancient and anyone who has the gall to suggest that 'if it ain't broke, don't fix it' is blind to the fact that football coverage in this country has a hilarious complacency when it comes to ratings. They take the viewers and

fans for granted, just as the clubs themselves do when they ramp up ticket prices for both home and away fans.

Football fans are being forced out of the terraces and have had to fall back upon broadcasters in their pursuit to support their team, and the likes of Sky and BT have been more than to rest on their laurels and rake in their money while doing next to nothing to improve the experience they offer. Netflix and Amazon's acquisition of broadcasting rights could signal a new advent in this vein and spur competition in the monopolised industry.

But how would this look? The current system, which requires a box and prerequisite purchases, drives prices through the roof to the point where only 8 million people have a Sky subscription currently. A shift to a purely online platform would bring down prices. Instead of paying on average more than £30 per month, the purchaser will welcome the flat £6 a month for Netflix or the £70 per annum price for a subscription to Amazon Prime. A good barometer of how this service may look is the way that the NFL offer the Game Pass, giving people access to both

live broadcasts of games and replays of said games for a flat rate which can be accessed through a device.

This shift in focus from television broadcasts to mobile devices is one that Sky and BT have used through their own streaming services but the crux of their business lies in the subscriptions to a TV service. A move to a mobile-only platform will fundamentally change the collective viewing culture of football and other live sporting events.

Currently, the convention of gathering around a TV to watch the football in a house or a pub results in a truly communal viewing experience and creates a surrogate for the camaraderie that fans experience in the terraces at the stadium. The move to a smaller screen will make sporting events much less of a joint cultural event and shift it to the realm of individual viewing. This, of course, is what the streaming services have already done to drama with the emergence of 'binge culture'.

Maybe this potential move away from traditional media will result in the loss of the crucial social aspect of sporting events. Is the monotonous format and viewer fatigue the price we have to pay to keep the beautiful game as socially engaging as it has always been? Or will modern streaming usher in a shining new era for the timeless cultural event?

# MUSE PREDICTS THE NINETIETH ACADEMY AWARDS

THE MUSE TEAM GIVE THEIR VERDICT ON WHO WILL WIN AT THIS YEAR'S AWARDS, AND WHO THE ACADEMY HAS IGNORED

## Best Picture

Winner: *The Shape of Water*

Snubbed: *The Florida Project*

While having the most nominations does not mean success in the biggest category, as *La La Land* found out last year, the magic and soul of *The Shape of Water* could finally capture the golden statue for Guillermo Del Toro. He is at his best when bringing heart to his monster tales, as the three Oscars and critical adoration for *Pan's Labyrinth* shows. It seems the most likely winner in a strong field, one that excluded the critically-lauded and affecting *The Florida Project*. Its focus on children in poverty was an inspired choice that sadly didn't get the wide release it deserved.

## Best Director

Winner: Greta Gerwig (*Lady Bird*)

Snubbed: Denis Villeneuve (*Blade Runner 2049*)

Coming off of an expansive acting career and being the fifth woman ever to be nominated in this category, Gerwig is certainly in with a fighting chance. Her solo debut, *Lady Bird*, has been so widely loved that it seems impossible for it to miss out on a significant award. Also, in the wake of the #MeToo movement, a win for a female director in such a male-dominated profession will hopefully signal the changes to come. Surprisingly, the director of one of the most anticipated sequels of all time and of one of the most visually stunning films of the year didn't even get a nod.

## Best Actress

Winner: Frances McDormand (*Three Billboards Outside Ebbing Missouri*)

Snubbed: Jessica Chastain (*Molly's Game*)

Following her triumph at the Golden Globes, McDormand is more than likely to sweep up a few more awards this season. Her furiously sulky and heartfelt performance in *Three Billboards* blisteringly portrays the power of a mother's love. Another actress in a role that she was born to play was Chastain as Molly Bloom. Her work as the fast-talking gambling tycoon should have at least been nominated.

## Best Supporting Actress

Winner: Allison Janney (*I, Tonya*)

Snubbed: Sally Hawkins (*Paddington 2*)

Janney is one of those incredible actors who are long overdue Academy recognition. Since she sadly can't win an Oscar for The West Wing, her turn as the dance-mom from hell in the controversial biopic of Tonya Harding should snag her the trophy. Though Hawking's Shape of Water performance was well deserving of her best actress nomination, Muse were disappointed that her role in Paddington 2 flew under the Academy's radar. Though maybe it's just us.

## Best Actor

Winner: Gary Oldman (*Darkest Hour*)

Snubbed: Hugh Jackman (*Logan*)

Gary Oldman seems to be the very obvious choice, he's playing a historic figure and is covered in prosthetic make-up. It's a performance begging for awards and one that seems to be better than the film itself. Oldman is also yet to take home an Oscar despite a number of fantastic performances over the years. However Hugh Jackman has given a career best as a jaded Wolverine, a character he's played for over a decade. Unfortunately, his performance has likely been overlooked due to Logan's status as a superhero flick.

## Best Supporting Actor

Winner: Sam Rockwell (*Three Billboards Outside Ebbing Missouri*)

Snubbed: Everyone in *Dunkirk* Sam Rockwell for better or for worse has been one of the most talked about actors this awards season and this means he's likely to take home the trophy. However the lack of a Best Ensemble award means that the incred-

ible work done by the cast of *Dunkirk* including Cillian Murphy, Tom Hardy and even Harry Styles have been ignored by the Academy. The Academy favours a very particular type of performance, one that steals the attention of the audience. *Dunkirk* isn't a film that features flashy performances but that doesn't make their work any less deserving of some attention.

## Best Original Screenplay

Winner: Jordan Peele (*Get Out*)

Snubbed: Sally Potter (*The Party*)

It would be a real shame if cultural milestone that was *Get Out* misses out on an award, especially after being snubbed at the Golden Globes this year. Peele's screenplay was the perfect balance between painfully relatable and unsettlingly unthinkable. Hopefully his horror/comedy/cultural commentary gets the recognition it deserves. One film definitely not getting the Hollywood traction it deserves is Potter's comedy which explores the cultural privilege of the left-leaning political elite.

## Best Adapted Screenplay

Winner: James Ivory (*Call Me By Your Name*)

Snubbed: Armando Iannucci, David Schneider, Ian Martin (*The Death of Stalin*)

Given the near-universal love for Luca Guadagnino's romance, it would be surprising if it went home completely empty-handed. James Ivory has a great chance of winning his first Oscar aged 89 in a category with no other clear winner. The hilarious satire produced in *The Death of Stalin* made great use of its talented cast, but the Academy is not typically a fan of farcical comedies.





# YORK'S HUMAN RIGHTS MISSION

SEREN HUGHES SPEAKS TO HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS TAKING PART IN A FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME AT YORK

Since 2008, the University of York's Centre for Applied Human Rights (CAHR) has welcomed 75 human rights defenders (HRDs) from across the world under its Protective Fellowship Scheme. Through the scheme, up to 10 HRDs a year join the Centre for up to six months. While at the University, they conduct research, network, and take time to rest from their challenging work. I was fortunate to speak to Nea'ma Allah Hisham and attend her talk about the scheme and her work documenting human rights in Egypt.

HRDs risk their lives in order to promote and protect human rights. Their work is unforgiving, and often they are tortured or imprisoned. It is crucial that these people are supported as much as possible so that they can continue their work, and this university is doing a great job at doing so.

Nea'ma said that "when we joined the fellowship, we thought it was like any fellowship; going to lectures, learning, reflecting, reading." However, there is more to the programme than meets the eye. The HRDs are given access to 10 free sessions of private therapy with a specialist. They are taught how to deal with the stress of their work on their own through yoga, meditation, talking, reflecting, music, and reading. CAHR even takes the defenders to a cottage in Yorkshire for a retreat.

Nea'ma revealed, "We attend conferences on art and activism and go to meetings with NGOs who are interested in our country or the same subject we are working in, like Amnesty." There are also extensive connections with volunteers. Volunteering groups care for the defenders by taking them to dinner and

The fellowship scheme allows HRDs to finally breathe without constantly fearing for their lives

showing them the city, as well as some volunteers teaching English conversation and other skills. Nea'ma said that the aim is "to support you, to take a break, and to be stronger when you go back to your country."

Cecilia Andrei, an LLM International Human Rights Law and Practice student, told me about her experience with the defenders. They participate in her LLM program, and the MA in Applied Human Rights, thus helping the educational process be truly applied: students and defenders learn from each other. She told me: "HRDs often get idealised as heroes or even martyrs. We ignore their daily struggles, the inner battles, the human behind the face of the revolution. It is important for them to look after their personal safety, mental health and well-being, which are often sacrificed for the sake of the cause. HRDs deserve somebody to fight for their rights as they do for others. The fellowship scheme allows HRDs to finally breathe without constantly fearing for their lives."

Aside from their work within the Centre, each defender gives a talk, open to all students and the wider community, on their work and the situation in their country. I have attended a handful of the talks, and they have all left me moved by their dedication to the fight for human rights.

In her talk, Nea'ma outlined her trajectory into activism. She began as a community architect in Egypt, where she was met with government intervention, as visitor centres and low cost schools were prevented from completion. Then, the revolution of 2011 happened, and after 30 years of emergency law, corruption, electoral fraud, worsening economic conditions, and lack of freedom of speech, President Hosni Mubarak was deposed.

For Nea'ma, participating in the revolution signalled a new beginning. She was part of the foundation of the first youth political party in Egypt, the first parliamentary election campaigns, and the first presidential election. Her work focused specifically on supporting the human rights committees in the party she worked with. Mohamed Morsi became President briefly, before the military coup of 2013 put Abdel Fattah el-Sisi in power. By then, Nea'ma had become involved with the group No Military Trials for Civilians and joined the Front of Revolution Road, developing an interest in documenting human rights.

Nea'ma explains, "you can use documentation to support legal cases, to preserve the people's memory and history, and if there is a move for justice in the future, then it can be used for getting the people rights. It also shows the gaps in the laws and international conventions, and proves that there are systematic patterns of violations, not only individual incidents. Also, it is important to raise awareness for the community, as the media keeps denying it is happening."

One of Nea'ma's key achievements was adapting the UN manual for monitoring human rights violations to the situation in Egypt, and she has trained other human rights defenders in how to act accordingly. She told me that this was essential as there is not much information available on documenting for activists. She said "we have the Istanbul Protocol against torture, which deals with countries where there is much more freedom than in Egypt. Also, there is a monitoring manual for the UN that applies to poorer countries. But often, it refers to being a UN employee, and having to talk with the local authorities before advocacy. This is not the case in Egypt. We are working underground. It is not safe for us. Even lawyers are sometimes arrested. We needed to make it more applicable for the Egyptian situation."

Unfortunately, since the military coup, the human rights situation in Egypt has worsened, with illegal detention, enforced disappearances, torture,



IMAGE: CAHR

and the closing down of human rights organisations becoming commonplace. Under these conditions, Nea'ma made the decision to focus her full attention on the fight for human rights, and left her job as an architect.

Her work is focused on documentation, so it was fitting that the mode of presentation in her talk was short clips of victims' stories. Included was a 14-year-old boy who was arrested and beaten by police for attending a demonstration. They fabricated a crime and filmed it for evidence. A 17-year-old girl also told her story about how she was kept in a police station cell for months, before being sent to a children's centre. The girl was tested by the authorities to see if she was a virgin. In her testimony, the girl kept saying to Nea'ma: "they know we are not like this, they know we are respectful girls. So why do they want to humiliate us?"

Despite the dire circumstances in Egypt, Nea'ma finished her talk on a positive note. Abd Elrahman is a 17-year-old student who was sentenced to 15 years in prison after driving past a protest with his father. Students have expressed their support for him through letters, and he has replied by making a video about the injustice of his treatment in prison. In a country where freedom of speech is punished, that his voice is being heard is a sign of hope.

Recently, through her work with the Adalah Center for Rights & Freedoms (founded by Mohamed Elbaker, an Egyptian human rights lawyer, and another current HRD on the scheme) and now here in York, Nea'ma has turned to supporting minorities and refugees. There are many NGOs in Egypt working on documentation but only one or two working on violations against refugees. The UN association responsible for the refugees in Egypt cannot

work on the documentation of the violations without approval from the Egyptian government. Furthermore, Nea'ma remarked that "the refugees are afraid to talk about what is happening to them and the violations, because they are afraid they will be told to leave Egypt if they speak out." Although the human rights situation in Egypt is far from resolved, Nea'ma's passion and determination is palpable.

We take our human rights for granted, so it can be hard to know how to react to oppressive regimes

ble. As long as there is hope, and HRDs such as herself keep working, it can only improve. She and the other human rights defenders face life-threatening risks in order to protect human rights, and yet they still continue.

Upcoming talks will be given by a Kenyan LGBTQ activist, Gerald Hayo, on 16 February; and Arwa Elrabiea, who works in human rights education in Sudan, on 16 March. Gerald has suffered immeasurably in life, due to her identification as a masculine and lesbian woman. This struggle has driven her to fight for the basic needs of women in the LGBTQ community through the organisation Rainbow Women of Kenya. She seeks to improve access to proper healthcare for women who suffer from LGBTQ-specific diseases. Here in England, we take our human rights for granted, so it can be hard to know how to react to oppressive regimes. It makes me immensely proud that my university has supported human rights defenders and helped strengthen their fight for rights. These talks are the perfect opportunity to raise awareness of human rights violations around the world and the individuals who are fighting back. By listening to them, we can show our respect for their invaluable work. **M**



IMAGE: FLICKR



# FIRST FEMALE PLAYER IN THE OVERWATCH LEAGUE?

PATRICK WALKER LOOKS AT THE GENDER PROBLEM IN ONE OF COMPETITIVE GAMING'S MOST POPULAR TITLES

Competitive gaming, at least right now, is a male-dominated industry. Twitch, the largest video streaming platform for the industry, reports that 81.5 per cent of its viewers are male. The same is true for the players: women and men can compete in the same leagues, but most of the largest pro gaming leagues have no female players, from the LCS, to the higher echelons of *CS:GO*, and, until

There aren't currently  
any female players  
on any of the  
12 OWL teams

recently, the Overwatch League (OWL). On Monday 5 February, Kim 'Geguri' Se-yeon announced she had been acquired by a 'foreign' Overwatch team. I'll speculate which team later, but for now I think it would be useful to explore the current situation a little deeper. To do so, we need context.

Right from the start, most roles in eSports have been dominated by men. It's worth noting that eSports isn't inherently restrictive to women. Like all competitive sports, the success of any given player is essentially a meritocracy. A talented female player has only to join a team and beat other teams before she gets noticed. There have been instances of successful female players in the past: Sasha

'Scarlett' Hostyn is the highest-earning currently. The Canadian *Starcraft II* pro competes with the best, and won the Pyeongchang tournament on 6 February. She is competing on equal footing against the best. There have been other, less successful examples of players working in prominent teams. Maria 'Remelia' Creveling was drafted for her phenomenal *League of Legends* play to the newly-formed Renegades roster in the game's top American league, but left after just three weeks citing anxiety and self-esteem issues. Women in the eSports industry undoubtedly receive disproportionate levels of sexist online abuse, so it's not impossible to understand her reasoning. eSports has historically not been receptive to entrants by women, but that doesn't mean the status quo has to remain.

Today's environment is more encouraging. Brands are recognising the value of all-female pro teams like RES Gaming. Women are becoming more common in broadcasting teams, too. Women from all parts of the industry took to Twitter over the last fortnight using #WomenBehindGames to show the diversity of roles women play in eSports, and perhaps provide inspiration to anyone wanting to get into the scene. There are now more women in front of the camera than ever before. OWL's very own Soe Gschwind-Penski has managed to develop her own unique style of analysis, using her relationships with the teams to deliver inside information to the stream. I have no doubt that there are women out there who will be motivated through the success of Soe and others to pursue a career. That said, the fact remains that there aren't currently any female players on any of the 12

OWL Teams. That could be about to change.

After the League's completion of its draft phase in December, Geguri was almost conspicuous by her absence. The South Korean teen was catapulted into gaming celebrity in January after her opponents accused her of hacking the game due to her strange mouse movement and incredible ability to track her opponents. She proved her innocence by filming her hands while playing: it turns out her mouse sensitivity is almost impossibly high. That in itself makes her a rarity in the professional gaming scene, where mouse sensitivity is typically lower than other players of the same game. Whilst she has not specified her acquisition by an OWL team, we can speculate that, as the primary (and only) large league operating in America, it's probably her destination.

ESPN sources suggest she has been acquired by Shanghai dragons, along with two other South Korean players in an effort to turn the team's woeful losing streak around.

Geguri has already stated she doesn't want to be used as a way to 'forward [people's] ideologies. I believe she been acquired not because of her gender, but because she is utterly incredible at the game. She has achieved this success through merit alone, not to give her team publicity. I cannot currently propose a solution to under-representation of women in esports, but I propose that a league that comprises a more diverse set of genders, races, and opinions is undoubtedly a positive thing.



IMAGE: BLIZZARD

# POWER UP: SHOULD VIRTUAL DRUGS HELP YOU WIN?

REBECCA COWIE ASKS WHETHER DRUGS AIDING PLAYERS IN THEIR SUCCESS SENDS A PRO-DRUG MESSAGE

Over the course of the past decade or so, video games have become almost synonymous with violence in the minds of concerned parents everywhere. However, it is the increasing inclusion of drug abuse – along with waning restrictive measures – that has sparked new concerns.

Game series such as *Fallout* and *Max Payne*, depict drug use as a form of power up. Painkillers are used to replenish health and increase focus in *Max Payne*, while cocktails of "chems" in *Fallout* allow the player to increase their strength, boost intelligence and occasionally slow down time. Even alcohol is used as a power up in *Prey*, to replenish the player's health.

Unfortunately, these games are not alone in their misleading attitude towards drug abuse. According to a 2017 study by Archstone Recovery Center 60 per cent of games containing drugs – out of the top 100 games – portray their usage as a benefit to the player, with 32 per cent of those being solely for use as a special skill power up.

The Archstone study also found that approximately 61 per cent of the games investigated contained real world drugs; cocaine, heroin and marijuana to name a few. *Duke Nukem 3D* portrays a relatively realistic, although heavily sugar-coated, use of steroids. The game allows the players to gain double speed and boost attacks until it wears off – with little to no consequences. Despite

the primary use of drugs in video games often holding positive connotations, the vast majority also demonstrate the negative side effects of addiction alongside them.

Although this is for all intents and purposes, a valid effort on behalf of the producers to maintain an at least somewhat anti-drugs stance, it consistently falls short. For example, in *Fallout* the adverse effects of the drug cocktails can be easily and swiftly cured by a doctor, an ability which implies that any negative symptoms of drug abuse have an easy fix. This is a frankly dangerous idea for video games to suggest, because it implants the notion that the benefits of drug abuse outweigh the drawbacks – an idea that is perpetuated throughout most games containing drugs as power ups.

All this being said, it's unlikely that these 'power up' depictions of drugs influence real life substance abuse. The claims of direct cause to effect between the two are unsubstantiated at best.

However, the causal link between these video games and a change in attitudes to drugs has been scientifically proven. In a study by Brady (PhD) and Matthews (PhD), the results unequivocally showed that young men randomly assigned to play *Grand Theft Auto III* (*GTA III*) had more permissive attitudes towards using alcohol and marijuana. This was regardless of whether *GTA III* was a game they'd usually select

for themselves, proving that it was the content and portrayal of drugs in the game, and not any personal predispositions, that led to a more relaxed view of drug use.

Even though this finding provides a link between virtual and real drugs, the Entertainment Software Rating System, who assign age and content ratings to US games (much like Europe's own PEGI), stand by their existing drug-related guidance on such games. This is a result of the widely followed philosophy that it is a parent's duty to protect their children from the content, and not the duty of the content to accommodate underage children playing their games.

However, this issue has become more prominent with the rise of Twitch streams and Let's Play videos. Due to the lack of restriction – especially with YouTube Let's Play videos, as the algorithm only assesses the suitability of videos and not the games themselves – children of all ages are capable of being readily subjected to these games and their portrayal of drugs.

As a result, it's almost inevitable that these impressionable young teenagers have their view of drug abuse softened by these misleading video games, even as a passive audience member.

As a consequence, the representation of drugs in video games as providing players with superhuman abilities cannot be directly linked to encouraging the use of drugs among the players

themselves. The representation can and does increase the appeal of drugs, lessening the harmful connotations associated with the substances.

The misleading depiction of drug use, in tandem with the lax functioning of age restrictions in this era of Let's Play videos and Twitch streams, could be dangerous. Impressionable teens and tweens alike are subjected to content that repeatedly shows drugs as beneficial and desirable in order to get ahead, leading to a more permissive, rather than intolerant, view of substance abuse.



IMAGE: PEGI



# ZIMBABWEAN BEAUTY IN THE FACE OF CORRUPTION

SARAH CLEWS DISCOVERS THE NATURAL MAGNIFICENCE OF THE MATOBO NATIONAL PARK IN ZIMBABWE

**Z**imbabwe: a country which to the minds of many in the West epitomises corruption and a failing economy. In 2009, the Zimbabwean dollar completely crashed, creating a cash crisis which still persists today. As I soon discovered on my travels around the country in 2017, it is impossible in most places to withdraw money from ATMs due to the cash drought. The country has been brought to its knees, with its president, Robert Mugabe, having clung on to power for the last thirty years, often through a ruthless formula of violence and sustained vote rigging.

However, in November last year Zimbabwe underwent a huge political shake up with a military coup which saw Mugabe finally deposed, along with his power-hungry wife,

Grace Mugabe, and the start of a new era for the country with Emmerson Mnangagwa taking up the reins of government. Only time will tell if this will mark the start of a new, more prosperous future for Zimbabwe. I visited the country less than eight weeks before it underwent its political upheaval, yet in my explorations I was bowled over by Zimbabwe's underrated natural beauty. The last thing I expected to find in a country with such a turbulent reputation was a sense of restorative calm and a deep appreciation for its land, but that is the outcome of the best travel experiences: they take your expectations, and completely turn them inside out.

Leaving Victoria Falls, the tourist hub of Zimbabwe, we made tracks east, venturing further off the tourist trail but deeper into the heart of this landlocked country wedged in the southern region of Africa. Travelling by overland bus, after seven hours of drifting in and out of warm sleep in the African heat, we arrived in the surreal landscape which is the Matobo National Park. Stretching across the horizon was a landscape dominated by huge boulders and balancing rock formations, like huge slumbering giants. More than a million years of erosion and weathering has moulded these rocks into granite monoliths of all shapes and sizes. After setting up our tents at the campsite, we climbed up to the nearest high point and were rewarded with incredible 360° views. At sunset the park was literally aglow, as the setting sun enhanced the rich, earthy orange pigment of the rocks. Grounded on a huge boulder, I closed my eyes



IMAGE: SARAH CLEWS

and soaked up the sound of complete and utter silence, with just the rocks, the trees and my three travel buddies for company. Matobo is cherished in Zimbabwe as a place of great cultural and spiritual significance and after visiting I can appreciate why.

There is a resounding atmosphere of calm in the park, and yet this is a landscape with a rich story to tell those who happen to uncover it. As I scrambled back down, my eye was caught by some markings on a nearby rock. Clearly highlighted by the warm evening light was an ancient rock painting of a lady and a cow. Our guide later informed us that Matobo is in fact one of the oldest known human civilisations in the world, hence its special protected status as a UNESCO World Heritage site. Most of the rock paintings found in the park are believed to be a staggering 2000-6000 years old and are the artistic legacy of the ancient Sans people, a nomadic tribe who inhabited what is now the park.

As we trekked across the ravines and in between the rocks we discovered caves, their smooth walls displayed like canvasses with energetic scenes of men hunting with arrows and leaping through the air. Most poignant for me was the etching of a rhino, a clear sign that even our most distant ancestors recognised the majestic might of this creature. I wonder how they would feel to know that we have nearly driven the rhino to extinction and that in the future their cave drawings and photos may be all that is left to prove this enigmatic animal's existence.

Exploring Matobo made me realise that Zimbabwe is still a diamond in the rough in the tourist sphere, thanks to its problematic politics, which have dissuaded many people from visiting. However, if you are prepared to delve deeper into the heart of Zimbabwe, and look beyond the political issues plaguing the nation, both a landscape and a culture deeply steeped in history await you.

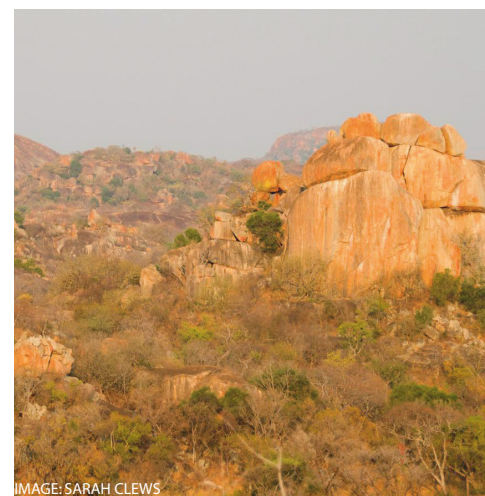


IMAGE: SARAH CLEWS

# PARIS: FIVE DAYS IN THE CITY OF LIGHT

DESPITE ITS EXPENSIVE REPUTATION, SEREN HUGHES EXPLORES THE BEST OF FRANCE'S CHIC CAPITAL ON A BUDGET

**L**ast Summer, my friend and I spent five incredible days in Paris. Paris is notorious for being expensive as well as beautiful, but we went for it and booked a cheap Airbnb and the Eurostar, and surprisingly, the trip was doable on a student budget.

Paris is famous for its iconic attractions such as the Eiffel Tower and the Louvre. However, these main sites are packed with people, which can feel incredibly claustrophobic. Because of this, there is nothing I can advocate more than seeing Paris on foot. We arrived at the Louvre before its opening at 9AM and the queues were already building up. Luckily,

as EU citizens under 26 (making use of this while it lasts!) we had free entry into most museums and sights.

In my opinion, the Orangerie Museum is more worth a visit. It is a small museum which is home to Monet's enormous paintings of lilies. There are three rooms, each with four paintings of scenes of the water in Monet's gardens and the surrounding flora and fauna. His impressionistic style, the pastel colours, and the natural subject of his work creates a sense of peace and calm. His work is a celebration of the beauty and simple movement of nature.

We visited many spectacular churches and cathedrals, including Notre Dame and Sacre-Coeur, but none were as impressive as Sainte-Chapelle. It is covered in stained glass windows stretching from floor to ceiling. The sun shines through the reds and blues of the glass, drowning you in a breathtaking spectacle of light.

During the day, we often walked past the miles of small iconic green stalls along the river. These vendors are called Bouquinistes, and they sell anything: newspapers dating to the Occupation, postcards, New Wave film, Beatles Paris Tour posters, and much more.

At night, we would stop on a bridge to watch the sunset over the Seine before making our way to our favourite spot, the Square du Vert-Galant, a small park on the Ile de la Cité bounded on both sides by the Seine. We would grab a bottle of wine each (even cheap wine tastes good in France) and join the groups of locals either sitting on the river banks, dangling our legs over the water and watching the boats go by or on the grass in the park listening to some live music.

The sights are not the only reason to visit Paris: French food is to die for. Unfortunately, Paris prices are extortionate and we found it difficult to find dinner for less than €15. Luckily, with a bit of effort, down side streets and in less touristy areas, you can still find a steak tartare for a good price! Each morning,



IMAGE: SEREN HUGHES

we would pick up a croissant for breakfast and a baguette for lunch from the local boulangerie or patisserie, then head to the fruit and veg grocers and the supermarché for sausages and cheese. Our trip also included Les Invalides, with the tomb of Napoleon, and the peaceful Jardin de Tuileries.

Our five days in Paris were packed with places to see, things to do, delicacies to eat, and French to speak. Helpfully, the Parisians are incredibly lovely. They often approached us and were thrilled when we talked to them in French. I fell in love with the city and would be delighted by an opportunity to return.



IMAGE: SEREN HUGHES



# EATING AND DRINKING TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT

BECKY BOWE RECOMMENDS RESTAURANTS AND BARS TO TREAT YOURSELF AND THAT SPECIAL SOMEONE THIS VALENTINE'S DAY



IMAGE: REBECCA BOWE

Valentine's Day is lurking around the corner and whether you have a date or not, everybody deserves to treat themselves; whether it's going out with friends and sharing ex horror stories over a few cocktails or just simply taking your favourite person for a romantic candlelit dinner for two. As York is one of the top cities to wine and dine, with the most independent restaurants and bars in the UK, here are a few to mull over while you make your plans for 14 February.

## *Little Italy: 12 Goodramgate*

To start the night with a delicious bang get yourself a sharing platter from Little Italy on Goodramgate for an amazing taste of authentic Italian cuisine. Admittedly, their menu is not the most affordable, as the gamberoni all'aglio con pomodoro with king

prawns and squid ink linguine in a lick-the-plate lobster bisque sets you back £21.95. However, it is (I promise you) well worth it. They have, of course, other tasty dishes on the menu that are not as steep, but will still tantalise the taste buds, such as fresh pasta dishes from £11.95.

## *Pairings Wine Bar: 28 Castlegate*

If you're a wine buff and fancy splashing out as a treat, try Pairings, an independent wine bar in Castlegate which takes pride in their vast selection of wines and locally sourced food. It is encouraged that you try their wine flights and sample a few different hand-selected wines, but if just one big glass is more your idea of vino-heaven then prices start from as low as £3.60 a glass. The bar has an atmosphere of sophistication and class,

so it is certainly worth popping in with your 'beau', even if it is just for one before heading on to somewhere else.

## *Cosy Club: 19-22 Fossgate*

When you walk into Cosy Club in Fossate, it is like stepping back in time. The 1930s décor is spectacular. Once an old cinema house, this bar and restaurant is the perfect place to unwind while feeling elegant and classy. Start your night with a round of sophisticated reinvented cocktails including a rum and vanilla old-fashioned, the English Garden gin cocktail or the rhubarb and ginger bramble all from as low as £6.75. Afterwards, indulge in their tapas featuring pigs in blankets and salt-and-pepper squid from £4.25 each or 3 for £11.95. Who said that a sophisticated date had to be expensive?

## *Fossgate Social: 25 Fossgate*

This tiny yet cosy bar has something to offer everyone. Located amongst York's best independent bars and restaurants they offer craft ales, botanical gin cocktails and more all with really low prices. Their cosy beer garden decorated in fairy lights is definitely worth a look at too.

## *1331: 13 Grape Lane*

To get you in the mood for Valentine's Day, or perhaps an anniversary, try 1331's suitably named cocktails: Aphrodisiac, Forbidden Fruits or Kiss From A Rose. They even offer two for one on cocktails from Sunday to Friday so it won't break the bank! 1331 is a friendly family-run bar offering reasonably priced drinks, food for any occasion, great music and simply good old-fashioned fun!



IMAGE: LONGHORNDAYE



IMAGE: INSTAGRAM: KATEY LAMB

# AROUND THE WORLD IN EIGHTY (OR SO) MEALS

RUDOLF BARNEY-SEABRA EXPLORES THE FOOD FIESTA HELD DURING GLOBAL WEEK BY THE ISA

Global Week comprises a series of events put together by the ISA (International Students Association) together with YUSU, with the aim of embracing the diversity of cultures within the student body. Their food event, 'Food Fiesta', was the closing event of this year's series. At the Food Fiesta, there were ten stalls, each organised by a different society. Their offerings went from the familiar (guacamole and nachos at Latin American Society) to the more exotic (fermented eggs in Chinese Society).

145 people attended the event held at the Roger Kirk Centre, with an unsurprisingly high number of international students making up the crowd, mixed also with a large number of graduate ones. A performance of a medley of different musical styles by the Latin American Society took place at the end of the night where they were apparently voted the best performance at the previous week's cultural night.

The stalls were all decorated with flags, and the types of food were obviously quite varied. I tried the braised beef in soy sauce at the Chinese Society's stall which was voted the best food of the night, kept warm (impressive given the layout of the event), and tasting

somewhat spicy and salty, the soy sauce a naturally strong flavour. Also present were fermented eggs, a Chinese delicacy consisting of, as per its name, a boiled egg marinated in soy sauce and other spices for a period of time. It was a good opportunity to try something not as readily available, but I would not repeat the experience.

The Polish Society who came in third place veered towards the sweet side, with delicious Syrniki (cheesecake) and Babka cake being honourable mentions. The Catalan Society got political, with posters calling for the release of political prisoners next to their patatas bravas and sobrasada (a red spicy spread made of pork). Honourable mentions include the Latin American Society's traditional Mexican chicken sandwiches made with Mole sauce (a sauce of which the main ingredient is cacao), the Dutch society's simple but tasty Pannenkoeken (the Dutch version of pancakes) and the Japanese Society's Sushi (and their kimonos).

I had a chat with Martina Zucconelli, one of the ISA organisers, about the event. I enquired on awareness, as surely more people



IMAGE: SUREN VYNN

on campus would have been interested in attending. She responded: "This has been our biggest issue, we have advertised on campus screens, facebook, you name it, but we are still

working to find the right strategy to engage with local students about these events". Fortunately, if anyone is interested in attending, there is always next year.



# 10 THINGS I HATE ABOUT UNI

IMAGE: HOLLY HUXTER

JACK DAVIES MOANS ABOUT WHAT'S PISSING HIM OFF OF LATE

1. York is absolutely full of **black ice**. Walking around in the wintertime here can resemble a round of Total Wipeout. Fat Pete, a pal of mine, slipped and knocked out one of his front teeth, transforming his appearance into that of an extra from Trainspotting. This was hilarious until a week later when I went arse over tit and dislocated my elbow. Not so instant karma.
2. My disastrous start to 2018 has continued via a catalogue of ailments and illnesses, including glandular fever and the dreaded **Australian flu**. A week of bedrest was required to make me feel human again.
3. A special shout-out must go to the perennial healthcare shitshow that is **Unity Health**. I received four emails from them asking me to ring the booking line to make an appointment regarding some test results, only for the booking line to be constantly busy and refer me to a handy email. Cue frustrating cycle of me not actually receiving my test results across a variety of media.
4. My **new bartending job** sees me sporting a white tuxedo jacket and green bow tie, meaning I look not too dissimilar to a low-budget rentboy who has been asked by his sugar daddy to dress up like James Bond for the night. It's not a good look.
5. **James Hare**, whose irrelevant mumblings should be appearing somewhere over there --->
6. In a backwards move I was certain would never happen, I've spent another couple of days in the *Nouse* office as an editor of the **YUSU Elections Magazine**. But I should save having a proper rant about the elections until the next edition when all of the Freshers have seen how fucking pointless they are, too.
7. **Reading**. Two and a half years into an English Literature degree and I've discovered I really do loathe reading. It's shit, I've never got time to do it, and I'd much rather spend my time engaging more deeply with my true passions, like drinking.
8. A rather **large, ominous crack** has appeared in the kitchen wall of my uni house. Can't tell whether it represents actual structural damage or is only a foreboding figment of my imagination acting as a metaphor for the odds of me getting to the end of university in one piece.
9. I really should have learned by now that **being a student means I cannot spend all of my money so carelessly**. Recent purchase: football gear totalling more than a hundred quid for a five-a-side team I have just joined with work colleagues.
10. **Five-a-side football**. Nearly three years of doing nothing but drink, moan, and avoid reading has taken its toll on my physical fitness. Eleven minutes in, I felt like fucking Wheezy the Penguin from *Toy Story* after a two-hour gangbang. Sad times.

## Hare to Help!

by James Hare



WHO THOUGHT THIS WAS A GOOD IDEA? NOT JAMES HARE

**The thing I miss most about home is my tumble dryer - how do I deal with my longing to hear it rumble more frequently?**

This is a question I am often asked: the answer was revealed to me in a dream late last night. Or early this morning, depending on your perspective.

There are many things to miss about home, and everyone has their own crosses to bear. I personally find the hardest thing about being away from home is missing my yorkshire pudding tin. Many nights during my time in Poland were spent weeping in my shower, thinking of the battered heaven I could be indulging in if not for the cruelness of distance.

For others, there are many different things that they may miss about home. In the interest of fairness - and to make this column interesting to the average Josephine - I'll take a short aside from responding to the point at hand, and discuss those and strategies for coping with them. First up, let me discuss how to deal with missing your family.

Going to university can be a traumatic experience when it comes to leaving your family behind, unless you don't particularly like them, or simply feel you have outgrown the family home - a problem my mate Kieran has, being 6ft 8 and finding the navigation of doorways problematic. The best way to deal with this issue is simple; cut all contact with your family, and regularly remind yourself of their troublesome idiosyncrasies. In the interests of familial harmony, I can't quote from my own experience - but I'm sure something comes to mind for all of the single-digit number of people reading this.

Others may miss those they have to go without from a romantic perspective. As will be expanded upon in future editions, romance is not a subject with which I am particularly well acquainted. Indeed, quite

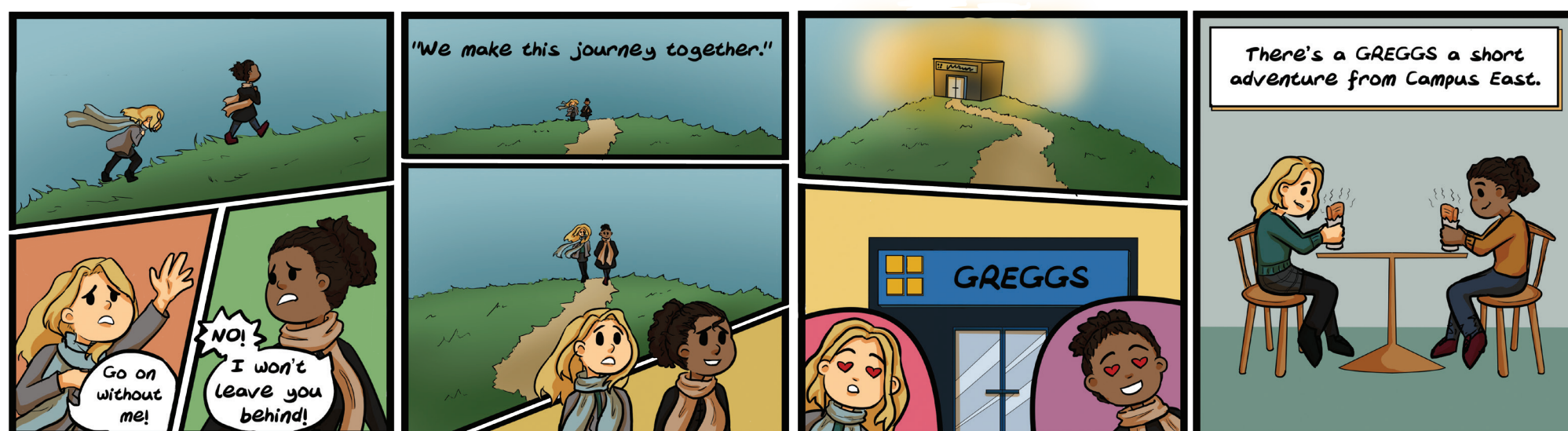
frankly it both baffles and terrifies me in equal measure. But if you find yourself missing your paramour, there is always something you can do. Recall that firstly, distance makes the heart grow fonder - something I know to be true in the case of my Yorkshire Pudding tin - and that secondly, having your partner around you at all times is a great burden both in terms of time and finance, comparable to conducting a Napoleonic style military campaign. Instead - to extend this tortured metaphor further - you should focus on meeting on neutral ground infrequently to hammer out a Versailles style settlement. Frequently enough to make your relationship survive, but infrequently enough that it need not feel like a chore.

There are many other things you may miss. Pets are particularly tough, but in this age of memes it is incredibly easy to replace the spot for your furry friend in your heart with that of an internet equivalent. Plus, none of the doggos you see online will ever lay faeces upon your rug - a marked advantage over a normal pet. Equally, you may miss your friends. I cannot empathise particularly here, as somehow going to university led to me living closer to my friends than before - a fact I regret as much as my editors regret giving Jack Davies a column to my left. But if you do miss your friends, just remember that you have new friends, who are likely to live in more exciting places than those from your home. Sure, you could return home to Preston - but how about visiting Paula in Paris instead, or Pavel in Prague? The world is your lobster.

But to return finally to the original question, the answer is simple. Go into one of the laundry rooms on campus. Note the ridiculous cost of tumble drying. And then learn to hate those infernal machines once and for all.

Send questions to [james.hare@nouse.co.uk](mailto:james.hare@nouse.co.uk)

NIAMH MURCHAN IS MAKING THE TREK TO HES EAST...







## Want to write for us?

- **PICK YOUR INTERESTS** Take a look in a copy of *Nouse*, or go to [nouse.co.uk](http://nouse.co.uk), and find out which sections best fit your writing interests. We have 14 to choose from!
- **JOIN A WRITERS' GROUP** Search for 'Nouse Comment', 'Nouse Music', 'Nouse Sport' etc. on Facebook, and click 'Join Group'. The Section Editor will approve your request.
- **BUY NOUSE MEMBERSHIP** You must buy a £5 membership to the society in order to write for us. Go to [YUSU.org](http://YUSU.org) > Opportunities > Societies A-Z > *Nouse* > Join Online.
- **GET WRITING!** Editors will post opportunities in Writers' Groups, and you can suggest ideas to them. They can give you help and feedback too. It's as simple as that!

*Find more info on our Facebook and Twitter pages, or email [editor@nouse.co.uk](mailto:editor@nouse.co.uk) with any questions.*

Izzy  
Dep Muse



Emily  
Muse



Jacob  
Editor



Oscar  
Dep Editor



Kendra  
Sub-Editor





# The name game in Macedonia

**Anastasios Proios Doukas**  
POLITICS CORRESPONDENT

THE NAME OF a country may seem like an uncontroversial topic, yet recently what many might assume is a non-issue, has caused a great deal of problems for the the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM). The FYROM has not been able to join the EU and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation NATO and that is for one reason: they want to be called Macedonia. The naming dispute originated when the FYROM gained their independence and proclaimed themselves to be the "Republic of Macedonia"; a point of contention with Greece. This is seen as problematic because Greece's largest region is named Macedonia, as it incorporates most parts of the ancient kingdom. To rub salt in the Greek wound they chose the Vergina Sun, an ancient Greek symbol, as their flag. Greece spoke against the FYROM's name declaration, condemning it as a theft of culture and heritage, and a direct attack on Greek national sovereignty.

Multiple efforts have been made to reach a solution but all produced no positive outcome. The dispute seems to have two repeating phases in-between the negotiations: a phase of latency and a phase of tension. Tensions have been created by the adoption of the Vergina sun symbol, using the name "Alexander the Great" for Skopje's main airport and the great motorway, and the building of statues and monuments that showcase achievements of the ancient kingdom of Macedon. All of these are important cultural symbols. The Vergina sun problem was resolved after Greece imposed an embargo on all products from the FYROM except for food, medicine and humanitarian assistance, until they changed their flag following talks with UN mediator Cyrus R. Vance. Greece reasoned that this was done as a "last resort" as the diplomatic talks did not lead to any fruition for the span of two years. The other two issues continue to be unresolved problems today even though the prime minister of the FYROM Zoran Zaev claims that he is going to change the name of the airport and the

highway to lead to the cooperation of the two nations.

So, is there any hope for stability between the two nations? The current prime minister of Greece, Alexis Tsipras, and Zoran Zaev have reopened the topic of the name dispute and UN mediator Matthew Nimetz has facilitated meetings between the two sides to find a common acceptable solution. Both sides seem to agree that the country cannot be named "The Republic of Macedonia" but rather use a name that contains the term Macedonia and make it abundantly clear that the Greek Macedonia is a distinctly different territory. However, the governments in this case do not reflect the will of the people. There is real passion over the issue among ordinary Greek people.

The Greeks have three main arguments as to why the name shouldn't contain the term Macedonia. Firstly, Alexander the Great spread the Greek civilisation, was born in the Greek city Pella, spoke Greek and participated in the Olympic Games which means that he is indeed Greek.

Secondly, the region of the current FYROM was not incorporated in the kingdom of Macedon but rather was a separate one called Paeonia (except its most eastern part.)

The last reason Greeks cite is that the Slavs moved in much later. As a modern Greek national commented, "Giving them our name and our history is nothing short of treason and it is like taking out our eyes with our own hands".

The people of the FYROM justify their use of the name, also claiming that they are historically tied to the name as after the Romans, the region they lived in was also called Macedonia due to

an administrative region that was set up. They claim that they have built a new separate culture surrounding that name.

I asked a modern citizen of the FYROM who responded, "I think the name of our country isn't something you should change without votes, it takes away a lot of history and tradition".

While outsiders may see the dispute between the two claimants of the title "Macedonia" as somewhat trivial, the two sides are influenced by a sense of national pride and both feel that their history entitles them to the name. The debate is motivated by feelings of national pride; it is having practical ramifications for relations in the region.



IMAGE: BJORN CHRISTIAN TORRISEN

## A politicised Winter Olympics

**Patrick Walker**  
POLITICS CORRESPONDENT

ONE OF THE key principles of the Olympic movement is unity; however, Olympic games of the past have been far from politically neutral. The games are often rocked by controversy, for example during the most recent summer Olympic games in 2016, suspended Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff refused to attend Rio's opening ceremony on political grounds, saying she did not want to sit 'below' interim President Michael Temer. That said, South Korea's so-called 'Peace Games' in Pyeongchang county may have some of the greatest political significance of any Olympic event since the Cold War. The two most significant issues are representative: Russia's athletes have been prevented from competing under a Russian flag, while the two Korean states have mutually agreed to march under one standard, in unity. For better or worse, Pyeongchang 2018 could have lasting implications for the global political stage.

The Olympics were arguably most successfully used as a political tool by Russia during the Soviet era; the 1980 Moscow Olympics were dubbed the 'Chemists' Games' due to the prevalence of doping, and a subsequent study found that there likely was not a medal winner who wasn't "on some form of drug or another". Authoritarian regimes like Soviet Russia see international sporting success as an expression of the superiority of their system, a highly political statement. China's huge investment in athletic train-

ing has shown that it too recognises the value of medal-winning. Success is beneficial domestically too. Putin's approval ratings hit an annual high following Russia's good performance at Sochi in 2014. It is no surprise then, that Putin was angered by the IOC's decision to prevent Russian athletes from competing under a Russian flag. Moscow called the ruling a 'crime against sport', and, without a hint of irony, accused the US of attempting to impact Putin's election in March. Sochi 2014's highest medal winner

The political implications of this year's games are immediately obvious

will be excluded from these games, and the country is understandably not happy.

The political implications of this year's games are immediately obvious, given the South Korean hosts, and the disunity which pervades the Korean peninsula. As was the case with the Russian Winter Olympics in 2014, historical precedent is cause for concern. North Korea has already shown it is willing to use force to disrupt its neighbour's Olympic success. A year before the 1988 Seoul Olympics, North Korean agents detonated a bomb on a South Korean flight in an effort to scare foreign visitors from the games. It marked the first deterioration in the Korean Armistice Agreement that had been kept for 34 years. South

Korea is understandably desperate to make the event it spent 15 years working towards run smoothly. It must reassure both the US and North Korea of its ability to maintain security, and has pleaded with the US to cease military exercises until after the games. It's worth noting that North Korea has decided to implement its own parade on the eve of the games with hundreds of missiles and tanks.

All that said, there is potential to improve relations between the two countries. Kim Jong-un's sister will attend the opening ceremony in South Korea as a gesture of good faith. Not only will the two countries enter the opening ceremony under the same banner, they have collaborated to form a unified women's hockey team: part of Pyeongchang's strategy of 'unity through diversity'. The two countries began talks on 9th January to this end, managing to conduct meaningful dialogue on the peninsula for the first time in two years. The significance of holding the games in Gangwon province is immense: it is the only region of the peninsula which retains the same name according to both governments, cut in half by the de-militarised zone (DMZ.) Once a symbol of division, Gangwon could in time see greater associations with unity. Not everyone is happy with the move towards reunification: younger South Koreans see wider practical issues, namely the huge cost of returning North Korea and its citizens to South Korean standards of infrastructure, economic welfare, and education. While there are many practical issues to face, Pyeongchang 2018 might be a good start to healing relations, however. As one critic put it: "it can do no harm, and possibly some good".



IMAGE: PIXABAY/ELIONAS



# The Greens' Natalie Bennett talks to Nouse

**Joseph Silke**  
POLITICS EDITOR

THIS PAST WEEK, the Model United Nations Association here at York hosted the former leader of the Green Party of England and Wales: Natalie Bennett. Ms Bennett spoke with confidence and some charm about the democratic deficit she sees in our electoral system and, unsurprisingly, the need for a more environmentally friendly economy which prioritises protection of the planet over growth in GDP. Ms Bennett spoke to *Nouse* about the future of the Green Party, and her vision for reform and a more sustainable future.

With the persistence of "Corbyn-mania", I asked Ms Bennett whether there is still a place for the Green Party within British politics as a party of the left. "I'd group that into two areas," she said. "The Green Party wants to remain a member of the European Union. We value the free movement of people and have been fighting ever since the referendum for a ratification referendum." She criticised Labour's policy on Brexit, saying: "We have a very clear policy on Brexit. We want to remain

in the Single Market and keep free movement. What many people don't recognise is that Labour doesn't have a position at all. They have said they want a long transition deal but nothing about what comes after."

"Then there's also broader ideology," she continued, "in terms of

**Many people do not realise that Labour does not have a Brexit position at all** "

the practical reality that we cannot have infinite growth on a finite planet. That's not politics; it's physics." Ms Bennett decried projects such as HS2 and the new Hinkley Point project and added: "I'm really looking forward to the Universal Basic Income, which has been a long-term Green Party policy, taking off. It is an entirely new model in which people's welfare is not dependent on the employment market."

UBI is a system under which all citizens receive an unconditional

payment from the state for their cost of living, replacing much of the welfare system. There have been no large-scale trials, although the Finnish government began a small, two-year experiment in January 2017 involving 2000 people. "Welfare shouldn't be means tested," she stressed, "and payments should be provided gladly as a measure of a decent society and that's not how Labour approaches things."

The Environment Secretary Michael Gove has been making headlines of late with the government's environment plan. I asked Natalie Bennett whether she approved of the Government's direction. "Michael Gove has done some good things," she replied. When I asked her whether that is strange for her to admit, she replied: "If you ask the question why, it is pretty clear he is running to be the Chancellor or Prime Minister."

On the issue of agricultural subsidies, which Mr Gove has focused

on for reform post-Brexit, Natalie Bennett began by speculating that "there's at least a 30-40% chance that Brexit won't happen at all." She prefaced by stating that the Green Party has "always been opposed to the CAP" and what is needed in Britain is a "revolution in our food production" that is ecologically friendly. "We have poisoned our planet with pesticides," she said, "we have polluted our rivers and our drinking water with these chemicals. We need a transformation and certainly a replacement for CAP is part of that."

Finally, on electoral reform, I asked the former Green leader whether she supported the clamour from some on the left for an expansion in the franchise for 16 and 17 year olds. "Absolutely! That's been Green Party policy for at least

a decade. We know that if people vote for the first time, they are more likely to keep voting. We can set up a whole new generation of voters and truly make Britain a democracy." The Labour government in Wales recently made the move for local elections. Citing the expansion of the franchise for the Scottish separation referendum, Ms Bennett concluded: "16 and 17 year olds were given the vote and they used it in very large numbers. There's no excuse not to look to the future."

The issue of fake news continues to recur in our public life. Recently, it was animal sentience that gripped the headlines. The *Independent* claimed that the defeat of an amendment by Green MP Caroline Lucas to the EU Withdrawal Bill proved that the government believes animals cannot feel pain. The reality was that the amendment put forward would have come into conflict with the government's new and extensive animal protection plan. Ms Bennett, however, claimed that it was the "right wing press" who had attempted to "confuse the issue" by objecting to the Green attempt to conserve the EU's preexisting protections. Michael Gove has insisted that not only will current protections remain but tougher measures will be enacted post-Brexit.



IMAGE: JAY DYER

# Cuts to Marines could threaten UK's defence

**Niall Collingwood**  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ON THE 2<sup>ND</sup> February the Commons Defence Committee published a report titled 'Sunset for the Royal Marines? The Royal Marines and UK amphibious capability', criticising the government over proposed plans to decommission crucial vessels, reduce manpower and cut spending for the Royal Marines. The Royal Marines are an amphibious light infantry force, who are part of the Royal Navy. They were founded in 1755 as the Royal Navy's infantry troops and are described as 'the most elite amphibious troops in the world'.

The report from the Defence Committee, which includes evidence from the retired commander of the Royal Marines and the director of

the Military Sciences department at the Royal United Services Institute, argues that the government has disgraced itself by backtracking on its previous promise in the 2015 Strategic Defence and Security Review, the government promised to maintain two Albion class warships crucial to launching landing craft needed for an amphibious invasion, leading to a huge loss of offensive capability. Others pointed to the fact that the Royal Marines also act as a stepping-off point towards the UK's world-renowned special forces, with 40-50 per cent of all special forces personnel (including the Special Boat Service and

the SAS) having a background in the Royal Marines. This has led to fears that the proposed cuts could harm the effectiveness of the UK's special forces in the future, depriving their troops of this grounding step.

Other naval experts have defended the move as a modernisation step. They have emphasised that the Royal Navy intends to adopt a more carrier-orientated doctrine for the changing demands of modern warfare, heralded by the completion of the HMS *Queen Elizabeth*

in 2014 and the commencement of construction of the HMS *Prince of Wales*, its sister ship, last December. They argue that amphibious landings of the kind stressed in the report ought to have been left on the beaches of Normandy in 1944, declaring this practice a relic of 20<sup>th</sup> century warfare and becoming increasingly irrelevant to combat modern 21<sup>st</sup> century challenges. Instead, naval experts assert that the new carriers, the largest vessels ever put to sea by the Royal Navy, will be able to provide the same roles as the ships facing the axe.

It seems the question facing both the Conservative government and the Royal Navy is not merely one of whether two Albion class vessels are to be decommissioned a few years early, but a larger issue of this country's reaction to present-domestic and international demands.

Such cuts are in line with the Tory policy of austerity, which began as a reaction to the 2008 financial

crisis and has not been aided by the (hopefully temporary) economic hardships brought about by Brexit.

Britain's relationship with and usefulness to NATO will also be heavily impacted behind the scenes of such seemingly minute cuts, having knock-on effects on our 'special relationship' with the "stable genius" US President across the Atlantic Ocean. The Royal Navy, therefore, is clearly attempting to modernise despite its constricted budget, effectively forcing them to gamble that an emphasis on behemoth carriers over highly trained special forces will pay off in the crucible of international politics.

Whether this wager will be successful or not, only time will tell but one thing is for certain: this move will profoundly affect the men and women of the Royal Marines. Furthermore, the defence sector at large will undoubtedly interpret this as a new direction for the Royal Navy and the country as a whole.



IMAGE: SEAN CLEE



## LEFT WING RIGHT WING

*Thoughts from the Deputy Politics Editor*

This edition, I'm pleased to temporarily assume responsibility for Left Wing, Right Wing, quite timely considering the current commemorations for "100 years since suffrage" or rather the 1918 Representation of the People Act. As a woman, I feel greatly indebted to the suffra-

gettes who fought so hard for votes for women and sacrificed so much in the process. Yet, I must qualify it by noting the limitations of the Act. It only allowed certain women to vote, those over thirty and based on property-owning criteria. Young, working-class women were the

largest group excluded. The initial 1918 legislation was an extraordinary achievement, but women who needed a voice the most were still excluded.

We live in an era of visible social change. The fight for equality goes on. There has been an emergence of high profile campaigns for equal pay at the BBC, and by the #MeToo movement. Yet, like the 1918 Suffrage Act, the progress made by both of these campaigns have so far mainly impacted the upper echelons of our society.

This week a legal battle was launched against Tesco and Asda, who have been paying their mainly female shopfloor workers up to a third less than the male warehouse staff, for what the workers say is equal work. This is a case which has been scarcely reported on. Similarly, while shocking cases of sexual harassment have been exposed in the film and media industries, little attention has been paid to lower paid workers who are often more vulnerable to abuse. A Unite survey found that 89 per cent of workers in

the hospitality industry had experienced sexual harassment at work.

Social movements must reach all levels of society in order to be a success. The 1918 Suffrage Act was a remarkable achievement, yet the women who needed representation the most were not granted it. The achievements made by modern social campaigns are ground-breaking - but we must not assume that the work is done. Let's keep the spirit of the suffragettes alive by continuing to call out injustice at every level of our society.



# Davos 2018: “a shared future in a fractured world?”

**George Mallinson**  
 BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

LAST WEEK SAW the conclusion of this year's World Economic Forum in Davos, the annual event which sees the world elite descend upon a small Swiss mountain town in order to discuss the small topic of making the world a better place. The forum traditionally has a different theme each year and this year inspiration was taken from Xi Jinping's 2017 talk on 'Creating a Shared Future in a Fractured World' which covered topics such as the environment, artificial intelligence, and the changing roles of enterprise.

First up, there were calls for firms to have increased social responsibility. Billionaire financier and currency speculator, George Soros, slammed multinational firms such as Facebook and Google for their exploitation of their monopoly position with regards to advertising. Soros complained that firms such as these were taking advantage of the social environment and were a threat to democracy. Coming in the wake of the ongoing investigation into Russian influence over the US election through social media platforms, Soros' speech struck a chord with many world leaders. British Prime Minister Theresa May echoed Soros, speaking of the need for more stringent regulation of the web as she continues her mission to reduce the amount of terrorist propaganda and child pornography on the web. There is no doubt that both Soros' and May's speeches hit the right tone among those with

any sort of moral compass, but it remains to be seen whether Twitter, Facebook, and their band of offshoots will take any notice of their requests, or whether they will fall upon deaf ears.

With President Trump pulling the US out of the Paris Climate Accord early in his tenure, questions have been raised about the future of the fight against global warming, another item high on the agenda. Emmanuel Macron struck an optimistic note when he announced that France would completely eliminate coal-fired power plants by the year 2021. Meanwhile, the conference also marked the beginning of a new global partnership, Friends of the

Ocean Action, spearheaded by UN Special Envoy for the Ocean Peter Thompson. The initiative promises to fight over-fishing, acidification and rubbish dumping in an attempt to rejuvenate the world's oceans, and received a boost from a donation of \$4.5m from businessman Marc Benioff and his wife Lynne. The insurance giant AXA also dealt a blow to fossil fuel plant owners as it branded global warming as 'uninsurable' and that as a result it would no longer insure coal or sand-tar projects. Although more needs to be done to fully stop the change in our climate, such positive sounds coming out of conferences containing so many powerful people give us hope

that environmental sustainability is becoming more and more prominent in the minds of everyone.

Artificial intelligence was also a hot topic for discussion, with business leaders and politicians alike looking into the growing market for robotics in the work place, and how to integrate such technology into the labour force with the minimum disruption to existing workers. Of course, business leaders would much rather use a robot who doesn't tire and to whom no wage is paid, than a worker who is much less efficient. However, the politics of business and the aforementioned increased pressure on firms to be more socially responsi-

ble means that they must look into ways of using AI in tandem with manpower rather than as a replacement for it. Soros again waded in on the topic, praising Nordic countries for protecting workers rather than jobs, a solution that gives less room for manoeuvre for businesses trying to switch from human to humanoid labour. We will definitely see a seismic shift in the composition of the workforce over the next several years, so it is important that discussions such as these take place beforehand in order to protect the jobs of millions of people.

Critics of the Davos conference claim that the World Economic Forum is in fact little more than elitist networking rather than a world bettering discussion. Perhaps this is true, with many business leaders admitting that it's the chance encounters in the foyer or the corridors rather than the meeting rooms that they value most. However, with such an eclectic mix of political and economic views in one place, there is reason to believe that it is in fact possible to create a shared future through positive discussion of current topics.

In the face of populism, growing inequality and environmental degradation, this meeting of the most powerful people in the world offers a chance for improvement. The men and women who were present at Davos 2018 are the ones who hold the key to making society a better place, though it remains to be seen if they act on this responsibility or continue to sit around talking, without making any truly major strides towards the end of improving the lives of people across the globe.



# The billionaire CEOs shooting for the moon

**Matt Freathy**  
 BUSINESS EDITOR

LAST WEEK SAW SpaceX successfully launch their new rocket, the Falcon Heavy, into orbit. It's twice as powerful as the next most powerful rocket, and was launched at one third of the cost, largely due to its reusable boosters. This innovation is the latest in the new wave of spaceflight technology, driven by an influx of billions of pounds from a band of CEOs, each aspiring to be the first to successfully commercialise space travel.

The sky-shattering accomplishments of the Space Race were followed by decades of stagnation in the realm of space exploration. The astronauts of Apollo 11 walked on the moon in 1969, and almost half a century later mankind has yet to set foot beyond it. This tempering of celestial ambition has occurred not because further feats are scien-

tifically impossible, but because financial support for such lofty ideas from national governments has been greatly diminished.

The US and the Soviet Union took the first steps into the greatest unknown more for their potency as propaganda tools than otherworldly curiosity. Once the Cold War ended, much of the impetus behind these early ventures promptly vanished. Without the incentive of international competition, it became hard to rationalise allocating vast sums of taxpayer's money to exploring the cosmos instead of education and healthcare. NASA's budget fell from a peak of 4.41 per cent of total US Federal spending in 1966 to below one per cent just nine years later; today it hovers around 0.5 per cent.

Private rocket launch companies have existed for decades, however until recently the industry was dominated by French company Arianespace, who had 60 per cent of the market in 2014. The lack of competition in the market meant there was little incentive for existing

firms to innovate in order to reduce costs and make spaceflight affordable.

In the last few years new entrants into the market have emerged, funded by the personal fortunes of their eccentric billionaire founders, private capital from other parties, and NASA contracts. Of these new upstarts SpaceX have made by far the greatest inroads, with their low-cost services forcing Arianespace and leading US provider United Launch Alliance into significant restructuring and cutbacks in an attempt to stem the tide of clients switching to new competitor.

The standard cost of launching a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket currently stands at \$61m a pop, in stark comparison with the estimated \$420m expense to the US government of a ULA launch in 2012. Advances in the reusability of rockets and launch equipment, such as the successful launch of the Falcon Heavy, have the potential to decrease prices much further still. SpaceX President and COO Gwynne Shotwell

has claimed it's possible a reusable Falcon 9 could be launched for as little as \$5-7m.

While Musk and his team have surged ahead, their rivals are advancing in the newly invigorated Space Race. Jeff Bezos is selling \$1bn in Amazon stock each year to finance his Blue Origin project, although when one-day delivery to Mars will be available remains unclear. Despite repeated setbacks, Richard Branson's Virgin Galactic still hopes to be the first to offer lunar tourism in the coming years.

Some may be concerned about the implications of space exploration becoming the playground of a handful of exorbitantly wealthy businessmen looking to fuel their own egos. But without the intervention of their hubris these extraordinary technological advancements may not occur for generations, if at

all. Even for those unmoved by the possibility of exploring the skies above us, the research undertaken by NASA at its peak made many massively beneficial developments in other scientific areas possible, such as prosthetic limbs and freeze-dried food. The surgeon who performed one of the first vascular bypass operations in the 1970s credited its success to four technologies developed by NASA.

It's doubtless that a watchful eye should be kept on these companies and their activities. Nonetheless, their innovation should be celebrated, and further competition encouraged. If their ambition is well-managed, there's no telling where Elon and Jeff might take us.

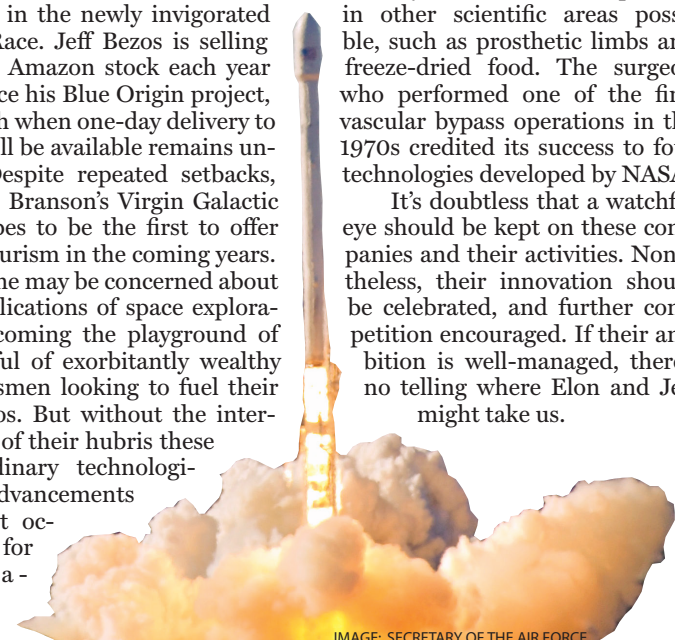


IMAGE: SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE



# Controversial Brexit impact reports leaked

**Nicholas Brown**  
DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

LAST WEEK confidential government documents were leaked, showing the huge predicted economic damage to the UK after Brexit. Controversial predictions have detailed the damage to each UK region, that government chiefs are expecting when the UK formally leaves the European Union in March 2019. The Prime Minister has maintained that she has 'no doubts' over the prospects the UK has from outside the economic union.

According to the documents, London (which voted to remain) will suffer the least after March 2019. MPs and ministers have been permitted to view the documents prepared by government economists in private, but crucial figures have been leaked. London would take a two per cent knock to its growth figures in the event of a free trade deal compared to an 11% hit to North East England. These figures have infuriated many politicians who have argued that the impact of Brexit will further the North-South divide by stifling any growth in the North. This impact on the North East is surprising considering the region voted in considerable favour of leaving the Union.

The documents have also detailed how other regions will be affected. North Ireland is predicted to face an eight per cent drop in its growth under a free trade deal but is predicted to face a 12 per cent drop in growth figures in the case of a no-deal situation- a predicament that the Department for Exiting the European Union is trying to avoid. The prospects after Brexit are slightly worse in the West Midlands for example which is predicted to face an eight per cent loss in growth under a free trade deal and 13 per cent drop if there is no deal.

Comparatively, the East Midlands and East Anglia are both predicted to face a 5% drop in growth if the government can negotiate a free trade deal where-as the predictions show that there will be an 8.5 per cent drop if the Conservatives take us out of the EU without a trade deal. In Yorkshire the economy is predicted to experience a drop of five per cent with a free trade deal and only seven per cent if the UK leaves without a deal.

Many have seen the documents as a breach of trust from ministers who in December denied that economists were working for the government on impact forecasts after Brexit. The government was forced to reveal them to MPs after pressure in the House of Commons. Civil servants have reportedly spent months studying regional economies across the country by analys-

ing the risk factors of the vote to leave.

Government economists were reportedly studying ways in which Brexit may cause damage for exam-

public should've been made aware in advance of the assessments saying that the public has the 'right to know'. Brexit supporting MPs have called the assessments 'non-sense' and have denied the damage that the government has predicted. The government have maintained they

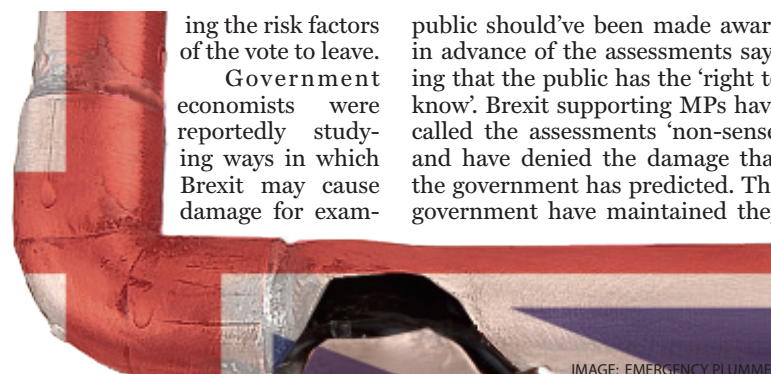


IMAGE: EMERGENCY PLUMMER

ple to key firms that operate in certain regions as well as whether the local economies would be likely to withstand the damage for example London is predicted to be less affected as it will be able to respond quickly to the changing economic landscape as it is a large economically diverse city. The North East is predicted to be the worst affected and is expected considering it is the most deprived region in the UK.

Remain-supporting pressure group, Open Britain (which is the successor organisation to Britain Stronger in Europe that campaigned during the referendum) tweeted last week that it is ironic that the governments 'own' assessments have predicted devastating impacts on the UK. Remain supporting MP, Chris Leslie tweeted that the

are optimistic and confirmed Theresa May last week at a London black tie campaigning ball that she is still sure Britain will make a success of Brexit.

The Brexit Secretary David Davis, told MP's last December in a highly-publicised committee hearing that the UK economy will face a 'paradigm change' similar to that experienced after the 2008 economic crisis which altered the landscape in the financial world. It is clear government ministers are considering these huge changes and the effect on individual UK regions.

However, it is not clear whether civil servants will be using these assessments in order to create counter-economic policies to balance out the negative impact, a move that many would welcome.

# End of cheap money spooks Wall Street

**James Eyermann**  
BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

ON MONDAY, positive economic data in terms of employment and wages led to a somewhat perverse response from the US markets, who fear inflationary pressures from the now bullish economy will lead to a further tightening of monetary policy, and at a faster pace than previously thought.

Investors in Wall Street were quick to react, fearing an overvaluation of stocks when compared to companies' profits and overall soundness. This asset bubble has been fueled by cheap liquidity - the norm ever since the 2008 financial crisis when policymakers slashed interest rates to near zero and artificially pumped billions of dollars into the world economy through successive rounds of Quantitative Easing, which policymakers globally are now beginning to draw to a close. This led to a sharp drop in the Dow Jones which fell by 4.6 per cent, the largest drop in a single day since 2011's "Black Monday" when Standard & Poor's downgraded the US's credit rating in the midst of the Global Recession. This sentiment quickly spread across Europe and

Asia who also suffered lesser, but nonetheless considerable, losses.

The White House was quick to reassure investors and the wider American public that the economy's fundamentals remained strong, with an apparent attempt by Trump to distance himself from the market plunge. Most economists are seeing this fall in global markets as a mere correction, not a crash, with fears that companies had been artificially supported by cheap credit, which is unsustainable in the long term.

This plunge in the markets must seem like a flashback to 2008, hopefully reminding investors of the apparent risks in the markets, stemming any hubris that ultimately develops after a period of market buoyancy. The only underlying fear within the global markets is the risk of an overheating economy with unsustainable high levels of global growth, especially within the advanced economies, meaning the return of hawkish monetary policy. This has the potential, if not applied correctly, to curb the strong recovery of the economy.

Europe didn't see anywhere near as drastic falls in asset prices because wages and inflationary pressure remain weak, giving more breathing room for central bank policymakers, in particular those at the European Central Bank. This



IMAGE: BURLY VINSON

reduces the risk of any accelerated tightening of monetary policy and suggests that high levels of monetary stimulus will persist.

Following Monday's precipitous decline markets have become increasingly volatile and continued to tumble, indicating that this period of correction may continue for some time.

Although the markets have been volatile and the current market mood appears negative, under-

lying economic performance is positive. It is too early to see Trump's impact on the American economy, with the US President's tax reform only passed a month and a half ago. The future seems bright, and unless the loose monetary policy has caused any widespread mal-investment, the long-term prospects of the world and US economies look healthy with a continued bull in markets seeming likely, albeit alongside increased .



## WEEK IN NUMBERS

Digest of the week's most important figures.

8%

Leaked reports forecast UK GDP could be 8% lower in 15 years in the event of a "hard Brexit"



£4bn

Tesco are facing the UK's largest ever equal pay claim

1,175

The Dow Jones recorded its largest ever fall in points in a single day on 5 February



30%

The US has caused outrage by imposing steep tariffs on imports of solar panels

2.5%

The Eurozone reported its fastest annual GDP growth since 2007



€1.41

Brawls broke out over tubs of Nutella as a French supermarket chain cut the price from 4.7 euros



# Cancer: Are we closer to the “Golden Bullet?”

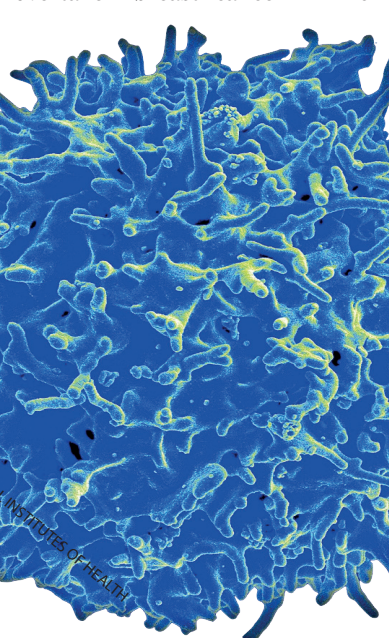
**Howard French**  
SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT

CANCER IS THE BIGGEST cause of premature death in the UK, accounting for 42 per cent of deaths from the top five “common killers.” Developments in healthcare and public health awareness mean that as a species, we are able to enjoy life longer, but these are not guaranteed to be healthy ones. In fact, the peak rate of cancer diagnoses between 2013 and 2015 was in individuals aged between 85 and 89. Cancer Research UK estimates that a new diagnosis is made approximately every two minutes in the UK, the majority of which are made at the late stage. For those not *au fait* with medical terminology, late stage cancer is the term given to that which has spread from its primary site to other parts of the body. It is the stage at which radical - that is, curative - treatment is not an easy task.

Cancer itself is defined as the uncontrolled division of cells within the body. Cell division is a necessary and normal part of daily existence, it allows new tissues to grow and our bodies to heal. However, on occasion a mutation in our DNA, either through natural error, or expo-

sure to chemicals or radiation, can cause a change which leads to this cell division being uncontrolled, leading to the development of a tumour. The most common areas for cancers to develop are within the prostate, breast, lung and bowel. Prostate cancer itself has recently overtaken breast cancer in inci-

dence rates in the UK for the first time. As a cancer which predominantly affects the ageing male population, the longevity of our species is leading to more and more diagnoses.



Due to the prevalence of cancer we are all likely to be affected either directly or indirectly in one way or another, either as a patient with the

disease, or from a holistic point of view as part of a familial community to support those in their fight. It is said that rates of cancer are 50 per cent in terms of diagnosis, however overcoming the challenge to gain control of such a wide ranging disease is one which will benefit us all.

One of the main difficulties in finding the “cure” for cancer is that it is an umbrella term for a disease which can have a wide variance in physiological manifestations. Although billions of pounds have been funnelled into cancer research and public awareness to date, it is an illness which continues to plague us with no one-size-fits-all cure in sight. In fact, those treatments which are currently utilised often come with debilitating side effects in themselves.

Previously, approaches to the treatment of cancer formation have been a well publicised mixture of chemotherapy, surgery and radiotherapy. Although effective in a lot of instances, these can have side effects which may affect the long term quality of life of an individual, for example: hair loss or cognitive dysfunction following chemotherapy; increased risk of secondary cancer; fatigue or skin problems following radiotherapy; and scarring or potential nerve damage following surgery.

One of the newest approaches to cancer treatment is called immunotherapy. This is a treatment which uses the individual's own immune system to attack cancerous cells. If immunotherapy is not employed in a treatment, cancer cells are able to evade the immune sys-

tem's natural defence mechanism through changes in DNA, meaning cancer cells are not identified as a threat.

T cells within the blood are key players in the immunological fight of infection and viruses. Recent scientific advancements have utilised these T cells to attack tumours within a host. This has been touted as a “vaccine for cancer”. A claim which obviously could be potentially groundbreaking in how we view one of the biggest killers in the developed world.

A recent publication in *Science and Translational Medicine* has gained a lot of traction within the media recently as it reportedly has seen a significant effect relating to

tumour reduction following an approach utilising immunotherapy.

This study looked at 90 mice, which were injected directly at the tumour site with a mixture of a TLR9 ligand, and an OX40 antibody. This then led to an immune response which identifies tumour cells of that type throughout the body and attacks them. While human trials are yet to be completed, the theory is considered safe for test subjects; only low doses of the immuno stimulator were required to elicit a tumour specific immune response.

The mice tested had tumours representative of colon cancer, melanoma, breast cancer or lymphoma. Research found that all 90 mice showed complete regression of tumours following vaccination, with the primary tumour site regressing first followed by distant metastases. Of these 90 mice, three developed recurrence, however the recurring tumours were also shown to be susceptible to the vaccination protocol.

This approach is certainly promising from its trial. The authors recognise that there are similarities in the properties of the cancers tested in the mice and those which affect the human population, so they suggest logical reasoning as to its effectiveness in human trials. However, more research is needed to identify whether this approach will be practical. It is unknown territory on the frontier of fighting one of the biggest killers of the modern world, but it certainly looks like progress is being made.

# Common genes found in Crohn's and Parkinson's

**Isabelle Hall**  
SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT

THERE ARE TWO main forms of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD): Crohn's Disease (CD) and Ulcerative Colitis (UC), which are distinguished by location within the body and severity. CD is much more severe, with patients showing deep inflammation of the terminal ileum and colon, while UC is characterised by superficial inflammation within the colon. Current treatments, mostly based on monoclonal antibodies, are used for both CD and UC despite their differences. Only a small percentage of patients

solution.

According to a paper published in *Nature* in 2012 headed by researchers at the Sanger Institute, over 200 loci associated with IBD have been identified by genome-wide association studies (GWAS). This is done by comparing DNA markers across the genomes of individuals with IBD. Many of the 200 loci already identified are known to be involved in the pro-inflammatory interleukin-23 pathway. However, with this method, rare genetic forms of the disease with potentially higher functional symptoms are often missed that play a key role in genetic predisposition to CD. Dr Inga Peter and her colleagues at the Icahn School of Medicine have identified the need to sequence rare variants in order to refine “the path-

prevalence of IBD in their population. Amongst them, there are approximately three times more cases in comparison to Europeans without Jewish ancestry. This is largely due to the insular nature of the community making mutation frequencies high. The group was studied in order to identify alleles of the LRRK2 gene which had a high association with CD. The LRRK2 gene also has the largest genetic effect reported in Parkinson's Disease (PD). The normal function of the LRRK2 gene is expressed in macrophages and stem cells within the small intestine and encodes for a protein that destroys debris within cells.

Interestingly, the team found that certain genetic variants were associated with protection against CD and others with risk. This was true not only for those suffering from CD but also in PD patients. The trend was seen

in both Jewish and non-Jewish populations. Despite this linked effect, the risk variant was seen more

ed goal which previously has been more ambiguous. For example, the R1398H variant is a loss of



are entering deep remission after being treated. This low rated treatment success has prompted an in-depth genetic analysis of CD in order to determine a more effective

ways associated with disease pathogenesis and design new therapies.”

The group's research focused on Ashkenazi Jews due to the high

with protection against CD and others with risk. This was true not only for those suffering from CD but also in PD patients. The trend was seen

frequently in CD cases than PD. Further analysis into the link between the two diseases established that there are certain genetic mutations which are present in both conditions - the team have identified that one gene's variants are responsible for the two seemingly unrelated phenotypes. This is an important conclusion as it allows health professionals to identify a subset of CD patients who are at greater risk of PD onset. Not only can the variant increase the risk of developing PD but if two copies of the allele are present this can lead to a six-year earlier age of onset.

The identification of alleles that increase a patient's protection is important, as it highlights a desired functional effect that could be used in new CD and PD treatments. It gives researchers a clear signpost-

function allele that blocks the pro-inflammatory interleukin-23 pathway, protecting the patient from severe cases of CD. It has already been shown that mice deficient in receptors of this pathway develop less severe symptoms of IBD.

The team highlighted that despite their study failing to explicitly screen CD patients for PD, the genetic link found between the two diseases cannot be disregarded. This is especially true since PD is found in less than 1 per cent of the population. Interest in the LRRK2 gene is now rising due to recent studies looking at its effects on CD and PD, but also on risks associated with some cancers. As understanding of LRRK2 and its variants' effects increases, so does the opportunity for more specific and effective treatments to arise.



# The wolves of Yellowstone

**Beth Linnane**  
SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, the majority of which is in Wyoming in the USA, was established on 1<sup>st</sup> March 1872. In the late 1800's wolves were a common sight in what was to become the National Park, however as settlers travelled further north the wolves presented the issue of predation of livestock and threats to human lives. This led to an anthropogenically-caused decline in wolf populations. This was further supported by US Congress which granted funding for the removal of large predators from federal land in 1914. Wolves were then trapped, shot or poisoned until the last packs were removed in the 1920s. After these events, Yellowstone's ecosystem saw some dramatic changes to the landscape and the wildlife. The Elk saw rapid increases in their populations to 20,000 in the 1990s; nearly double what they once were.

After grey wolves (*Canis lupus*) made it onto the endangered species list, the proposal to reintroduce them was brought forward and finalised in 1987. Three main groups were strongly against this decision. First of all tourists and locals were concerned about the risk that the wolves might injure or kill someone. Hunters were also worried that the wolves would drop the elk and deer populations causing there to be a lack of game over the following seasons of hunting.

The main group that was strongly adverse to the reintroduction were the ranchers in the area. They feared that the wolves would cause large losses to their livestock, damaging their incomes. Despite the number of opponents, the wolf reintroduction went forward.

The wolves to be reintroduced were taken from the Canadian provinces as researchers thought this would yield the highest number of surviving wolves. In Canada their main food source would be elk, similar to the National Park, whereas the wolves in Montana primarily hunt deer.

14 wolves from several different packs were captured and transported. Following several weeks in acclimatisation pens, the wolves

## The reintroduction of wolves had indirect consequences on other animal populations

were finally released in the winter of 1995. Wolf numbers continued to grow as there were 10 pups from that year and 17 more wolves shipped in.

On top of this, the mortality rate was less than half the expected value; however, some were killed illegally, and others died of natural causes. The damage to livestock and game expected by the wolves was largely unfounded. A non-profit organisation was set up to reimburse ranchers for livestock lost to wolves.

The reintroduction of wolves had indirect consequences on the populations of the other organisms living in the ecosystem, also known as a trophic cascade. This phenomenon occurs when the predators of a food chain are able to alter the number or behaviour of the animals further down the chain. The wolves presented a rare opportunity to study the effects that a top predator can have on the lower trophic levels.

The main effect the wolves had on the deer population was not the

amount they reduced it by, but how they altered their behaviour. The deer quickly learned to avoid certain areas of the park, such as gorges and valley bottoms, which made them vulnerable to being trapped. Changes to the grazing patterns allowed rejuvenation in the areas which the deer avoided.

Within six years of the reintroduction, some of the trees had quintupled in height. Woodlands were able to grow on the once bare valley sides. This led to an increase in the number of songbirds in the area. The impact the wolves created on the surrounding woodland allowed beavers to move back into the rivers. The beavers' dams created habitats for other animals such as muskrats, otters and ducks, allowing their populations to grow and thrive.

The wolves also killed the coyote in the area, which led to more rabbits and mice, allowing their predatory species, such as the hawk, fox, and weasels, to grow. Ravens and bald eagle numbers grew in the area as they fed on the carcasses left behind by the wolves, as did the bears living in the area. The increased number of bears reinforced the work done by the wolves, as they would kill deer calves.

The most extraordinary impact the wolves had on the park was that their actions were able to change the course of the rivers. Deer stopped feeding in areas around the rivers so vegetation was able to grow. This increased the stability of the riverbanks and reduced the amount of erosion. This caused the rivers to meander less and pools were able to form, which in turn formed habitats for different species.

This, combined with the other species that are living in the rivers, increased the diversity of the area further and gave rise to additions to the food chains, allowing predators and prey to prosper.



## YORK RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT



*This edition, Nathan Castro meets with Biology's Dr Luke Mackinder to discuss his career*

**Department:** Biology

**Current project:** Creating a spatially defined, multidimensional, protein interactome of the eukaryotic algal CO<sub>2</sub> concentrating mechanism

**Advice to aspiring scientists:** "Having interests outside of academia actually helps to relax. It's good to have a break from your work."

**Selected publication:** Mackinder et al. (2017) A spatial interactome reveals the protein organization of the algal CO<sub>2</sub> concentrating mechanism (*Cell*).



WHILE THERE ARE many different and extremely complex areas of study which the University's academic staff devote their time to, the people behind the research are similarly just as unique as the scientific questions they ask. Dr Luke Mackinder is certainly no exception. The surfer and mountain biker has devoted his academic career to studying eukaryotic algae and their ability to photosynthesise much more efficiently than most land plants. Their improved photosynthetic capability means that these microscopic organisms fix as much as 40 per cent of the globe's CO<sub>2</sub>, making them especially important in current times when anthropogenically caused CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are higher than ever.

The eukaryotic green algae of interest to Dr Mackinder live mainly in bodies of water and have the ability to collect CO<sub>2</sub> in a specific region of their cell, called a pyrenoid, using a process known as a CO<sub>2</sub> concentrating mechanism (CCM). While the ability to concentrate CO<sub>2</sub> within a particular compartment was not particularly useful three billion years ago when the planet had much higher CO<sub>2</sub> levels and the first photosynthetic organisms evolved to absorb the greenhouse gas, the current lower levels of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> mean that green algae must now actively compile CO<sub>2</sub> in high concentrations where photosynthesis occurs. If CCMs did not exist and these organisms did not concentrate CO<sub>2</sub> into specialised compartments, these photosynthetic organisms would consequently end up fixing high amounts of

O<sub>2</sub> instead, in a process known as photorespiration. Through photorespiration, the organism does not gain, but wastes energy. While the loss of energy via photorespiration still occurs at a low level, the presence of CCMs prevents the process from occurring in frequencies that would be fatal.

A recent hypothesis proposed by Dr Mackinder and his colleagues is the result of research into a model species of eukaryotic algae known as *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii*. This algal species has a very effective CCM with the pyrenoid, critical for it being able to perform highly efficient photosynthesis. The newly proposed hypothesis postulates that the pyrenoid is liquid based rather than crystalline as previously theorised. The implications of the pyrenoid being liquid would be that *C.reinhardtii* is better able to quickly adapt to changing environmental CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations than previously thought. In the case of a crystalline pyrenoid, adaptation to changing CO<sub>2</sub> would be time-consuming and would use energy.

A liquid pyrenoid also means that, during replication, the organism could produce two pyrenoids via fission of the original pyrenoid on the time scale of mere seconds.

While there initially may not seem to be any immediate applications of this research to benefit humans,

Dr Mackinder and colleagues propose the possibility of introducing CCMs into higher plant life such as agricultural crops. Introduction of these mechanisms could potentially lead to substantially higher photosynthetic rates by such plants, which may produce higher crop yields in order to feed an ever-growing human population.

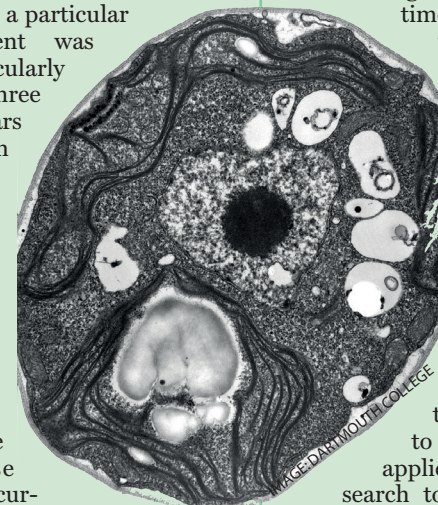


IMAGE: RONNIE MACDONALD



# THE SYSTEM

"THE STATISTICS DON'T LIE."

NOW CASTING FOR A DYSTOPIAN  
STUDENT DRAMA



## AUDITIONS

### D/N/104

17/02/18 12:00-14:00

18/02/18 16:00-19:00

19/02/18 15:00-17:00

CONTACT  
SL1886@YORK.AC.UK  
OR SCAN CODE BELOW  
TO FIND OUT MORE





CAREERS AND PLACEMENTS

# CAREER SHAPE IT

Find out about Careers in...

**MEDIA, ARTS  
& HERITAGE**

**NON PROFIT**

**ENVIRONMENT &  
SUSTAINABILITY**

Chat to professionals

**BE INSPIRED**

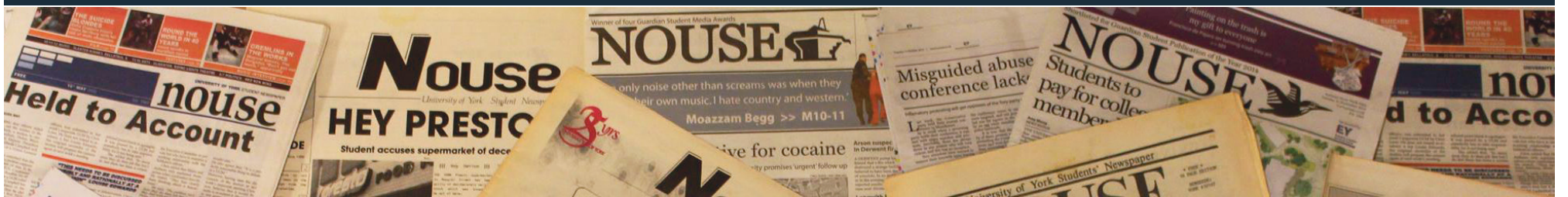
Shape your future

Find out more at [york.ac.uk/careers](http://york.ac.uk/careers)

**Wednesday**  
**21 FEBRUARY**  
**6.30–8.30pm**

6.30pm – Panel session  
7.30pm – Informal chat

**PHYSICS EXHIBITION  
CENTRE | Campus West**

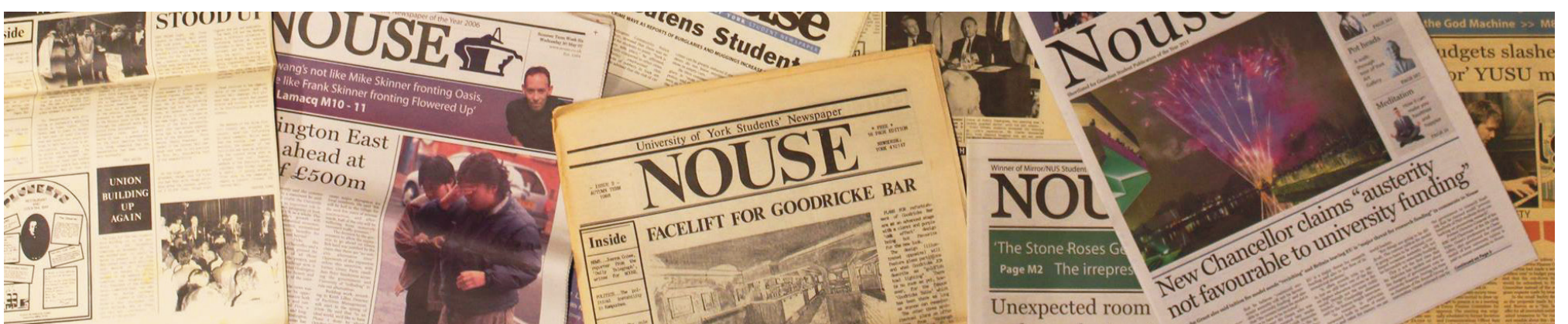


## Advertise with Nouse

*Nouse* is the oldest society at the University of York. We distribute 2300 print copies of our newspaper across campus to students every edition, and

can be found everywhere from D-Bar to the 66 bus. If your business is looking to reach out to the heart of its demographic, or perhaps find a new one,

look no further. Our price ranges fit budgets large and small, and loyalty is rewarded. For all requests and queries, email [advertising@nouse.co.uk](mailto:advertising@nouse.co.uk).





# NOUSE TRIES... Parkour

Chay Quinn channels his inner Michael Scott to try parkour for *Nouse*



IMAGE: JAY DYER

**Chay Quinn**  
SPORTS EDITOR

HAVING BEEN ELECTED a mere three weeks ago, I was confronted with the prospect of *Nouse Tries*, the trialling by the Sports Editors of the underbelly of the campus sport scene, to see what's what. Running opposed, I did not expect to be questioned but indeed one hand popped up: the hand of our Editor, Jacob Phillips. After hearing stories of his exploits during his tenure as Deputy Sports Editor, I was posed the question: "Would you be down to do *Nouse Tries*?" to which my reply was "I will do anything you ask me to" because of the naively ambitious streak that all budding editors have.

My first assignment came after my co-editor Adam managed to get Floorball as his rotation for *Nouse Tries* and I was given what I thought was a joke: parkour. My entire experience with it up to this point had been that one scene from the US Office and the opening salvo of Casino Royale, and suddenly I was about to go and do it.

Fast-forward two weeks and there I was, wearing the only sports gear I own outside Market Square, ready to jump off the Information Centre to a certain doom. I met the person who had set this up, Ali, and was assured that I would be fine, a nice sentiment, if not an entirely reassuring one. I was also introduced to Sam, a seasoned parkour coach who gave me a basic description of what parkour is.

Parkour is a sport in which the objective is to traverse an urban landscape and get from A to B as creatively and quickly as possible and the concrete peaks of Market Square provided am-

ple structures to climb.

We started with a warm-up where Sam continued to describe how parkour came to be. A group of French people in the 1980s theorised that if they could stretch their bodies to the limit, they could do the same to their minds and thus become more well-rounded people. The name "parkour" is in fact a gross Anglicisation of the French word 'parcour' which means route.

The University of York Parkour Club has been operating for two years and last year managed to get ratified by YUSU and pointedly told me that the relationship that they've had with the Union was "adequate". They, as a non-BUCS club, have a lesser relationship than those who do compete but to YUSU's credit, the club praised the speed at which they receive help from YUSU if problems arise.

After my muscles were suitably warmed-up, we began the first game to train agility. The first game involved a team of two trying to stop a nominated member of their team from being touched by the singular member of the opposition. The team member who is not the target stands between the target and the opposition and can't block the opposition with anything other than the use of their hands.

The game is designed to promote the agility and concentration of those involved; key skills when one is looking to jump off of buildings and actually not die.

The next exercise was somewhat more daunting than the prospect of a quick touch from someone I had just met: a walk along a fairly high brick wall. Initially, I was fine with this challenge as I rated my ability to

walk in a straightline, but when I got up onto the wall I was suddenly grateful that I was wearing dark shorts because I was shitting myself. My knees were less stable than this Conservative government. Despite this, I was carefully coached through it by Sam before he dropped another bombshell: we were going to repeat the exercise with our eyes closed. The exercise actually went really well despite my apprehensions, and all told, I felt much more prepared than I did before the session began.

Finally, we began to do parkour with a set of railings decided to be our obstacles. With the tonic of confidence flowing through me after completing the last exercise unscathed, I ran up to jump the railings in the same way that Simon Pegg did to a fence in *Hot Fuzz*, but, predictably, ended up not clearing it and bashing my knee on the railing, more akin to Simon Pegg in *The World's End*. But no petty injury has ever stopped this man (except for maybe eight or nine times) and I managed to clear the railing with ease the next few times.

Parkour will take you, in the manner that its French inventors tried to, to the limit of your concentration, and will certainly challenge you physically. I walked away from the session aching on a level not before felt, but my concentration and the level of satisfaction with myself had changed immensely. I say in no uncertain terms that I felt a more rounded person after than I had before, and that is testament to parkour as a sport.

It may fly under the radar but its loyal band of followers and rewarding nature will carry it forward to remain the great sport it is for many years to come.

*UoY Parkour meet on Monday and Thursday. Email parkour@yusu.org for details.*

## EDITOR'S COMMENT

**Adam Philpott**  
SPORTS EDITOR



THE VERY COLD weather is here with us and that affects no-one more here at *Nouse* than the sport team. My co-Editor Chay Quinn showed exactly how not to prepare oneself physically for the harsh temperatures at the Varsity qualifiers weekend.

With the Varsity against Durham at the end of this month and the Winter Olympics underway over in the freezing Pyeongchang, it is timely to remind oneself in the absence of our mums of the essential kit for any sport reporter braving the chill, whether in South Korea or on the much less glamorous 22 Acres pitches.

The first essential piece of kit is a coat. This may seem obvious but, as aforementioned, it evaded the thought of my co-Editor as we watched the rugby qualifiers. You could very much tell that he is the newest member of our team. All he had was that Derwent jumper that everyone from the asbestos-ridden corner of campus seems to wear. While it suffices in many social

situations (let's face it, they're nice jumpers by campus merch standards), it certainly did not on this particular afternoon on the RI. Perhaps he didn't want to mask the jumper with a coat. In any case, no coat was a fatal error and he'll certainly remember to bring one next time.

Fingerless or touchscreen gloves are the next bit of kit. You don't want to be taking off gloves every time you need to make a note of something, and you're definitely going to need something to prevent your fingers from seizing up as you type.

Batteries drain quicker in the cold so a portable charger is always handy. You don't want your phone to die with 10 minutes left of a game you're live tweeting on – especially if it goes to extra-time.

With this in mind, I hope you greater appreciate the content we managed to create before we lost the feeling in our hands and feet. Turns out the warmth of the *Nouse* office isn't so bad.

This edition includes a *Nouse Tries* with parkour; a rare piece on Formula 1; our campus section features a preview of Varsity; while on the back-page *Nouse* Editor Jacob Phillips writes of his brief moment of freedom from the *Nouse* office as he ran in the biggest BUCS Athletics race of the year.

Catch you after Varsity, A.

## TEAMMATES

*Nouse* talks to women's lacrosse's Aditi Patel

**Name:** Aditi Patel

**Position:** Mid-defence

**Course:** Environmental Science

**Year:** 1

**Most Dedicated:**

Cara Ulyatt - she never misses a practice and it shows in her play.

**Biggest Lightweight:**

Cara Ulyatt - every time in Salvos without fail she gets legless.

**Best Motivator:**

Poppy Bellgrove - she is an audible presence whenever we play.

**Most Improved:**

Olivia May - her catching has improved, she is twice the player she was six months ago.

**Most Natural Ability:**

Shrina Patel - she's a fierce attacker and her cradling style is brilliant.

**Most likely to be injured:**

Alyce Chard - she has broken both her cheekbones playing.

**Best Fresher:**

I think I'm going to have to say myself, I'm not going to lie. I've been playing a long time.



IMAGE: UYLC



# FA under scrutiny for Neville appointment

Neville appointment criticised for lack of experience; sexist tweets then emerge after his announcement

**Jordan McWilliam**  
DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR

THE APPOINTMENT OF Phil Neville as the new England women's manager seemed to be a kick in the teeth for the women's game and female managers across the country.

Neville reportedly did not even apply for the position yet has found himself leading one of the best women's national teams in the world. This is made all the more pertinent when paired with the fact that he has zero experience as a manager - not even as a manager in the women's game but in football generally. Unless you count one game as an interim for seventh tier Evostick side Salford City, who he part owns with the rest of the class of '92.

It is easy, therefore, to see why the appointment has been criticised. Hiring an underqualified and inexperienced manager seems a nonsensical move given that England are predicted to be one of the favourites at next year's World Cup, hosted in France. It appears to be an unnecessary move, given the recent success of the women's team, reaching the semi-finals of the last European Championships and the World Cup. Why take such a non-

chalant step in hiring an unknown? This contradicts the stance taken by the head of women's football Baroness Sue Campbell who, when asked about the lack of female managers, said "we haven't proactively gone out and tried to address the big issues. Now we are doing this." Thus, we can clearly see that with the appointment she is not addressing the big issues as England opted to hire a big name over experience.

When Neville's profile is contrasted to that of Mo Marley, his opposition for the manager's job, the difference is astounding. Not only does she have the experience



**Number of games Phil Neville has managed as a head coach**

of 14 years as a player in the women's game and 41 caps for England, but she has also achieved remarkable success with Everton Ladies. These successes include winning the League and FA Cup, the only silverware that Everton have won since the start of the 21st century. Furthermore, this success was also translated to international level, reaching three European finals in four years, winning once for the

England under-19s. In the comparison between the two you can clearly see the more qualified and experienced manager to lead England women at next year's World Cup.

However, some would argue that the precarious state of women's football and the continual drive to achieve greater popularity is behind the Neville appointment.

One thing you cannot argue is that while Neville certainly lacks the necessary experience or qualifications, he does bring a certain pedigree, something which is useful to the women's game, which is always looking to raise the profile of their sport. A glittering career saw him amass over 500 Premier League appearances and win 14 trophies, playing for Manchester United and Everton. While he does

not have any direct first-hand management experience, he has assisted with coaching at two of Europe's historically great clubs, Manchester United and Valencia.

However, the controversy surrounding Neville's appointment did not end with the notion that he was not the best candidate for the job. After he was named the England women's manager, sexist tweets came to light from several years ago, as one tweet read "Relax I'm back

chilled - just battered the wife!!! Feel better now!" Neville has since clarified that this was over a table tennis match on holiday. Another tweet read, "Morning men couple of hours cricket before work sets me up nicely for

the day!" When one user asked why he did not mention women, Neville replied: "When I said morning men I thought the women would have been busy preparing breakfast/getting kids ready/making the beds - sorry morning women!" After dealing with the ignorance and racism of Mark Sampson in the Eni Aluko case, covered by sport correspondent Kathryn Batte in an earlier edition, the FA's handling was heavily criticised.

What is sure is that the FA certainly could have done without this scandal. It simply serves to further highlight the sheer incompetence of the FA, as it did similarly with the Aluko case. Neville has since come out and apologised for the tweets, stating that the sexist posts are "not a true reflection of my character" in a recent interview with Sky Sports. He is not to be charged by the FA for the tweets, as in the words of chief executive Martin Glenn, "those comments would not meet the threshold for issuing a charge against any participants."

Where we are left then, the women's game is mired in controversy for the second time in a matter of months. The arguments over Phil Neville will continue to spark debate, but what is clear is that the FA have clearly not learned from their previous mistakes.

# Grid Kids new face of Formula One rebrand

Alex Woodward analyses Formula One's massive overhaul as the sport searches for modernisation

**Alexander Woodward**  
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

THE END OF this month will see Formula One return to start winter testing, building up to next month's start of the 2018 season in Melbourne, Australia. While there will be few changes to the stars and locations of the show, a lot of the change that will be witnessed by those who follow Formula One will concern the racing itself and changes to the image of the Formula One brand. This is the first full offseason that new owners Liberty Media have had to implement the changes to the sport that they want to see, all part of their attempt to broaden the support of Formula One and to move it into the 'modern era'.

One of the more notable changes is also the most controversial move seen during this offseason. Two weeks ago, F1 announced that they would be removing the 'Grid Girls', seen at the start of the race holding placards up in front of each driver's car. F1 Managing Director of Communications Sean Bratches has stated that the use of grid girls "does

not resonate with our brand values and is clearly at odds with modern day societal norms". That hasn't stopped over 8000 people signing a petition online asking for the 'grid girls' to come back. Formula One is replacing the girls with 'Grid Kids', in the hope of making the sport feel like a more achievable ambition to children. The kids that will be used will be ones who are already competing in some form of junior motorsport at a competitive level. Formula One has suggested two ways in which these children could be selected, promoting selection through lottery or specific selection from national motorsport authorities. FIA President Jean Todt said that he is "delighted" about the change, stating that "Formula One is the pinnacle of motorsport and the dream of every young racer", with the hope of bringing the dream closer.

In addition, there have been some changes made to the safety regulations on which teams have to design their cars around this season including the removal of 't-wings' and 'shark fins' that were both commonplace during the 2017 season. However, the change that will be most obvious to fans in this regard is the introduction of the 'halo', a



cockpit protection system. The halo will be compulsory on all cars in the 2018 season and must be able to withstand 87kN of force. The reason for the introduction of the halo is to prevent flying debris from entering the cockpit. The push for the halo has been around for a long time, since the Hungarian Grand Prix in July 2009 when flying debris hit then Ferrari driver Felipe Massa in the head while he was travelling at 162mph. This knocked him

unconscious with his car hitting a barrier. This would cause Massa to miss the race the next day and the rest of the season. Many still blame the incident for the dip in form seen afterwards. The proposed solution would significantly reduce the area that debris could enter the cockpit from, however it would not entirely eliminate it.

Reaction in the paddock has been mixed: Sebastian Vettel and Fernando Alonso have come for-

ward in support of the new regulations, while Max Verstappen and Nico Hulkenberg have declared their opposition to both the removal of the 'Grid Girls' and the introduction of the halo system. Reaction online has likewise been mixed with those in favour emphasising the driver safety aspect of the halo, and those against focusing on the aesthetics and the potential to block driver vision. It seems that, regardless of views, the debate over the halo could last past the first race.

The final notable change for the upcoming season is the replacement of the iconic logo with a new logo. The design's aim is to look like a Formula One car while providing a 'modern-retro' feel. Reaction towards this change was at first at the negative end with both Lewis Hamilton and Sebastian Vettel hitting out at the new logo, both saying that the old logo, implemented in 1994 by Bernie Ecclestone, was more iconic and better looking. However, since its release, anger towards the logo has died down.

*Formula One returns with the Melbourne Grand Prix, with practice starting on Friday 23rd March. Before then winter testing starts on 26 February.*



# Varsity countdown begins after dramatic qualifiers

*Nouse Sport* analyses York's hopes of reclaiming Varsity as they welcome Durham to their playground this month



ANTICIPATION IS building ahead of the fifth Varsity with Durham on 25 February following an exciting qualifiers weekend to decide York's representatives.

The recent fixture-packed qualifiers weekend whetted our appetites for college sport's biggest event of the year. We pick out our favourite moments from this first weekend of February.

Semi-finals were first held to decide which two teams would gain Varsity qualification, before a final was played to determine seeding, with 'A' matches worth more points in Varsity than 'B' games.

The rugby qualifiers were met with swathes of supporters, especially for the final match between Derwent and Hes East.

Derwent and Hes East saw off valiant efforts from James and Vanbrugh to provide an upset as they qualified as expected for Varsity.

The final was a much-anticipated rematch of last term. Hes East were the victors on that occasion; however, this time round Derwent inflicted the first defeat of the season on Hes East after an exhilarating game that finished 12-5.

To compound Hes East's disappointment at losing this spicy fixture, their top try scorer for the past two seasons hobbled off the field half an hour into the final after being sandwiched between 2 players.

In basketball, Constantine and

## Never underestimate the power of a home crowd

Langwith headlined a Hes East derby final with Constantine edging out winners in a closely-fought contest that eventually ended 44-39.

The lead to-and-froed between the two sides unrelentingly, but in the end it was Constantine who took their chances when it mattered, nailing a three-pointer and scoring two free throws in a tense end to a thrilling match.

Goodricke netball provided arguably the weekend's biggest shock as they qualified for the first time

ever, dumping out Halifax in the process with a narrow 20-18 win.

The end of this month will see the fifth installment of the one-day Varsity match-up which will be the biggest sporting event hosted by York this year, with Roses away at Lancaster.

York's opponents, Durham, boast one of the oldest and most prestigious college sport systems in the country; but York Sport Union President Laura Carruthers maintains that York's college sport system has "improved so much" in recent years and "absolutely" believes a repeat of York's inaugural Varsity win in 2016 can repeat itself in under a fortnight.

While Durham have often dominated the tournament since its inception, York will fancy their chances after their 2016 victory and the closely-fought nature of each match last year, despite the seemingly heavy 31-94 defeat.

Laura stresses that we should "never underestimate the power of a home crowd," who will, she hopes, roar York's representatives on to a prestigious victory. All that's left to say is: let the games begin.

## The numbers behind Varsity

SINCE THE FORMATION of the tournament in 2014, York are trailing 3-1 in titles to the self-proclaimed "Best Team Sports University". Anyone who loves York like we do here at *Nouse Sport* will be hop-

75

Percentage of Varsity titles won by the home side

just 21 per cent of the points in this category in the 2017 edition.

If York are to replicate their 2016 victory, they will need to rely on more than just their impressive volleyball performances. York gained no points in 2017 from rugby, football, squash, lacrosse, darts,

1

Number of Varsity titles in York's cabinet

ing to put a sizeable dent in their lead on 25 February and ensure the Varsity trophy does not head back up the A1 to Durham.

York have certainly performed better on home soil, with the 2016 York Varsity 56-48 win being on home turf, compared to nine wins

72

Percentage of available volleyball points won by York since Varsity 2014

from 24 games and seven from 36 games on the road in, 2015 and 2017 respectively.

In addition to this, York will be looking to avenge the heavy 94-31 defeat to Durham - incidentally, the biggest ever win margin - in the away Varsity this time last year. A sizeable difference in performance in ball sports is needed after taking

63

The biggest win margin in Varsity, achieved by Durham in 2017

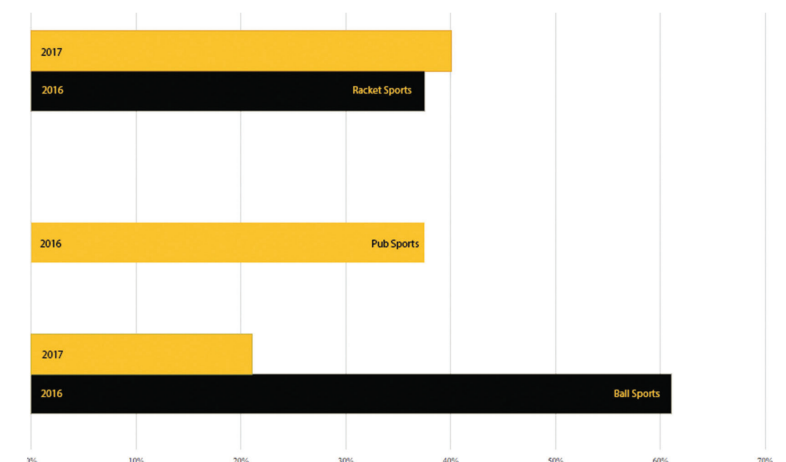
pool or netball. The ultimate difference between this performance and their Varsity-winning campaign 2 years ago is that they gained points in all the sports they took nothing from in 2017.

2014

The year in which the inaugural Varsity took place, with Durham edging it 37-27

York Sport Union President Laura Carruthers is confident of a York win: "If we've done it once before we can absolutely do it again."

Percentage of available points won by York in each category of Varsity in 2016 and 2017



## Where York will hope to pick up points

### Volleyball

It was a dominant Wentworth volleyball side that sealed York's first-ever Varsity victory in 2016, and York have traditionally been overwhelmingly strong in volleyball. This year James College have qualified in the top tier and will be looking to repeat their 3-1 victory from the last Varsity.

### Badminton

Halifax and Derwent dominate the six teams representing York in badminton, in which a sizeable 24 points are up for grabs across six fixtures. Since 2014, York's badminton teams have won 62.5 per cent of matches and will remain hopeful of continuing this form in the Sports Arena later this month.

### Hockey

Hockey has been a source of more recent point accumulation for York, winning five of a possible eight points in 2017. This year Halifax and Derwent will hope to at least replicate that tally against Durham's finest. Halifax are currently in good form, having won the recent hockey indoor tournament.

## York's representatives

**Darts:** Alcuin; Derwent.

**Women's touch rugby:** Hes East; Derwent.

**Hockey:** Halifax; Derwent.

**Tennis:** Langwith; Vanbrugh.

**Men's football:** Langwith; Halifax.

**Squash:** James; Vanbrugh.

**Men's rugby union:** Derwent; Hes East.

**Netball:** Derwent; Goodricke.

**Basketball:** Constantine; Langwith.

**Badminton:** Halifax; Derwent; James.

**Lacrosse:** James; Derwent.

**Volleyball:** James; Halifax.

**Women's football:** Constantine; Goodricke.

**Pool:** college select.



## York men's lacrosse 1s complete unbeaten season with final flourish

The York men's lacrosse 1s sealed a remarkable unbeaten season with a white-washing of Newcastle 2s by 14-0 at the 3G pitches. The match bookended a marvellous season in which the team managed to beat Newcastle 2s 31-0 on an aggregate score of the home and away fixtures. This feat has seen the 1s awarded the Merrell Team of the Week award in a week where many other teams too had a claim to the award themselves.

## Unprecedented results for Uni of York ping pong players

The University of York Table Tennis Club posted their best ever results with a 7-3 win against Coneythorpe 1s. This culminated in team captain Calum Goodwin, unbeaten this season himself, becoming the first University player to beat Martin Lowe, who had only been defeated once in three years previous to this fixture. The great form that UYTTC are showing is just a small part of what is turning into a great season for the club.

## Termly gym memberships goes down a treat

After the initial January offer for termly gym memberships, the York Sport Centre has confirmed that the offer is the most popular offer they've ever advertised. Subsequently York Sport President Laura Caruthers is looking to make termly gym memberships a permanent fixture. The offer allows students to plan their payments better in relation to termly student finance.

## Women's Rugby Club dominate against Lancs 1s in pre-Roses encounter

UYWRUFC hit seven tries to thrash Roses rivals Lancaster 1s 39-0. This comprehensive result continued the spotless record of the Women's Rugby 1s this season in which they have won all seven of their games so far. Through this, the team has opened up a sizeable nine-point gap between themselves and the next best team, Sheffield Hallam 1s, at the top of the BUCS Northern 2A league.

# DCAFC launches mental health campaign

**Chay Quinn**  
SPORTS EDITOR

DERWENT COLLEGE Association Football Club have launched a campaign in support of tackling the stigma around men's mental health, in partnership with the club's charity, the Campaign Against Living Miserably (CALM).

The #BestManProject by CALM seeks to encourage guys across the UK to be a 'Best Man' to their mates all year round, with weekly practical tips on how to offer support to a friend who's struggling. Their tagline? "Why do you need a wedding to be a Best Man?"

Launched by the Duke of Cambridge earlier this year, alongside a number of other famous faces, the project represents CALM's latest bid to prevent male suicide, the biggest single killer of men under the age of 45.

Derwent AFC are encouraging each and every club member to sign up to the project, with the eventual hope that they can proudly announce that everyone within and connected to the club is 'in the know' when it comes to supporting their mates with issues such as these.



Derwent AFC President, Will Leafe, feels the club's support for the campaign can have a serious impact on attitudes towards mental health: "As a club, we have always sought to encourage our members to be open about struggling with life at university. We make it very clear that they should always feel comfortable talking to any captain, teammate or myself at any time."

The #BestManProject, CALM

say, is "collecting, sharing and inspiring the collective wit and wisdom of best mates all over the country" as it seeks to transform the dynamic of male friendships to include open, honest conversation about struggling with mental health. Derwent AFC also display the CALM logo on the sleeves of their shirts, as well as the charity sponsor on their training tops. Later this term, the club will also be host-

ing a charity poker night in D-Bar in support of the charity, an event which follows the CALM 5-a-side tournament hosted back in October.

Will went on to say: "We are, unfortunately, often subject to very lazy stereotypes around 'lad culture' within University football clubs. It's something I've been very keen to tackle, and this is just one of the ways in which we can show to the wider University community that we have very different values to other sports clubs across the country."

"This is a club where you don't have to conform to any ridiculous notions of needing to 'man up' to fit in here. We want to open a serious and honest conversation about men's mental health, and about how we can all be there for our best mates a little bit more."

This support comes at a significant time of year: 1 March will see the celebration of University Mental Health Day. To support CALM's campaign, you can purchase Torch Songs Jukebox through their website.

CALM also offer a wealth of advice and information on their website around mental health issues, as well as operating a helpline for those in need from 5pm until midnight, 365 days a year with the telephone number 0800 58 58 58.

# Whitewash in women's tennis derby

**Virginia Stichweh**  
DEPUTY SPORTS EDITOR

LAST WEDNESDAY YORK women's 2s swept aside York St. John's 1s in all six games (four singles and two doubles) on St. John's outside courts at a temperature just above freezing to gain vital points which could ensure their safety come the end of the season.

The University of York's team, comprising of captain Heloise Vinette, Ellie Longman-Rood, Georgie May Scott and Virginia Stichweh, dropped but one set in a 12-0 victory - a repeat of the scoreline when these two teams met last March.

Nevertheless, the victory was less decisive than the end-result might suggest, with York St John taking 42 games compared to York's 72. St John's Rhiannon Fage, maintaining excellent control over the ball, managed to take the first set from Ellie Longman-Rood. Yet, in the following two hard-fought full sets, Longman-Rood's strong forehand prevailed, ending, what was certainly the longest match of the day, in a 4-6 6-4 victory for Longman-Rood.

Emma Sharp, after losing the first set 0-6 to Virginia Stichweh, recovered in the second, establishing a (frankly scary) 4-4 draw. The second set was marked (at least

from my point of view) by Sharp's short cross-court shots, landing just inside the singles sidelines. The second set ran to twice the length of the first set, with many games trapped in the infinite loop of deuce and advantage. The game ended 6-0 6-4 in Stichweh's favour.

Meanwhile, York's captain Heloise Vinette faced a very strong first serve on part of her opponent, Becky Rundle. However, Vinette took the victory 6-3 6-4, thanks to her characteristic topspin groundstrokes, giving her opponent two unfortunate options: be driven behind the baseline or hit more loopy, easy-to-deal-with shots.

Finally, Georgie May Scott played her match against Georgina Lunn; a match marked on both sides by a high consistency. A long, energy-sapping exchange of rallying ensued in each game; but Scott maintained the upper hand, winning the match 6-1 6-4.

After reigning supreme in the tiring battle, Scott said: "It was a really good game and we enjoyed each other's company, too. We had a good talk."

This exhibits the very friendly atmosphere in which the games took place. The smell of chocolate from the nearby Rowntree factory was one of the only comforts against the biting cold weather.

The doubles, played after the singles, ended within two-minutes of each other, with identical results: 6-4 6-2, earning York the final four

points.

"I think we communicated better, that's why we won the doubles," said Vinette after the end of the match.

"We had a great team spirit which has been present all season and has been an influential component in what has been a great year for the team."

It was the second victory of the year for York 2s and one which pulled them level with Leeds Beckett 4s in the number of wins, steering them away from the relegation zone in the BUCS Northern 3B tennis league.

The division is not exactly characterised by an equality of strength between the teams. Both York and

York St. John's had come off 12-0 losses against York 1s and Durham 5s, respectively.

York St. John 1s will have to beat Hull 1s in their next fixture if they want to avoid replacing their opponents at the very bottom of the league as the season comes to a close with relegation looming.

Meanwhile, York 2s next face Durham 5s, so far undefeated and at the top of the table, on home turf on 14 March in the last match of the season. It will not be an easy affair for the York 2s, however, with the reverse fixture finishing in a convincing 12-0 defeat. But they will be going into the fixture next month with renewed momentum from this derby whitewash.





## Durham Varsity

We look ahead to this month's home Varsity following qualification P.26



## Nouse Tries

Chay Quinn scales buildings on campus to try parkour for Nouse P.24



## FA controversy

Jordan McWilliam reviews the appointment of Phil Neville as England women's boss P.25



# N SPORT

Tuesday 13 February 2018



## XC Joy for York

Jacob Phillips  
EDITOR

SATURDAY 3 FEBRUARY witnessed 2018's largest university running competition. Over two thousand athletes competed at Uxbridge on the outskirts of London to compete in the annual BUCS Cross Country Championships.

York rose to the challenge with great performances from all teams. York ladies finished 18<sup>th</sup> from 60 teams, a massive improvement on last year in which they finished in a comparatively unimpressive 74<sup>th</sup> position. Rebecca Ward led home York's women finishing 42<sup>nd</sup> out of 704 finishers; next home was Jessica Troy in 109<sup>th</sup> place followed by Olivia Mann (151<sup>st</sup>), captain Claire Jones (223<sup>rd</sup>), Cara Gibbons (230<sup>th</sup>), Seren Hughes (260<sup>th</sup>), Emily Legg (287<sup>th</sup>), Alice Steele (395<sup>th</sup>), Poppi Dickens (484<sup>th</sup>) and Rachel Ayrton (496<sup>th</sup>).

York's men also improved on last year's performances. The men's long race witnessed York's men come 27<sup>th</sup> out of 54 teams. First home was Sean Flanagan in 113<sup>th</sup>, followed by George Cook (139<sup>th</sup>), Toby Fletcher (148<sup>th</sup>), Jack Eggington (173<sup>rd</sup>), Harry Topham (191<sup>st</sup>) and Timothy Baguley (242<sup>nd</sup>).

The men's short race witnessed athletic prowess from Scott Taylor. Recovering from a drunken incident involving several gates earlier in the week, Taylor ran a fantastic race to lead the men home in 169<sup>th</sup> place. He was followed by George Mallinson (192<sup>nd</sup>), Daniel Figg (199<sup>th</sup>), Jelle Vinknoog (228<sup>th</sup>) and Noah Howlett (304<sup>th</sup>). Jacob Phillips was the last scorer in 320<sup>th</sup>.

When asked for their thoughts on the team's results, men's captain Lewis Bellwood stated: "we had a very successful day, everyone gave it their all and managed to look like they were having fun while doing it."

Women's captain Claire Jones stated: "Despite the mud, rain, cold and a surprise water feature, everyone had fantastic runs and a brilliant day out! Highlight of the trip had to be the all you can eat breakfast buffet."

## York MMA take the fight to Durham

Catriona Stothard  
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

LAST NIGHT YORK put up some incredible fights at Durham University's first ever Fight Night event, with Megan Wright dominating against her opponent Roz Futchter from Portsmouth and Jack Edmondson proving to be a worthy opponent for Durham's Jakob Stein.

On Saturday morning, the University of York's Mixed Martial Arts club headed up to Durham's much anticipated Fight Night for the first K1 competition of the year. Despite the early start to get there for the weigh-in at 11AM, our fighters got their heads in the game and showed the other universities what

they were made of.

Being the fifth and sixth fights of an event that was filled with some very skilled contestants, Jack and Megan had a lot to live up to. Jack was the first from York to enter the ring and, despite being against the home crowd, was able to put in a brilliant effort against his opponent. Though not victorious, Jack was certainly not easily defeated, landing some impressive hits and defending many leg kicks, knees, and clinches.

Megan was up next, and though the fight was a previously named non-decision, it was obvious that she dominated it heavily. Megan showed the booming crowd both her offensive and defensive skills, with some kicks and punches that left the spectators in a state of awe, while only allowing her opponent to catch her two or three times

during the entirety of their fight.

Both fights were great to watch and thoroughly riled up the crowd, with the rest of the team from York screaming in support and even getting the rest of the room to yell 'Yorkshire!' many times throughout.

The atmosphere of the whole night was brilliant, with everyone cheering and yelling support for their own teams, as well as others. As the night went on, the crowd became more and more animated, especially when some Durham favourites, such as Tom Hamshire and Ethan Chester Lam, entered the ring against rivals from Newcastle and Portsmouth. It was brilliant to see so many different universities from all parts of the country coming together to participate in the event, especially when our fighters and team had put in so

much effort to get there.

Enormous amounts of time and dedication went in to the preparations for this Fight Night. Megan and Jack trained ridiculously hard for weeks on end, while still studying for their degrees and continuing to help run the MMA club for all our future fighters. There was also so much help behind the scenes from other members of the club, such as the president, Violet Bennett, who helped with training and to organise the fights, as well as those who cornered during the fights: Theo Tanner, Mik Bernaciak and Tommy Maltby.

All in all, it was a highly successful and enjoyable day for York, and has got the team truly excited to host our annual Fight Night in the summer term, with hopefully even more fighters taking part and winning prizes for their efforts.